

Middle And Senior High School Youth Ministry Programs at First Congregational

Our young people are not just our future, they are our present. At First Congregational Church we believe it is vitally important to help guide, educate and mentor them during all stages of their lives, but especially during the critical years of Middle and High School. Our church seeks to be partners with parents in providing a healthy, engaging and fun faith formation program. Below is a year-by-year plan for youth in Middle and High School:

Grade	Program	Meets	Themes	Highlights
Grade 6	Pre-Confirmation	Every second Wednesday	Who Am I and Who are We Together?	Bonfire, Winter Retreat
Grade 7	Confirmation Year One	Every second Wednesday	Living the Christian Faith and Old Testament	Bonfire, Conf and Winter Retreats
Grade 8	Confirmation Year Two	Every second Wednesday	Living the Christian Faith and New Testament	Bonfire, Conf and Winter Retreats
Grade 9	Confirmation Year Three	Every second Wednesday	Putting It All Together by Studying One Specific Issue	Bonfire, Conf and Winter Retreats, 'Big Trip'
Grades 10,11, 12	Church Intern program	Monthly	Growing My Faith by interning in church ministries	Scholarship funding for higher education

Other Events for Middle and Senior High School Youth: Boundary Waters Summer Trip (7th grade and older), Day in the City Summer Program

Faith is a gift from God. We cannot create it, but with the help of the whole community of faith, the church, we can help strengthen the faith of our young people. Below are listed the goals we have for each of the three youth ministry programs we offer:

The goals of the Pre-Confirmation Program are:

- Having fun together in a safe small group setting.
- Teaching the love of Jesus as they serve others.
- Developing independence, a sense of who they are, and who they are becoming.

The goals of the Confirmation Program are:

- Learning the story of the Christian faith (OT, NT, History, traditions, worship, etc).
- Serving others and learning how God's unique gifts in them can be used in the world.
- Developing a sense of their self and how they relate to God's world.

The goals of the Church Intern Program are:

- Continuing the small group experience for the last three years of high school
- Serving others by picking one part of church life in which students will use their gifts in the service of others
- Developing a life plan to see how their gifts can be used in God's world.