

Youth Connection Team Report 2024 Fall Presbytery Meeting

Youth Connection is in a rebuilding and reorganizing process as several of the youth leaders of various churches have left. We continue to meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 via Zoom. If anyone is interested in joining, please let me know. We can always use more members on the team.

This fall's retreat was held in conjunction with Fargo First Presbyterian Church's Peace Summit. The presbytery youth gathered for a retreat filled with moments of connection, service, and spiritual growth. From the energy of Friday night's games to the thoughtful reflections during devotions, the retreat was a resounding success.

On Friday night, the group bonded over snacks and small group mixers. The sound of laughter filled the air as the youth explored the church and engaged in activities designed to break the ice. The evening closed with a devotion, allowing everyone to settle into the spiritual rhythm of the weekend.

Saturday began early with breakfast and an inspiring speaker in Fargo, followed by a unique experience—a sound bath session. The sound bath, a therapeutic immersion in sound waves, left many youth feeling refreshed and attuned to their inner selves. However, the real excitement began when we arrived at Farm in the Dell. The youth spent the afternoon serving and exploring the farm, connecting with the clients and guests for their Fall Festival. During evening devotions, many youth shared how much they loved the opportunity to serve. The work at the farm became the focal point of the weekend's discussions. The sense of accomplishment and connection was evident as they reflected on how serving others brought a deeper understanding of their faith. Dinner was a time to unwind, followed by indoor games and more free time.

Sunday morning brought a peaceful close to the weekend. After breakfast and cleanup, the group gathered for worship and fellowship before heading back home, hearts full and spirits lifted.

This retreat reminded our youth of the joy that comes from service and the power of community. Whether they were listening to the soothing sounds of the sound bath or getting their hands dirty at the farm, each moment was a testament to the transformative nature of faith in action. We look forward to seeing how these experiences shape their journeys going forward. Thank you to everyone who made this retreat possible, especially our youth who embraced every moment with open hearts and minds!

We have set the date for Spring Retreat for May 2nd through 4th at 1st Presbyterian Church, Bismarck, ND. Watch for more details to come in the following months. They will be shared in Presbytery's monthly newsletter and on Presbytery's website.

Triennium will be held July 28-31, 2025 in Louisville, KY. The theme is "As If We Were Dreaming...." Based on Psalm 126. Registration fee is \$199 and includes all programming, event meals, an official Triennium Tshirt. Travel and housing are additional costs. Average cost of hotel is \$169 per room/per night plus tax. Youth Connection will line up a bus and pay for those costs. Please encourage the youth of your church to attend as participants in the past have said this a life changing experience.

Submitted by: Donna Preston, co leader