

**Jeremiah Appleton
FMC Youth Director**

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I came to FMC in the Spring of 1999 after a tragic moment in my life and found in this community of faith a place that will actively support and uplift its members and the community at large. One of my first experiences here was a youth mission trip with Appalachia Service Project, which set me on my own faith journey that has continued strengthening to this day. Now, having the opportunity to lead our youth and provide similar experiences for them is an absolute blessing. My daughter Amanda and wife Jen are both active participants in our programming, along with many other fantastic youth and youth leaders. I strongly encourage any who are interested in Youth Group to send your students out on Sunday evenings at 5:00 during the school year. You can contact me directly or reach out to the church office for more details.

Peace and blessings - Jeremiah



The Appleton Family



First Methodist Church

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FMC Moorestown



Youth Group

FMC's Youth Group is a great chance for your 6th-12th grade student(s) to join an inclusive community of faith centered on our church's primary mission of Love God, Reach People, Serve All. Drawing youth from many surrounding towns, our program is blessed in its ability to provide incredibly fun and unique activities while simultaneously helping our students understand the power of developing a meaningful relationship with Christ.

A Typical Sunday Night

We meet at church from 5:00 - 7:30 and spend time in the Youth Rooms or outside if the weather is nice. We always start out with a meal together, often provided by one of our families, followed by whatever crazy game/activity the youth leaders have thought up for that week...and there have been some doozies! Around 6:45, we come back to the youth room to sing worship songs and then engage in meaningful small-group discussion. There is always time at the end for sharing prayer concerns and praying out the evening together.



Special Events

Ignite Wildwood

In October, we attend this weekend retreat in Wildwood, NJ put on by the GNJUMC conference. We are blessed with incredible worship music from nationally known bands and impactful messages targeted towards our youth. In our downtime, we get to enjoy the boardwalk and play on the beach!

Youth Group Lock-In

In November, we come together for a Friday overnight at the church and enjoy incredibly fun AND productive activities. Most recently, we spent Saturday doing property work on church grounds followed by outdoor laser-tag.

Youth Group Christmas Party

December's Christmas party brings out some of our craziest Youth Group games and our always popular White Elephant gift exchange.

Mid-Winter Advance

In January, we head to Refreshing Mountain in Stevens, PA for another weekend retreat. We experience powerful worship music and messages interspersed with volleyball and basketball tournaments, an outdoor ropes course and climbing wall, a reptile house, skits, and so much more!

30-Hour Famine

This awesome weekend in February sees our youth go 30 hours without eating while learning about hunger insecurity at a local and global scale. At the same time, we have lots of fun and do lots of good through fundraising and food collection.

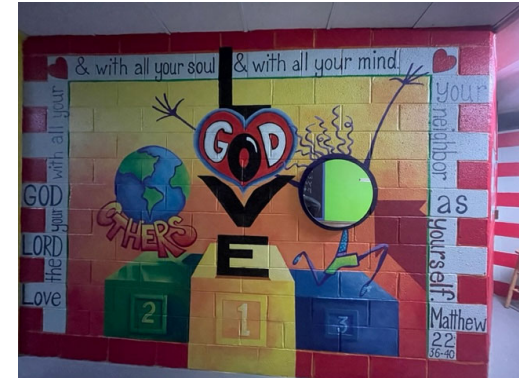
Live Passion

On Palm Sunday, the youth, in combination with our adult choir, showcase 10 Stations of the Cross in a deeply moving setting that is loved by our congregation and community.

Summer Mission Trip

We partner with Appalachia Service Project (ASP) on construction repair ministry in WV, KY, TN, or VA. This trip is for students going into 9th grade the following year through to college age, with an additional need for adult and parent volunteers. These trips change lives in very powerful ways, both for the families we help and for our volunteers.

God First Others Second I'm Third



As a Youth Group, we have focused on Matthew 22, which says: *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.*

For our students who are newly discovering their faith, this may be the most important piece of scripture that we come across. As they approach every daily interaction, I want our students to reflect on this by showing love to EVERYONE they encounter, in the same way Jesus did.

This scripture is now memorialized through art on one of the walls in our youth space!

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