

Dear Christ Church Parents and Youth in Grades 7-12,

Welcome to the new academic year! The excitement of a new program year here at Christ Church is upon us. The choir has returned, we blessed backpacks and children, and heard several invitations into our community life! This coming Sunday our kickoff continues as Church School and **Youth Groups officially begin**, and we'll enjoy fellowship at the churchwide Parish Picnic.

Youth Groups at Christ Church strive to offer safe places of authentic community where all youth may be seen, heard and encouraged to grow. Youth Groups focus on fellowship, mutual support, and service to others. Christ Church has a history of nurturing youth throughout the teen years and offering them opportunities to serve the church and the surrounding communities. Parent and non-parent involvement are both essential and deeply appreciated.

Please find additional information about each group from their mentors, offered below.

In Faith,
Rev. Jen Vath

7th & 8th Grade Youth Group Information

Welcome!

Thank you for sharing your youth with us! We appreciate you all taking the time to bring our church youth together to create connections with each other, provide service to our community and talk about our faith in a casual fun environment.

Together we can do this!

We are thrilled to be mentors for these wonderful youth and look forward to a jam-packed year of activities and projects. We are trying to offer as many meetings as possible, but with just the two of us, there are going to be weeks when one of us cannot attend because of our own family commitments. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Meetings with youth require the presence of at least 2 adults to comply with Safe Church policies. We will occasionally need parents to volunteer to sit in on meetings or join us on events. You don't need to worry about leading the group or planning anything....simply be present to listen. Please consider helping us this year when we ask so that we won't have to cancel meetings.

Similarly, we have learned that our youth love to be active and do things both as a group or in service to others. We want to try to do more this year, but we need your help as drivers and chaperones on these events. If every parent/guardian would consider joining us once or twice this year, we will have a very rich program. It is also really enlightening to see our youth in action!

Snacks Donations

We are putting out a request for individually wrapped snack bags, etc.... to create our snack pile for meetings. We have storage bins store these in our room. Our youth definitely appreciate the snacks. Snacks always seem to help relax everyone and open up our conversations!

Fresh day of snacks are also always welcome! Some of our youth are budding bakers and we would love to appreciate their hard work ☺

Occasionally, we like to offer pizza to our group. Please let us know if you would be willing to donate pizzas to one of our meetings. We would be SO appreciative!

Permission Slips

Christ Church requires us to collect Permission Slips for any events off campus for each attending youth and Driving Forms from each adult driving when driving youth other than their own to/from an event.

We are working on improving this process to minimize the paperwork. We have asked the church administrators to consider a couple of proposals and hope to have an update shortly.

With your help, we expect this to be a wonderful enriching year for all involved!

Thank you.

Kathy Serrano and Diane Hastings

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Grades 9-12 Youth Group Information

Welcome Christ Church parents and students in High school,

I (Rev. Jen) will be mentoring the HS (Grades 9-12) group, with help from Chris Wagner and Matt Lennon and two others who have offered to co-lead events throughout the year. Juniors Sally Hodges and Austin Whitlock will serve as peer mentors. We have already met twice and are eager to share details of emerging plans with the rest of the group. We are also working hard to determine a suitable meeting time on Sundays. Our first meeting will take place at 3:30pm on September 15th. However, this will likely not be the meeting time for all future meetings.

The most exciting news is that the High Schoolers will be given the gift and the responsibility of a new room in which to hold their meetings. The third floor of the Glebe House will be transformed into a space conducive to our group gatherings and conversation. On Sunday, September 22nd we'll begin by cleaning out some old files and begin making it a space of our own. If you can help with moving furniture and/or finding good deals, please plan to join us after church on the 22nd.

The detailed High School meeting schedule is forthcoming, but also new this year will be the chance to participate in City Reach, a program offered to young people to learn first-hand about homelessness from people who have experienced it. Members of Common Cathedral will guide us through the city and the evening will end with a simple worship service. We will sleep overnight in a local church. Registration for this limited event begins immediately; an early commitment and deposit will be required for those wishing to participate. The dates are December 13-14, 2019. Additional parent chaperones will be needed. You can learn about CityReach [here](#).

A Christ Church lock-in this fall, and a High School service trip outside of New England for the summer of 2020 are also being considered. Parent chaperones and volunteers will be needed to make these events possible.

Parents, thank you for entrusting your youth to this community. I look forward to learning and growing, having fun, and finding God in new places alongside them.

Jen+

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Last Call for Confirmation Class Signup!

We will be offering Confirmation classes this year for High School students in Grades 10-12, in preparation for Confirmation next spring. If you have not already let Rev. Jen know of your interest in confirmation this year, please do so as soon as possible. The first Confirmation class will be held on Sunday, **October 20th** at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall.