



Middle School Youth Group Winter Retreat

February 12-13, 2021

John Wesley United Methodist Church

\$30/per student (scholarships available)

We invite all of our 5th -8th grade students to participate in our Middle School Winter Retreat Friday, February 12 through Saturday, February 13. There will be plenty of opportunity for us to grow in our faith and in our relationships with one another! All are welcome to join!

Dear Student,

I am so glad that you will be joining us for our annual winter retreat! In previous years, we have taken a trip to a retreat center in New Hampshire. However, due to COVID-19, we will be staying local and having a one-night lock-in at the church!

Our retreat will begin Friday afternoon and last until Saturday afternoon, giving us plenty of time for worship, small groups, snacks, and games. This year our theme is “Fruits of the Spirit” so be prepared for plenty of fruit snacks and fruit related games! Our worship and small group activities will be related to the Fruits of the Spirit: love, patience, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, self-control, joy, kindness, and peace.

Worship opportunities include two large-group teaching sessions from me as well as small group times with our other adult volunteers. In addition to the large and small group sessions, we will be participating in a few prayer stations. These stations will center around the fruits of the spirit and will encourage individual prayer and thought. We will also have many fun activities to do together, including games and challenges. I am confident that as we step into the bubble of the church atmosphere that we will grow closer together as a community and closer to God.

At some points, I will ask that you put your phone into your bag in order to be present with your friends. You will be able to use it during free times and at night before bed.

Since we will be spending most, if not all, of our time inside, you will be expected to wear your mask when not eating or drinking. We will also be social distancing as much as possible. For sleeping, I am going to try to the best of my ability to give everyone their own classroom to sleep in. This will depend on how many students register. Everyone has done an amazing job so far of following COVID guidelines so I expect to not have any issues at our retreat!

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about the retreat. You can reach me at any time by calling the church office at 508-548-3050, my cell phone, 850-445-4842 or emailing me at hannah.jwumc@gmail.com. Please read and fill out the necessary waivers for the trip and submit them to me by **Thursday, February 4, 2021**.

I look forward to growing closer to God with all of you this weekend!

Hannah

hannah.jwumc@gmail.com

508-548-3050 | 850-445-4842

All the Important Info:

Who: Open to ALL Youth in Grades 5th-8th

When: Friday, February 12 @ 3:00 pm – Saturday, February 13 @ 5:00 pm

Cost: \$30

What is included in cost: all meals, activity materials & t-shirt

Adult Chaperones: TBD

Deadline: Thursday, February 4th: Last day to turn in fee and registration slip



Sample Weekend Schedule:

Friday, February 12th

3:00 pm	Drop students off at John Wesley & Check in
3:00 pm	Welcome, first snack, and games
5:30 pm	Dinner
6:00 pm	Free time (board games, puzzles, etc.)
7:00 pm	First Worship Session
8:00 pm	First Small Group Session
9:00 pm	Group bonding activity
10:00 pm	Second snack, free time & room assignments
11:00 pm	Lights out/rooms quiet

Saturday, February 13th

8:00 am	Wake up/Breakfast
9:00 am	Second Worship Session
10:00 am	Second Small Group Session
11:00 am	Free time (board games, puzzles, etc.)
12:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	Group bonding activity
2:00 pm	Prayer stations/last small group
3:00 pm	Third snack and games
5:00 pm	Closing & Pick Up at John Wesley

Packing List:

- Sleeping bag or air mattress
- Sheets and blanket
- Pillow
- T shirts, pants, sweaters, socks, underwear, pjs, etc.
- Toiletry items- tooth brush, face wash, deodorant, etc.
- Bible, notebook

What else to bring:

Combining close to a dozen of teenagers for over a 24 hour time period is going to have its challenges. God has given every student different personalities, characteristics and quirks – and we welcome and celebrate that! But we ask that you do too. Below are some reminders for us:

- Be **patient** with each other (we are all different and don't know everyone's history/life)
- Give the **benefit of the doubt** first (we're all doing the best we can)
- Be **forgiving** with each other (we're learning to be Christ-like, show mercy/grace in conflict)
- **Communicate** with each other (be respectful and have the courage to speak humbly)
- Be **inclusive** (try including others so cliques don't evolve)
- **Easy-going** attitude (things are bound to change, jump on the ride and go with the flow)
- Be **thoughtful** (we all have expectations for this weekend, honor why people are there)
- **Smile and laugh** (have a great time!)

Registration Form:

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Student T-Shirt Size: _____

Allergies/Medications/other concerns:

Emergency Contact Info:

Name: _____ Relation to Student: _____

Phone 1: _____ Phone 2: _____

Name: _____ Relation to Student: _____

Phone 1: _____ Phone 2: _____

I, _____, give my permission for my child to participate in the Winter Retreat lock in at John Wesley United Methodist Church. I understand that reasonable precautions have been taken to ensure the safety of my child and waive any and all claims against JWUMC due to any injury, accident, illness or mishap to my child.

Additional Parent info for our records:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Primary phone: _____ Primary email: _____

Secondary phone: _____ Secondary email: _____

- Check here if you are interested in helping with set up at some point during the retreat!