



# Senior High Service and Partnership Project

WALDENSIAN VALLEYS, ITALY

JUNE 8-16, 2018\*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LIBERTYVILLE

STUDENT APPLICATION

## **Event Overview:**

The First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville has a church partnership with the Waldensian Church in Milan, Italy. In 2012 a group of Waldensian youth came to Libertyville from Milan. The group helped with Vacation Bible School and did some service work in Chicago. The understanding was that we would reciprocate and send a group of our youth to work in partnership with the Italian youth. 2018 is that year!

We will begin in Milan, teaming up with youth from our partner church to stay and worship with them. From there we will all travel together to the Waldensian Valleys in North Western Italy for several days of service, learning, and partnership. Students will partner with local agencies to see the work that is being done by the Waldensian Church for 'the least of these' in Italy. There will also be the opportunity to learn more about the Waldensian Church – namely how the Waldensian Church survived intense persecution by the Roman Catholic Church. Persecution drove the Waldensians to settle in the Alps along the French-Italian border and across northern Italy, southern Switzerland, and western Austria.

## **Who:**

The trip is open to high school students (9th-12th grade during the 2017-2018 academic year) who are active in the life and ministry of the First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville. This trip is limited to 10-18 students. Students will be chosen based on active participation in our church (youth activities, music ministry, PADS, Deacons, children's ministry) as well as on their written responses on this application. In-person interviews may also be held.

The Rev. Dr. Brian Paulson, the Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein, and 1-2 additional adults will accompany the youth to Italy.

*\*+/- 1 day for traveling*

## Cost:

**The estimated cost before fundraising is \$1.800** (historically fundraising raises \$400-600 per student.). Registration includes flight costs, food and lodging, a t-shirt, and all museum/tour fees. Additional expenses for each student will be: passport expenses, traveling meals, souvenirs of their choosing, money for an offering, and snacks during the week.

## Application Process:

1. Complete this application in its entirety.
2. Conduct possible in-person interview (may not be required for all applicants).
3. Provide \$250 deposit (deposit will be held until applications have been reviewed. If applicant is not accepted to the trip, the deposit will be returned. Once an application is selected to the trip the deposit becomes non-refundable.)
4. All applications & deposits are **due September 24, 2017** (NO exceptions!) & students will be notified of acceptance by October 5, 2017.

## Please note:

This trip is a service AND partnership project with our partner church in Milan. During the 2017-2018 academic year all students attending this trip will engage in educational instruction about the Waldensian church, the Waldensian Valleys, and the ministries we will be partnering with in Italy. Students will be required to attend these educational events as preparation for our trip. There will be roughly 3-5 events. We will work with participants to select reasonable dates.

**There will be a parent info meeting on September 10th at 11:45am in the Youth Lounge.**

Final costs of Triennium for each individual participant will be calculated once we have finalized flights, activities, lodging costs, etc. AND once we have completed our fundraising. Families will be informed of final costs in the Spring. However, we do not want financial constraints to limit a student's ability to attend this trip. If the final participant cost is too high we will work with families to make this partnership trip to Italy a possibility for students who have a heart and a desire to attend.

More information about the trip is available at: [www.firstpreslibertyville.org](http://www.firstpreslibertyville.org)

A passport is required for this trip. A photocopy of your passport will be due to the church office by March 1, 2018.

Any Questions? Contact Kara ([ksmith-laubenstein@boxp.net](mailto:ksmith-laubenstein@boxp.net)) ([kmarsden@boxp.net](mailto:kmarsden@boxp.net)) at the church 847.362.2174



**Application Questions:** (please attach a separate sheet if necessary)

What has been your involvement and leadership at the First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville?

What has been your involvement and leadership in your school and your community?

What do you expect to gain from the student partnership experience in Italy? Be specific.

We will be traveling to Italy as a team and partnering with youth from Milan in service and learning. What does it mean to you to be a part of a team? How will you be an active, valuable member of our team in Italy? Be specific.

What do you think the world and the church need from you and other youth at this time? Be specific.