



Calvary-Faith-First EPC Youth Ministry

Hello Parents and Families,

For the fifth 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 Tarter's (217 S 4th St, Cedar Grove) on Tuesday, August 23rd from 6:30-9:00PM for a bonfire, outdoor games & snacks. Incoming high schoolers will meet at Andy & Beth Wieberdink's (60 Hickory Dr., Cedar Grove) on Sunday, August 21st at 6:00PM for a cookout. Come join us for fellowship before the year gets started!

Connect returns on Wednesday nights beginning September 7th 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, breaks into small groups (divided by age and gender) and works through a lesson that helps them apply God's Word to their daily lives. After that, the whole group joins together for an activity. 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 11th, **Core** small group Bible studies are held 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 1-2 adult leaders. Core groups are for youth who desire to 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 while learning from adult mentors.

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 11-13, and high schoolers are invited to our FORT weekend retreat on January 13-15. 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