

Youth Ministries (6th-12th grade)

First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville, IL

Junior High Fellowship (JHF) • Sundays 4:00-5:30 pm

Senior High Fellowship (SHF) • Sundays 7:00-9:00 pm

Youth Lounge

JHF Mission Statement

The JHF of 1st Pres is an inviting and accepting community that inspires and equips us to grow our faith in Jesus Christ, and helps us reach out and serve others.

SHF Mission Statement

SHF is a friendly community that encourages our faith in the Lord, commitment to mission work, and spreading the compassion of Christ.



Come on out to our weekly gatherings full of energetic worship, electrifying games, and thought-provoking lessons! We have Junior High Fellowship gatherings for 6th through 8th graders and Senior High Fellowship gatherings for 9th through 12th graders. While our time together usually consists of games, music, and a lesson, it is always creative, relevant, and fun.

In addition to our regular gatherings we also do various service projects and mission work throughout the year. Check out the youth tab on the church website for additional info as well: <http://www.firstpreslibertyville.org/>

Just a few of the ways we have served others include:

- Serving at the Mobile Food Pantry, PADS, Bernie's Book Bank, Feed My Starving Children, Mundelein L.U.N.C.H.
- Volunteer work at D.O.O.R. in Chicago
- 2016 Senior High Mission Trip to Mescalero, NM
- Annual Spring Junior High Mission Weekend: A.W.O.L. (A Work of Love)

No matter what it is, you can rest assured that there is always something new and exciting happening!



6th & 7th Grade Sunday School • Sundays 10:10-11:00am

Sunday School isn't only for Confirmation students! At First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville our 6th and 7th grade students are combined for Sunday School. They start in worship and then are dismissed to their classroom.

- This year our 6th & 7th grade students will be walking through Scriptures as a part of the year-long theme of Live—Walk—Inspire!
- We will be using *Echo the Story*—a creative, unique, participatory curriculum from SPARK that truly strives to engage students on all levels!

All of our classes are led by a terrific and loving group of teachers who have been known to bring candy, gum, and stickers (along with infectious enthusiasm) to class “just because.” Sunday School instills life-long learning, but it also deepens friendships and connections. Come join us for Sunday School today, and watch your faith come alive in ways that you never thought possible!



8th Grade Confirmation • Sundays 8:30-9:40am



Confirmation is the time when a personal decision is made to confirm the vows of our baptism. At First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville, this happens as students in **8th Grade** join together to explore who Christ is, what it means to know Him through a life-long relationship, and how we follow Him as Presbyterian Christians.

As the process begins, participants receive the **brand new CEB Student Study Bible** and attend the **August Confirmation Retreat**. Then, Sunday morning classes combine faith-building lessons with large and small group discussion. Confirmation is a time for faith formation and for building relationship with peers. Participants work with an adult covenant partner doing service projects, memory work, discussing sermon notes, and building relationships

with adults who will support them in their faith. In the spring, the Confirmands have the opportunity to publically profess their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior during Sunday morning worship. The current *Confirmation Guidebook* is available on the church website or in the Church Office.



Junior and Senior High Retreats

We are called Junior High and Senior High FELLOWSHIP. Building this fellowship is a crucial component of our youth ministry program. Throughout the academic year students go on a variety of weekend trips spending time with each other and with God. All of our trips are designed to help students grow in faith and in fellowship with one another. We want you to come join us!

Watch the church calendar for retreat opportunities. Our current 2016-2017 retreat schedule is:

- For JHFers...
 - Annual Lock-Out—October 14-15
 - JHF Presbytery Retreat—January 20-22
 - AWOL (A Work of Love) Service Event—April 21-22
- For SHFers...
 - SHF Presbytery Retreat—November 11-13
 - Annual Stronghold Retreat—February 3-5



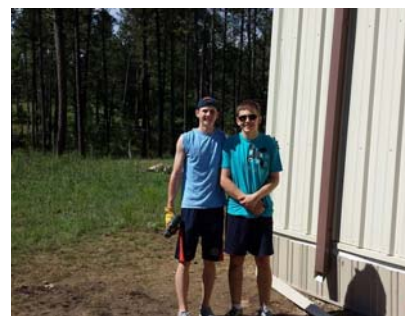
Senior High Summer Youth Conference

A “thin space” is a place on earth where you feel close to God. Come and join us as we travel to thin spaces!

In the summer of 2017 we will be traveling to Montreat Conference Center for a Youth Conference! Montreat affirms youth and young adults in their calling to be and to shape the church of today and tomorrow. Montreat strives to help students come to know and believe that they are the beloved of God. Opportunities to grow in leadership and understanding of mission are cornerstones of Montreat’s youth ministry program.



Senior High Summer Mission Trip



If you are longing to actively engage with your faith or work with your hands, then be sure to check out our Senior High Mission Trip! Every summer our Senior High students go on a 8-10 day mission trip. Our location each year is chosen by the Senior High Youth Group and we spend over a week doing home repair– painting, reroofing, building wheelchair ramps, etc. Every 4 years the Senior High Youth travel internationally for summer mission trip. The Senior High Mission Trip is always one of the highlights of the summer and students fundraise for throughout the entire year. There is plenty of laughs, bonding, hard work, lots of God sightings, and singing. Previous destinations have been: Mescalero, NM (2016) Elizabethtown, PA (2015), and Virginia Beach, VA (2014). The 2017 Mission Trip will be announced soon! (www.groupworkcamps.com).

Junior High Summer Retreat: The Great Escape



Each summer, the youth of FPC attend *The Great Escape*, the first and oldest continually running middle school conference in the US. The week at Green Lake Conference Center in Wisconsin is packed full of recreation and activities as well as dynamic speakers, musicians, and other artists who understand how to communicate in real ways with young people. The Great Escape is a tremendously fun and exciting atmosphere where students feel comfortable and loved, and where they will have a wonderful week experiencing the love of Jesus. Besides, where else do you get to spend an entire day playing on a mud field or having a shaving cream war? Come and experience a week you will never forget! (www.ycmhome.org/the-great-escape)



Youth & Baccalaureate Sundays



On November 20, 2016 our youth will plan and lead a special service for the entire congregation. The sermons are given by students and are especially inspiring. At the end of each school year, our congregation joins in a special Baccalaureate worship service to celebrate recent graduates. In this heartwarming Baccalaureate Service, our high school seniors receive pocket crosses, a physical reminder that God is with them wherever they might go, and we celebrate in the lives of all of our graduates the amazing things God is accomplishing through their lives.

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If you are desiring to praise God through song and demonstrate leadership in worship, then we have a variety of opportunities for you here at First Pres! *Contact: Jane Orth (jorth@boxp.net)*

- Junior High Choir (6th through 8th graders)
Sundays 11am - 12:00pm in The Chapel
- Senior High Choir (9th through 12th graders)
Sundays 11-12 pm in The Chapel
- Youth Bells (6th through 12th graders)
Sundays 5:30—6:30 pm in the Belfry



If you love playing a musical instrument, we have a variety of opportunities for you to share your talent as well. Throughout the year, our youth are called upon to play in our Sanctuary service as well as be a part of the Chapel Music Team. Just let us know how you would like to participate, and we will be sure to plug you in!

Our Youth Pastor: the Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein



Kara Smith-Laubenstein has officially transferred her state of residency to Illinois! She is now full-time and ready to continue developing the Youth Program at First Pres into a dynamic program that offers all students the opportunity to serve God fully, joyfully, and faithfully.

Kara studied at Indiana University (go Hoosiers!) & received her M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary. After teaching in Baltimore City and spending 5 years in Wisconsin, Kara was ordained at the First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville and has been serving the youth of this congregation since January 2015.

Kara loves to watch students grab ahold of their faith. She is never one to shy away from being ridiculous and is constantly reminded how clueless she is to every single trend. Kara is passionate about ministry and really enjoys her partnership with our young people and their families as they all continue to live out lives of faithful service to God. She welcomes your questions and hopes to get to know all of the students at First Pres so we can all come to know our God in powerful ways in this place.



2016 Worship Schedule

9:45am—Contemporary Worship (Chapel)
10:00—Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

First Presbyterian Church • 219 West Maple Avenue • Libertyville, IL 60048
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