



Back to School '26

# FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

News For Kids & Youth!



## Hey Families!

It's hard to believe that it is already time for a new school year! We have been having so much fun this summer. Although we don't want summer to come to an end, we are really looking forward to everything that is coming next! We don't want you to miss a thing so here are some dates and information for you!

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 2ND



Students, Teachers, & School Staff:  
Bring your backpack to church on Aug 2, 2026!  
We'll have a special prayer for the new school year and blessing of the backpacks!

## YOUTH SUNDAY

**August 2, 2026**

Sanctuary @ 8:30 am

The Well @ 11 am (at USM)

Join us for this special Sunday when our students serve and lead worship.

Students of all ages are invited to bring their backpacks for a special back-to-school blessing on August 2<sup>nd</sup>! Our 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students are leading worship on this special day. Students who are leading Youth Sunday should arrive at the sanctuary at 8 AM.

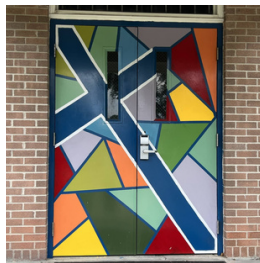
### SUNDAY, AUGUST 2ND CONTINUED...

#### Youth Group Kick-Off

The evening of August 2nd, we will kick off the new year of our Youth Group with a fun night of getting to know each other. Any students who will be in 7th-12th grade this year are invited to attend! We will play some games and share dinner together. Our Youth Group meets from 5:00-7:00 p.m in Heritage Hall at our church building, 208 Pine Street. Look for the door on the south side with the painted mosaic cross! Drop off is at that door. If your student drives, have them park in the west parking lot and walk over to Heritage Hall. That will make it easier when we dismiss.

Pick up for Youth Group is at the Christian Life Center. The door for this building is in the west parking lot.

Emily Barlow is the point person for Youth Group.



#### In-Betweens Kick-Off

Also on the evening of August 2nd, we are kicking off a new year for our 4th-6th grade students, our **In-Betweens**. The In-Betweens meet at the same time as our Youth Group - Sunday evenings from 5:00-7:00 p.m. They will meet in our Side by Side room in Moore Hall at our church, 208 Pine Street. Moore Hall is the building on our northeast corner that faces the park and is close to the railroad tracks.

Pick up for In-Betweens is in the Christian Life Center. The door for this building is in the west parking lot.

Jennifer McKenzie is the point person for In-Betweens.



### IN-BETWEENS (4<sup>TH</sup> - 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADES)

#### Water Games - Sunday, August 23rd

Put Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, on your calendars for Water Games night! Wear your swimsuit and bring a towel and be ready to have a great time. It will be a great night to invite a friend!

#### Spring & Summer 2027

- **M28 Spring Weekend Retreat** for 4th-6th graders (we don't have the date just yet!)
- **Camp Wesley Pines:** We will start signing kids up for Wesley Pines in October so be on the lookout for more information!
- **Vacation Bible School:** More info to come!



#### In-Between Family Messaging Group

Please scan the QR code at the right to join the messaging group on our church's app. This will be our primary way to communicate information to you!



## YOUTH MINISTRY (7<sup>TH</sup> - 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADES)

### Parent Meeting - August 16th

7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents: Please come to a meeting at 6:30 on August 16<sup>th</sup>! We'll meet in the choir room while students are eating dinner. This meeting will give you more information on the coming year in youth!

### Water Games - Sunday, August 23rd

Put Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, on your calendars for Water Games night! Wear your swimsuit and bring a towel and be ready to have a great time. It will be a great night to invite a friend!

### Beach Retreat

Interested in attending the Beach Retreat in Panama City Beach, FL, on October 10th-12th? We will be signing up for this trip in the next couple of weeks so be on the lookout for the information! Registration is \$125.

### Summer 2027

- **Camp Wesley Pines:** We will start signing kids up for Wesley Pines in October so be on the lookout for more information!
- **Vacation Bible School:** Volunteer for this fun week! More info to come!
- **Summer trip:** We will be exploring options in the last week of June or the first couple weeks of July!



**Students:** Use the QR on the left to sign up for our messaging group through our church's app! This is how we will send you reminders and info!

**Families:** Use the QR on the right to sign up for our messaging group through our church's app! This is how we will communicate information about youth!



We know that was a lot of information! We will keep you updated as we get more details to trips and events. If you have any questions or want more information on any of our curriculum or programming, please ask. Also parents, if you want more information on how to be a part of any of our ministries, we would love to have that conversation with you! We are always looking for more adults to invest in the faith of our students!

From,  
Lori Cripple & Emily Barlow  
Ministry Coordinators  
First Methodist Church Long Beach  
228-863-9619

# YOUTH & IN-BETWEENS FALL CALENDAR

|                |                                                                                  |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>AUG 2</b>   | <b>Fall Kick-Off, 5-7 PM</b>                                                     |
| <b>AUG 9</b>   | Youth & In-Betweens, 5-7 PM                                                      |
| <b>AUG 16</b>  | Youth & In-Betweens, 5-7 PM<br>Youth Parent Meeting at 6:30 PM in the choir room |
| <b>AUG 23</b>  | <b>Water Games Night, 5-7 PM</b>                                                 |
| <b>SEPT 6</b>  | NO YOUTH OR IN-BETWEENS<br>(Labor Day Weekend)                                   |
| <b>SEPT 13</b> | Youth & In-Betweens, 5-7 PM                                                      |
| <b>SEPT 20</b> | Youth & In-Betweens, 5-7 PM                                                      |
| <b>SEPT 27</b> | Youth & In-Betweens, 5-7 PM                                                      |
| <b>OCT 4</b>   | NO YOUTH OR IN-BETWEENS<br>(Fall Break)                                          |
| <b>OCT 11</b>  | In-Betweens, 5-7 PM<br><b>Youth Beach Retreat @<br/>Panama City Beach</b>        |
| <b>OCT 18</b>  | Youth & In-Betweens, 5-7 PM                                                      |
| <b>OCT 25</b>  | Youth & In-Betweens, 5-7 PM                                                      |

|               |                                                        |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>NOV 1</b>  | Youth & In-Betweens, 5-7 PM                            |
| <b>NOV 8</b>  | Youth & In-Betweens, 5-7 PM                            |
| <b>NOV 15</b> | <b>Thanksgiving Parties.<br/>5-7 PM</b>                |
| <b>NOV 22</b> | NO YOUTH OR IN-BETWEENS<br>(Thanksgiving Break)        |
| <b>DEC 6</b>  | <b>Angel Tree Wrapping Party,<br/>all church event</b> |
| <b>DEC 13</b> | <b>Christmas Parties,<br/>5-7 PM</b>                   |
| <b>DEC 20</b> | NO YOUTH OR IN-BETWEENS<br>(Christmas Break)           |
| <b>DEC 27</b> | NO YOUTH OR IN-BETWEENS<br>(Christmas Break)           |
| <b>JAN 3</b>  | Youth & In-Betweens, 5-7 PM                            |

If the calendar changes, we will let you know through the Family and Student Groups on our church app!

We will provide more information on the holiday parties as we get closer to them!