

2023 Fall Youth Retreat Schedule

Friday, November 10

7 pm	Registration; settle into cabins; activities in the Chapel
8:30 pm	Large Group Opening Activities
9 pm	Music and Introductions
9:15 pm	Small Group Time
10:15 pm	Snacks
10:30 pm	Worship
11 pm	Cabin Devotions, followed by Lights Out

Saturday, November 11

8:30 am	Breakfast
9:45 am	Large Group Gathering: music and games
10 am	Keynote and Small Groups
noon	Lunch
1 pm	Music and Announcements
1:15	Mission Experience, Fleece Blankets Recreation options
4:30 pm	Free Time; Youth Council meeting
5:30 pm	Dinner
6:30 pm	Large Group Gathering
6:45 pm	Keynote and Small Groups
8 pm	Trivia Night
9:15 pm	Snacks and S'mores
9:45 pm	Worship
10:15 pm	Cabin Devotions, followed by Lights Out

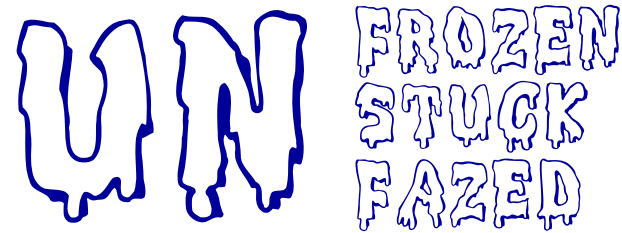
Sunday, November 12

8:30 am	Breakfast; Clean cabins and pack cars
9:45 am	Large Group Gathering: music and games
10 am	Keynote and Small Groups
11:30 am	Worship with Communion

The Youth Council of the Presbytery of West Virginia presents:

The 2023 YOUTH Retreat

November 10-12



with Anne Russ

Bluestone Camp and Retreat Center, Hinton, WV

FOCUS: Anxiety and stress can weigh us down and cause us to feel stuck and fearful. God did not create us or call us to be frozen in fear. Our faith in the God who says over and over "Fear Not" can help us keep from getting stuck and unfazed when stuff happens. During the retreat, we will explore ways to practice our faith so that it enables us to withstand the pain and pressures of those times when life is hard.

KEYNOTE LEADER: Anne Russ is a PCUSA pastor currently living in New York City. In the summer of 2023, Anne was the keynote presenter for Montreat Youth Conferences III and IV. Currently, she runs a digital ministry platform at doubtingbeliever.com, believing "that faith that struggles with questions is always stronger than one that never asks any." She has also done a lot of small church pastoring, worship directing, keynote speaking, music leading and workshop offering.

Important Registration Information FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS

This retreat is for youth in **grades 6-12** and their adult advisors. There must be one adult for every 7 youth registered. Youth will be divided into older youth (9th-12th) and younger youth (6th-8th) for small groups.

The retreat will begin with registration from 7-8:30 pm on Friday, November 10, and end with worship around noon on Sunday, November 12. The first meal served will be Saturday breakfast; the last meal will be Sunday breakfast.

The cost for each participant, youth or adult, is \$65. Registrations will not be accepted without the name of the adult who will be responsible for youth at the retreat.

Registrations can be made online or by mail; no phone registrations will be taken. Registration is by church groups. If an individual youth wishes to register, a parent needs to contact Susan Sharp Campbell to connect them with an adult.

The **final registration deadline** for registrations to be received in the Presbytery Office is **Monday, October 30**. If you have questions about registering youth with special needs or potential conflicts with athletics/band, please contact Susan Sharp Campbell at 304-667-9428 prior to the 30th.

ADULT ADVISORS – PLEASE NOTE

Each adult attending the retreat must return a completed Volunteer and Information Form and a Background Check Authorization no later than **Monday, October 30**, or have completed and returned one in the last 36 months. Adults are expected to watch the training video prior to arrival, and adult orientation Friday evening will include training on this policy.

WHAT TO BRING – Each participant

- ✓ **A Bible**
- ✓ **Warm clothes**
- ✓ **Sleeping bag, or twin bed sheets, and a pillow**
- ✓ **Towels**
- ✓ **Flashlight**
- ✓ **Completed Covenant Form and Medical Release Form**
- ✓ **mission project supplies**

Please **DO NOT BRING** electronic items and/or valuable jewelry. We cannot be responsible for lost items.

Mission Project:

Our Mission Project this year is tying fleece blankets to be shared with agencies in the bounds of our presbytery. **Each CHURCH** is asked to bring **2 pieces of 2 ½ yards of fleece, one solid, one patterned**.

Snacks to Share: Each group is asked to bring snacks to share with the large group. These should be brought to registration.

CELL PHONE POLICY

Retreats are an opportunity to get away from the normal routines of life. Therefore, you are encouraged to leave your cell phone at home in order to facilitate building a new community in a limited amount of time. Cell phones shall not be used during scheduled activities (including but not limited to: keynote, small groups, recreation, meals, energizers, music and worship). This includes all cell phone use – calls, texts, games, listening to messages, etc. Misused cell phones are subject to confiscation.