



CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWSLETTER

January 13, 2025

"And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace"

- From the hymn "For Everyone Born" by Shirley Erena Murray

PRAYER FOR LOS ANGELES

*I wanted to share this prayer published in **Presbyterian Outlook** for our friends and family in Los Angeles. I have been searching for the right words and in this case, I will borrow this beautiful prayer from the Rev. Haley Ballast.*

O God, be merciful. Hold us as we grieve and pray. Be tender toward those who suffer and bring hope to the broken.

We lament the devastating losses: whole neighborhoods, generations of memories, evidence of love and lives well-lived, all reduced to ash and rubble. Lord have mercy.

We weep with those who weep: nursing mothers, medically fragile children, folks evacuating from assisted living facilities, people who will never go home again. Christ have mercy.

We cry out at the injustice: insurance companies that canceled fire insurance policies just last week, and grifters circling like vultures around the vulnerable. Lord have mercy.

We pray for relief: rain, torrents of rain, water to quench the fire and still air to stop its spread. Christ have mercy.

We ask for an outpouring of love, compassion, and support: robust responses from dedicated and trustworthy leaders, neighbors who share what they have, strangers who become family, beauty among the ashes. Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.

Amen.

THIS SUNDAY, 1/19

After last week's unexpected detour into a winter wonderland, we are looking forward to being back together again this week (or sending love from

Montgomery, AL!).

Here's what's up for Sunday:

9:00am - Nursery opens

9:15am - Doughnuts in the youth suite

9:30am - Children and youth choir - begin prep for Children & Youth Sunday!

10:00am - Sunday School for all ages in Oglesby and youth suite

10:45am - Transition to worship!

11:00am - Worship! Shannon preaches! Naomi leads children's sermon!



CHILDREN & YOUTH SUNDAY, 2/9

We can't wait to lead worship on Sunday, February 9th for the congregation. Shannon is preaching and children and youth will lead all other parts of the liturgy and music! We'll formally prep in Sunday school beginning on 1/26 but in the meantime, if you know which part you'd like to support, go ahead and claim it!

The theme for the service will be "For Everyone Born" based on the beautiful and inclusive hymn. Read more about that [here](#).

Sign-up for roles [HERE](#).

**Summer
2025 Trips**

Central Presbyterian Youth ●●●

June 1-7 - Montreat Youth Conference
for HIGH SCHOOL

June 22-28 - Service & Learning Trip
to Appalachia
for MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

July 10-13 - Massanetta Springs
Middle School Conference
for MIDDLE SCHOOL

A stylized illustration of a church building with colorful windows. The church is black with a cross on top. The windows are in various colors: red, yellow, green, blue, and purple. The church is set against a yellow background.

SUMMER YOUTH TRIPS

We're excited to have our summer youth trips planned for 2025!

We're also looking forward to teaming up with our friends at Trinity Presbyterian for these

adventures.

Additionally, if you are interested in chaperoning, please let me know!

Summer Opportunities with Trinity Presbyterian:

- June 1-7- **Montreat Youth Conference** for rising 9th grade - graduating 12th graders
- June 22-28 - Middle & High School Service & Learning Trip to Appalachia (most likely Swannanoa and Asheville)
- July 10-13 - **Massanetta Springs Middle School Conference** for rising 6th graders - rising 8th graders

Please respond and let me know what trips pique your youths' interest! I will be working on pricing in the coming weeks but please know that cost is never a barrier to interest and participation.

**PLEASE CONFIRM YOUTH ATTENDANCE ON SUMMER TRIPS BY
FEBRUARY 1st**

YOUTH GROUP DETAILS

WE ARE RESCHEDULING YOUTH GROUP for Sunday, 1/26 with our Decatur meet-up.

This month, we'll meet in Decatur for Farm Burger and then walk across the street to Dancing Goats for hot chocolate and a reflection on spiritual practices, including sharing Star Words. Please send \$10 with your youth to support the cost.



Register here.



GROUP ME(s): PLEASE JOIN

In lieu of many, many text threads, I would like to move us to GroupMe for our children and youth communications. I have created THREE groups and ask that you read carefully about my recommendations on who joins what. **The first step is to download the [GroupMe app](#) and**

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP IN 2025

I have updated the sign-up for February - May. Please take a look at the following dates and roles for all Sundays:

1. Serve as a lector for one of the dates held for a child or youth to read scripture. [Sign-up HERE](#).
2. Process in with a partner with communion elements on communion Sundays. [Sign- up HERE](#).
3. Contact [Thom](#) if you're interested in playing a prelude or postlude for worship. We ask for a one month heads up for this!

create an account if you don't have one. Then, use these links to join or help your youth join the below groups:

1. **For youth and youth advisors:** keeping up with one another and sharing information (**most important for YOUTH to join this one**) - **YOUTH ON THIS EMAIL, please join!**
2. **For ALL families of children and youth:** sharing information and connecting about events and logistics (**ALL parents of all ages in this one**)
3. **For YOUTH families and advisors:** logistics and keeping up with one another for youth activities (**YOUTH parents in this one, YOUTH optional**)



CALENDAR!

Save this [DIGITAL GOOGLE](#) calendar for ease of updating.

I have updated this with the most accurate look at the next semester. This calendar should also let you copy events to your own calendar. Let me know if you have any questions or issues accessing!

Key dates:

- 1/18 - 1/20 - 8th + trip to Birmingham & Montgomery
- 1/26 - Rescheduled Youth Group
- 2/9 - Children & Youth Sunday!

www.cpcatlanta.org

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