



# PLANTING PEACE

Sunday, July 7–Saturday, July 13, 2024

## **MONTREAT YOUTH CONFERENCE**

With Towson Presbyterian Church

**Grades 8th–12th**

*The Montreat Conference Center is a special place within the Presbyterian Church (USA). It's one of three national conference centers affiliated with the PC(USA) and is annually visited by over 35,000 people seeking physical and spiritual renewal in the beautiful mountains of western North Carolina.*

### **THE HIGH SCHOOL CONFERENCE**

The Montreat Youth Conference (MYC) is a unique gathering of young people from all over the country for a week of study, worship, and recreation. Activities include morning energizers, music, keynote, small group meetings, afternoon recreation activities, and evening worship.

The MYC affirms youth in their calling to be and to shape the church of Jesus Christ. Their desire is to help youth come to know and believe that they are the beloved of God and to be a place where authenticity, community, connection, and God's truth thrive. They seek to be an inclusive space where each voice can be heard and where each heart can be molded; where change is invited, challenge is expected, and where all are embraced.

This summer, Montreat will build an accepting community of unconditional love where every story matters. Through engaging worship, lively music, practices of gratitude and fun, they will offer youth different opportunities to cultivate their spiritual faith journeys and practice sabbath. They will provide a secure space that is loving, holy, and authentic so that we may glorify God in all that we do, inspiring and equipping a lifetime of faith.

Youth leave Montreat knowing that:

*Their faith matters. They are loved as they are. They are part of a community of faith.*

### **HOUSING**

At MYC we'll be staying in the Winsborough Lodge, which is located at the heart of Montreat Conference Center and overlooks Lake Susan. All meals are included with housing.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

We'll travel to Montreat in a 12-passenger van.

## DAILY SCHEDULE

There are four main parts of every day at Montreat Youth Conference:

**Keynote:** The keynote session gathers everyone together for movement and group building (fondly known as energizers), announcements, music, and keynote. Keynote is a 45 minute-ish presentation engaging conferees in that day's scriptural theme. After keynote, conferees head to small group sessions.

**Small Groups:** Small groups allow youth to form relationships with others in order to have honest discussions with each other about questions raised during keynote and worship. Small group sessions are led by trained small group leaders, who guide conversation and lead group building activities.

**Worship:** After dinner, everyone gathers for worship. In worship, youth engage the Word of God as they seek to understand and respond to the challenges and triumphs of being a high schooler in the twenty-first century. MYC worship is joyful, reflective, and seeks to glorify God using many creative gifts of the participants.

**Recreation:** Recreation events are featured throughout the day and include everything from dance, games, and group building activities to snow cone parties, international crafts, and service. Energizers are a much beloved Montreat tradition, pairing popular music and simple movements everyone can enjoy.

## COST

**\$690.00** – This price includes housing, meals, and program costs. Transportation to and from Montreat is underwritten through TPC's youth ministry budget. MYC is not an inexpensive trip, but it is a fantastic faith-forming trip, and to that end we strive to make next summer's MYC affordable as possible. Each teen is asked to pay \$350 out of pocket (scholarships are available; please reach out to Pastor Joel if this would help). \$250 is being underwritten for each teen through TPC's Holmes Youth Mission Fund. The remaining \$90 will be raised through our Christmas Wreath Fundraiser in November and an additional fundraiser in the Spring.

## HOW TO REGISTER

Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis. We have reserved spots but once they fill up there's no guarantee of additional rooms in Montreat housing. Register at [towsonpres.org/youth](http://towsonpres.org/youth) where you'll be asked to pay a \$100 deposit.

## LEADERSHIP

Pastor Joel and 1–2 Youth Advisors will accompany our teens to MYC.

*Questions?*

*Contact Pastor Joel Strom at [jstrom@towsonpres.org](mailto:jstrom@towsonpres.org).*