



Calvary-Faith-First EPC Youth Ministry

Hello Parents and Families,

For the fourth year, Calvary OPC, Faith Reformed, and First EPC will work together to shepherd the youth of our churches and from around the community! We'd love to extend an invitation for you to join us!

We'll begin the year with kick-off events for the middle and high school groups. Incoming 6th-8th graders will gather at the Wieberdink's (60 Hickory Dr., Cedar Grove) on Tuesday, August 24th from 7:00-9:00PM for a bonfire, outdoor games & snacks. Incoming high schoolers will meet at the Sass's (117 Linden Lane, Cedar Grove) on Sunday, August 22nd at 6:00PM for a cookout. Come join us for fellowship before the year gets started!

Connect returns on Wednesday nights beginning September 8th at First Evangelical Presbyterian Church (221 N. Main St.; near the middle school). Connect is based on the two great commandments (Matthew 22:37-39) and gives students a weekly opportunity to break away from their daily routines to connect with each other and with God. Students can gather as early as 6:00PM for fellowship and a snack before joining together in the sanctuary at 6:20 to worship God through song. After worship, the middle school group heads to the basement for a large group activity before breaking into small groups (divided by age and gender) and working through a lesson that helps them apply God's Word to their daily lives. Meanwhile, the high schoolers will head upstairs for a large group Bible lesson before breaking into small groups and continuing the discussion. Our first week, we'll gather for pizza at 6:00PM, so come hungry!

Also note that once per month at **Connect**, we'll have a special event. These events will focus on themes including fellowship, service, outreach, worship, and more. It is important for students to take part in hands-on ministry to apply the things they learn at Connect!

On Sunday nights beginning September 12th, we'll meet for **Core** small group Bible studies from 6:00-7:00 PM at Faith Reformed Church (243 S. 4th St.). Groups are generally 5-8 students, are divided by age and gender, and have 2 adult leaders. Core groups help youth grow in the core discipline of personal Bible study while developing tight-knit relationships with their peers that will help them walk through life together.

Our goal is to keep the vast majority of our events during these two time periods to help fit everything within your busy schedules! However, middle schoolers are invited to a weekend retreat at Silverbirch Ranch on November 12-14, and high schoolers are invited to our FORT weekend retreat on January 14-16. Also, the high school group takes an annual mission trip in late-June. These events are amongst the highlights of the year for the students!

All these events follow our mission statement: "making disciples by Christ's transforming power who are growing in our relationships with God and one another, seeking to be a light to the world." If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Jon Damkot at 920-447-2335.

Sincerely,
The Leadership Team