



**ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL YOUTH COMMUNITY**

# **WELCOME PACKET**

**2022-23**



Fall 2022

Dear Youth & Families,

Welcome to the 2022-23 programmatic year! We are so grateful that you are a part of the Episcopal Youth Community (EYC) of St. Paul's.

The Youth Ministry program (for 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders) builds upon the foundations laid in our Children's Ministry program. An important part of our program is our shared mission and values. We lived into the values of Community, Growth, Service, and Inclusion by providing an inclusive space where youth can explore and articulate their own faith journey and build Christian community with their peers. We gather weekly on Sunday mornings, Sunday afternoons, and Wednesday evenings. We also offer regular opportunities for service and gathering with other youth across the Diocese.

One of the most important aspects of our youth program is that we have a group of young people, shepherded by volunteers, who show up for one another week to week and care deeply about each other's wellbeing. Whether you are a returning youth or new to the program, we hope you make weekly church programs a part of your schedule this fall. You are welcome in this place.

Please read through our policies and program descriptions in the following packet and let us know if you have further questions.

God's Peace,

Emma Mitchell  
Youth Minister



**The mission of St. Paul's Episcopal Church Children and Youth Ministry is to form lifelong disciples by exploring God's love in a supportive and inclusive community.**

## **OUR YOUTH MINISTRY VALUES**

### **Community**

Because of God's love for the world...

... we nurture our relationship with God in order to understand who we are called to be in the world.

### **Growth**

... we seek to understand the faith traditions passed down to us and to articulate our own faith stories.

### **Service**

... we lead in our community through wholehearted service and compassionate advocacy.

### **Inclusion**

...we collectively create a welcoming space where we feel a sense of safety and belonging.



## OUR COMMITMENT TO PROTECT YOUR CHILD...

St. Paul's Episcopal Church is committed to creating a safe environment that protects the well-being of all children and youth who participate in activities at our parish. We have designed and implemented policies to reflect that commitment.

Our staff and regular volunteers have all taken the Safeguarding God's Children training, a sexual abuse awareness and prevention program mandated by the Episcopal Church. Additionally, each volunteer has agreed to serve in accordance with our policy for ministries with children and youth. Please ask to see a copy of the policy if you would like more information.

Our staff members have all undergone background checks, anyone who provides transportation has a valid state driver's licenses and insurance on file in our office, and staff working directly with children and youth have been CPR, First Aid, and AED certified.

If you have questions or concerns about our commitment to the well-being of your children, please contact Samantha Clare, Director of Christian Formation.



## YOUTH FORMATION PROGRAMS

Building upon the foundations laid in our Children's Ministry programs, we strive to offer the youth of our parish (7th-12th graders) an inclusive space where they can begin to explore and articulate their own faith journey as well as build Christian community with their peers. We gather weekly on Sunday mornings, afternoons, and Wednesday evenings. We offer regular opportunities for service and gathering with other youth across the Diocese. Youth are welcome and encouraged to participate in all offerings.

Learn more about our programs below or by contacting Emma Mitchell, Youth Minister, at [emma@stpaulsfay.org](mailto:emma@stpaulsfay.org) or visiting [www.stpaulsfay.org/youth](http://www.stpaulsfay.org/youth).

### Episcopal Youth Community (EYC)

Our EYC programming provides the space for youth in 7th through 12th grade to build relationships with their church peers, create mentorship relationships with adult volunteers, and explore their faith and self-identity in a community environment.

#### Sunday EYC

**3:00 – 4:30 p.m.**

On Sunday afternoons, we engage in activities based on one of our Youth Ministry values: Growth, Service, Inclusion & Community. We split into Junior High (7th & 8th grade) and Senior High (9th -12th grade) groups when appropriate and meaningful to do so. We utilize curriculum that supports our core competencies of "Lived Theology", "Service" and "Relationship Building" along with field trips and special outings.

#### Wednesday EYC

**6:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

On Wednesday evenings, following the 6:00 p.m. Eucharist service, youth gather from for an hour of discussion, games, and activities. We explore topics facing young people today, focusing on wholeness and wellness, while addressing the core competencies of "Biblical Literacy", "Worship & Spirituality", and "Relationship Building." This program helps youth navigate being a teenager through the lens of their faith and guides them through making choices that help them live into God's call for their lives.



## **Youth Sunday School**

### **Sunday mornings, 10:00 – 10:50 a.m.**

During the Sunday morning Formation Hour, youth engage in discussion to deepen our understanding of scripture. By focusing on “Biblical Literacy”, “Worship & Spirituality”, and “Lived Theology”, youth contextualize the readings heard in church that morning. We discuss how scripture is speaking in our lives today and pray collectively for the week to come.

## **Sunday Suppers**

### **Second Sunday of the month, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.**

Youth prepare and serve a meal for community members who are food insecure through our Sunday Suppers ministry of Trinity United Methodist Church (1021 W. Sycamore). Youth engage in direct service by preparing food, setting up the distribution line, serving food, and washing dishes. This program is in lieu of EYC every second Sunday. These are additional volunteer opportunities for families to help cook and transport meals components on Sunday Suppers weekends.

## **Confirmation**

### **Sunday evenings, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.**

During the Spring semester, we offer Confirmation classes for youth in 10th - 12th grade. Confirmation is the sacramental rite in which the candidates who were baptized at an early age are expected to make a mature public affirmation of their faith, recommit themselves to the responsibilities of their baptism, and receive laying on of hands by a bishop. Using “My Faith, My Life” as our foundational text, Confirmation class invites youth to explore the beliefs of the Episcopal Church and identify their own beliefs in that context. We typically begin with an overnight retreat followed by a series of meetings on Sunday evenings in the weeks leading up to the Bishop’s visit.

## **Pastoral Care**

We are here to be a supportive community to one another, especially in times of need. Outside of large group gatherings, the Youth Minister is available for pastoral conversation with youth and their families as needed. If you would like to schedule a time outside of regular programming to check-in, catch up, or talk through an issue, reach out to Emma Mitchell via email or text. All pastoral meetings will be kept confidential (according to safeguarding guidelines) and held in a public setting suitable for discreet conversation. Parents/Caregivers may take part in arranging meeting and, when between a youth and Youth Minister, are informed about the time and place a meeting will be held.



## **St. Dominic Youth Choir**

Our children and youth choirs rehearse weekly throughout the school year and provide music for Sunday worship during our 8:45 a.m. service and other special events. By participating, youth learn more about the traditions and beliefs of the church and engage in the larger music ministry of the church.

Our choirs offer their music as a gift to God. Rehearsals are fun and challenging. The choir utilizes the Royal School of Church Music, an acclaimed structured choral training that provides a framework for choral singers to develop their vocal skills, musical understanding, and knowledge of the repertoire. Ribbon training, according to the Royal School of Church Music training scheme, covers music theory, history, sight reading, liturgy, mentorship, and Christian formation. As they progress through the training, children and youth earn colored ribbons for their cross necklaces, which are worn with their choir robes. Faithful attendance and commitment to choir are recognized at our end of the school year. By participating in choir, our youth are exposed to service through ministry in the church

### **Choir Club**

#### **Wednesday afternoons, 3:30 – 5:15 p.m.**

On Wednesdays afternoons, we provide supervised activities after school until dinner at 5:15 p.m. The Wednesday afternoon schedule is as follows:

**3:30-4:15 p.m.** Drop-off on Playground

**4:15 – 5:15 p.m.** Youth Choir Rehearsal

**5:15 p.m.** Dinner

**6:00 p.m.** Holy Eucharist (Parish Hall)

**6:30 – 7:30 p.m.** EYC (Youth Center)

### **Participation in Worship**

At St. Paul's, youth are welcome and invited to participate roles during worship in addition to singing in the choir. Let us know if you are interested in serving in a liturgical role; these include being an Acolyte or an Usher, serving with the Altar or Bread Guild, or (once Confirmed) serving as a Lay Reader/Eucharistic Minister. These roles require training once we have mutually discerned what you feel capable of and called to do.



## ANNUAL EVENT CALENDAR August 2022-July 2023

<b>August 2022</b>	<p>14: EYC Sunday Suppers 15: FPS Starts; UofA Classes Begin 17: Wednesday EYC Resumes; Choir Club Resumes 20: Children &amp; Youth Volunteer Training 21: (AM) Blessing of Backpacks; Sunday School Kick- Off; Teacher Commissioning (PM) EYC Kickoff Celebration</p>
<b>September</b>	<p>11: EYC Sunday Suppers 24/25: Sunday Suppers Fundraiser &amp; Youth Service Spotlight 30-Oct 1: AYE (Arkansas Youth Event) @ Camp Mitchell</p>
<b>October</b>	<p>1: Acolyte Training/Usher Training 2: Blessing of Animals (5:30pm) 9: (AM) Acolyte Elevations (PM) EYC Sunday Suppers 22: Parish Workday 29: Halloween EYC Party/Lock-In 30: Celebration Sunday (No Sunday School)</p>
<b>November</b>	<p>13: EYC Sunday Suppers 18-20: Fall Happening Weekend 23: Thanksgiving Break (No Wednesday EYC) 27: Advent I: Wreath Workshop &amp; Supper (5:30pm) 30: St. Nicholas Night</p>
<b>December</b>	<p>7: EYC to Lights of the Ozarks 11: (AM) St. Lucy Visits Sunday School (PM) EYC Sunday Suppers 18: Christmas Pageant (5:30pm) 21: FPS Last Day EYC End-of-Year Party</p>
<b>January 2023</b>	<p>4: FPS Resumes - Wednesday EYC Programs Resume 5: Twelfth Night Celebration (Burning of the Greens) 7: Children/Youth Volunteer Training 8: EYC Sunday Suppers 16: MLK Day of Service 22: (AM) Annual Meeting (No Sunday School) (PM) Sunday EYC Resumes</p>





<b>February</b>	<p><b>12:</b> EYC Sunday Suppers (Superbowl Sunday) <b>9-20:</b> EYC Confirmation Retreat &amp; Classes Begin <b>21:</b> Shrove Tuesday Dinner <b>22:</b> Ash Wednesday</p>
<b>March</b>	<p><b>12:</b> EYC Sunday Suppers <b>20-24:</b> FPS Spring Break</p> <p><b>TBD:</b> Spring AYE Weekend @ Camp Mitchell; Spring Happening Weekend</p>
<b>April</b>	<p><b>1:</b> Parish Workday <b>2:</b> (AM) Palm Sunday; Children's Stations of Cross Program <b>6:</b> Maundy Thursday <b>7:</b> Good Friday <b>8:</b> Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil &amp; Festive Brunch <b>9:</b> Easter Sunday     (AM) Easter Egg Hunt (10:00, No Sunday School)     (PM) EYC Sunday Suppers <b>14-16:</b> Parish Retreat (Tentative) <b>23:</b> Earth Day Celebration</p>
<b>May</b>	<p><b>6:</b> Baptism/Confirmation Rehearsal &amp; Reception <b>7:</b> Confirmation Sunday (Bishop's Visit) <b>14:</b> EYC Sunday Suppers <b>21:</b> Baccalaureate Sunday w/ Youth Sermon <b>23:</b> 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet <b>24:</b> Last Wednesday EYC of the Year <b>28:</b> (AM) Choir Awards; Last day of Sunday School     (PM) Last EYC of the Year</p>
<b>June</b>	<p><b>1:</b> FPS Last Day <b>11:</b> EYC Sunday Suppers <b>17:</b> Pride Celebration</p> <p><b>TBD:</b> Vacation Bible School; Camp Mitchell Summer Camps; Interfaith Camp</p>
<b>July</b>	<p><b>15:</b> Parish Workday <b>23-29:</b> Choir Camp</p>



## **COMMUNITY COVENANT**

Our community covenant\* allow us to grow in community and create safe space for all.

### **BE RESPECTFUL**

- of other people (their feelings & emotions)
- of personal/physical space
- of yourself

### **BE KIND...FOLLOW THE GOLDEN RULE!**

### **STAY IN SUPERVISED AREAS**

### **STRIVE TO UNDERSTAND & OWN YOUR BEHAVIOR**

### **MAINTAIN CONFIDENTIALITY, BUT NOT SECRECY**

### **NO**

- PDA
- Drugs or alcohol
- Weapons
- Inappropriate language
- Physical harm

### **HAVE FUN** (or have some faith that you might!)

*\*as created and approved by youth in Fall 2019.*



**ST. PAUL'S**  
EPISCOPAL YOUTH COMMUNITY

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
P.O. BOX 1190  
FAYETTEVILLE, AR 72702  
(479) 442-7373

## REGISTRATION 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

*Fill out even if you believe we already have your current information on file.*

*All personal data will be kept confidential.*

### Youth Information

Full Name

Name You Prefer to be Called

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (including City, State, & Zip)

\_\_\_\_\_

Youth Cell Phone

Youth Email

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Gender / Pronouns

Date of Birth

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_

School

Grade

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Known Allergies / Medical Information

\_\_\_\_\_

Register child for Youth Choir

*Families with additional children attach additional copy of form as needed.*

Publish our family in the directory. Youth contact information is not published.

*Please continue on reverse side.*



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## Parent / Caregiver (1) Information

Full Name

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Name You Prefer to be Called

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Relationship to Youth

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Parent/Caregiver Email

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Parent/Caregiver Cell Phone

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Parent/Caregiver Home Phone

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Gender / Pronouns

---

Date of Birth

\_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_

Marital Status

---

Anniversary Date (if applicable)

\_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_

## Parent / Caregiver (2) Information

Full Name

---

Name You Prefer to be Called

---

Relationship to Youth

---

Parent/Caregiver Email

---

Parent/Caregiver Cell Phone

---

Parent/Caregiver Home Phone

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Gender / Pronouns

---

Date of Birth

\_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_



## RELEASE FORM 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

Parent / Guardian Name(s)

Youth Name(s)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Initial to indicate your consent to each of the following:*

\_\_\_\_\_ **Liability Release:** I do hereby release, forever discharge, and agree to hold harmless St. Paul's, its employees, volunteers, and agents from any and all liability, claims, demands, causes of action, and possible causes of action arising out of or related to any loss, damage, or accidental injury (including death) that may be sustained by my child while participating in or traveling to St. Paul's programs and events.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Electronic Communication Release:** I give St. Paul's, its employees and designated volunteers permission to communicate directly with my child via email, text message, or phone call and to communicate with my child in a group setting via video conferencing.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Transportation Release:** I give permission for my child to ride in any vehicle designated by St. Paul's, its employees and adult volunteers, while participating in and travelling to and from events. And do hereby release, forever discharge and agree to hold harmless St. Paul's, its employees, volunteers and agents from any and all liability, claims or demands for accidental personal injury in the process of transportation.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Medical Release:** I understand that personal injury can and may occur to my child, and I hereby authorize any member of the St. Paul's staff or designated volunteers to seek and consent to emergency medical attention for my child, and I further agree to be liable for and to pay all costs incurred in connection with such medical attention.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Audio Visual Release:** I give my consent to St. Paul's to film, photograph, or record the participation of my child and I agree that any or all of the material recorded may be used as part of any future productions or publications made by St. Paul's and that such use shall be without payment of fees, royalties, special credit, or other compensation to or for the benefit of me, my child, or any other entity. No photos or recordings to be taken for personal use.

Parent / Guardian Signature

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_



## POLICIES & PROCEDURES

*The following are participation expectations for our Youth Ministry programs.*

### Age Specifications

Our Youth Ministry program welcomes youth who are entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade through graduating seniors to participate.

- Youth who attend traditional school and turn 18 during their senior year may continue to participate until their graduation date.
- Youth who attend non-traditional school (i.e. virtual or home school) may participate through the end of the academic year during which they turned 18.

### Participation Expectations

- All youth must have registration and release forms on file to participate.
- During program times, the Youth Minister and volunteers are responsible for the safety of youth. As such, youth are expected to be physically present with the whole the group for the duration of the program, including mealtimes and worship.
  - If a youth's caregiver is present during any portion of the program time, such as dinner or worship, they become responsible for the safety of their child. The youth may arrange an exception to the above stated rule by communicating with both the caregiver and the Youth Minister.
- When on campus, we have confidence in youth to take care of their own physical needs such as using the restroom and getting food or beverages without asking permission. When off campus youth should communicate with an adult leader when they take leave to address their physical needs.
- We also trust youth to take care of their emotional needs. If youth need a short break from participation, they may communicate this to an adult leader. When taking space youth should remain in sight of the adult leader or in an adjacent room to the large group.
- If homework or another commitment is interfering with being fully present for a program youth may speak to an adult about how to address the issue. Part of being in a youth community is giving your energy and presence to those around you, and this isn't possible if you're working on other projects, staying on your phone, or isolating from the large group.



## **Cellphone and Electronic Device Use**

Youth should keep all electronic devices put away out of sight. If they become a distraction youth may be asked to place their device in a designated storage area while participating in programs. Exceptions to this rule include designated unprogrammed time, to communicate with caregivers about transportation, or in case of emergency.

## **Transportation Policies**

### **When dropping off or picking up youth from a youth event...**

- Drop-off/pick up youth within sight of the Youth Center door. If we are meeting elsewhere, please make sure your child gets to the right location before leaving.
- Let the Youth Director/supervising adult know who will be dropping off/picking up youth if it is someone different than a parent/guardian.
- If dropping off youth early, stay with them until two supervisory adults are present.
- If you are running late to pick your youth up, please text/call the Youth Director to let them know your estimated arrival time.

### **If your child/children walk to/from St. Paul's...**

- Please text/call the Youth Director to let them know your youth has permission to walk home or to another location after the youth event.
- If it is dark or the weather prohibits walking home, it will be assumed that a parent/guardian is coming to pick up your child/children and they should stay at the Youth Center under supervision until you arrive.

### **If you are a youth who drives themselves/other youth to St. Paul's...**

- If you are at St. Paul's during a youth meeting you are expected to be in attendance of said meeting.
- If you choose to leave, it is your responsibility to inform your parent/guardian that you have left St. Paul's.

