



Everyone in
Grades 6-12
welcome!

2026/2027

Youth Ministry

Doylestown Presbyterian Church

***Youth Group - Bells & Choir - Confirmation -
Retreats - Mission - Events***

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Element Youth
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Fall Newsletter



Youth Ministry at Doylestown Presbyterian Church

DPC is full of youth engaging in ministry:

- Fall retreat
- Summer youth conference
- Youth choirs
- Community meal/food drive
- Mission activities like Code Blue
- Youth Elders and Deacons
- Lay leaders, sound board
- Nursery help
- Confirmation
- Sunday School
- Summer Camp (VBS) leaders
- Christmas caroling
- Regular youth group gatherings
- Regularly praying for each other

Inside you will find:

Youth Director bio
Fall schedule
Sunday mornings
Confirmation
Meet our leaders!

How to:

Register
Contact
Stay connected

Youth Ministry at DPC is youth engaged in the life of the congregation. Join us in this vibrant ministry!

Becca

Becca Bateman, Associate Pastor
BeccaB@dtownpc.org

Eric

Eric Gillette, Youth Director
EricG@dtownpc.org

Caryn

Caryn Bowe, Youth Comm Moderator
caryn.bowe@gmail.com

Welcome to our new Youth Director!



Eric Gillette



Eric at a Glance...

- Finishing Masters of Divinity and Masters of Christian Education dual program at Princeton Seminary.
- Lives in Princeton with his wife and son.
- Currently a research assistant for the Institute for Youth Ministry at Princeton Seminary.

The Youth Director Search Committee is delighted to share that an offer has been made and accepted by Eric Gillette for the position of Youth Director. Eric came highly recommended by several trusted sources and after getting to know him through the interview process, the search committee agrees that he will be a wonderful addition to our church staff and congregation.

Eric will join the church staff Monday, August 24th in a part-time capacity (20-25 hours a week), as he is still finishing up his final year of his four-year Masters of Divinity and Masters of Christian Education and Formation dual program. He lives in Princeton, NJ, with his wife Abby and son Jackson while he is completing his studies. He will commute to DPC 2-3 times a week for worship, programs, and connecting with members, especially the youth.

Eric has experience in youth ministry, having worked as a youth director for United Methodist churches in West Texas. Yes, he has lived in Texas but he wanted to be very clear about his sports affinity with Philadelphia teams (Go Birds!), somehow his intuition knew that would be important to us. He is right. While in Seminary, he completed his internship at the Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville, NJ (PCUSA) for children and youth, is a research assistant for the Institute for Youth Ministry at Princeton Seminary, as well as worked for the Department of Digital Media at Princeton Theological Seminary.



Thank you Katy!



We also want to express our sincere thanks to Katy Schafer for faithfully serving as our Interim Youth Director. Her leadership has given us the gift of time to conduct a thoughtful search while continuing to provide meaningful ministry for our youth.

We knew Katy would bring with her skills & ideas from her years of experience working with youth over the years. What Katy also brought was her care to get to know all of the youth, listen to their stories, share honestly about her faith journey, learn their favorite game to play, and let them know they were missed when they weren't able to come.

We were thankful for Katy's faithful leadership this year and even more thankful she will stick around as a faithful youth leader (as well as a few other roles she has found interest in here at DPC). Please find her at church and give her a big "thank you!"

Fall Schedule

NEW Element Youth Group Times!

- 4:15-5 pm Middle School (Grades 6-8) Youth Group
- 5-5:45 pm Youth Choir & Bells
- 5:45-6:15 pm Dinner
- 6:15-7 pm High School (Grades 9-12) Youth Group

September

September 13	Youth Choir, Element Youth Group KICKOFF! Parent Meeting - at least one grown-up of each youth encouraged to attend
September 20	Youth Choir, Element Youth Group
September 27	Youth Choir, Element Youth Group

October

October 4	Youth Choir, Element Youth Group
October 11	Youth Choir & Bells at 10:30 am service, NO evening choir or Youth Group
October 18	Youth Choir, Element Youth Group
October 25	Youth Choir, Element Youth Group

November

November 1	Special Event for Middle & High School- Details TBA
November 8	Youth Choir, Element Youth Group
November 15	Youth Choir, Element Youth Group
November 20-22	Fall Retreat at Camp Johnsonburg for 8th-12th graders
November 22	NO Youth Choir or Youth Group
November 29	NO Youth Choir or Youth Group - <i>Thanksgiving break</i>

December

December 6	Youth Choir & Bells at 10:30 am service, Caroling after worship, NO evening choir or Youth Group
December 13	Youth Choir, Element Youth Group -HS Christmas Party
December 20	Community Meal, Youth Choir & Bells participate in Lessons & Carols, NO evening choir or Youth Group
December 24	Youth Choir & Bells in 5 pm Christmas Eve service

Save the dates!

- **Evening programs resume January 10!**
- **Winter Retreat January 29-31 for 6-12th graders!**
- **Youth Sunday is February 7!**

Dates & times
subject to change

Mark your summer calendar for August 1-7, 2027! The youth summer trip to Montreat, NC was such a huge success we are going back! Open to all youth in grades 9-12. More details and sign up information coming soon!

Confirmation ...

Classes will be led by Pastor Becca and an amazing group of talented mentors: Caryn Bowe, Phil Cacossa, Glenn Haas, Kim Keller & Larry King. Open to all youth in grade 8 and up.

Unit 1: Worshiping God

September 27, 4:15-7 pm Dinner with Youth Group in the middle.

October 11, 8-9:30 am Come early to set up Blessing of the Animals Service

Goal: To encounter who God is and how we respond in worship.

Unit 2: God Sees the Brokenness in this World

November 15, 4:15-7 pm Dinner with Youth Group in the middle.

January 10, 4:15-7 pm Dinner with Youth Group in the middle.

(Participate in January 18 MLK Day of Service, 10 am-12 pm, Monday off from school)

Goal: To understand the brokenness in the world and join God's work of restoration.

Unit 3: Faith for the Whole Self

February 7, 4:15-7 pm Dinner with Youth Group in the middle.

Goal: To explore spiritual practices, mental health, and the call of God in their future vocation.

Unit 4: Called and Confirmed

March 7 (Day Retreat 12-6 pm) following worship with lunch together, family invited to dinner)

Goal: To discover personal faith and belonging in the church.

Mark your calendars!

- **November 20-22 (Friday evening-Sunday at 1 pm) 8th-12th grade Fall Retreat at Camp Johnsonburg**
- **March 14, Confirmation Sunday during 10:30 am worship**



*Be sure to say
Hi & thank
them for their
service when
you see them.*



Youth Elder, Elizabeth Craig

Youth Deacon, Lucy Blore

Sunday Morning

9:30-10:15 am

Starting September 13



Sunday School for Grades 6-8

Let's help that bridge to Middle School Sunday School become an easier walk. This year's leader line up has wonderful leaders for everything from getting to know the youth, to teaching, celebrating their wins and sitting with their challenges. The leaders are so excited to spend time with your middle schoolers!

Middle School Team: Kris & Kenna Ernst, Luray Gross, Terry Herring, Kelly & Kate Huggins and Jennifer, Rebecca & Katherine Strauss

Meet in the Youth Room (AH-202)

Pop-Tarts in the Parlor for Grades 9-12

Katy Schafer will be leading a time of meaningful conversation and connections each Sunday morning, all while enjoying a delicious Pop-Tart of your choice. Come for the whole time or just a few minutes.

Meet in the Parlor (Go through the Celtic Cross Room, make a left and go around the corner to the Parlor. There will be signs.)



A note from Pastor Becca...

What are the necessary items for youth ministry? A pool noodle - actually, a couple is a good idea. A 9-square in the air set. Flashlights. Snacks, food is always essential. A first aid kit. Extra Bibles. Sharpies. Duct tape. Stuff like this is what makes youth ministry actually happen. Also required, though harder to fit in a supply closet: an open mind for wondering questions, a good sense of humor, willing volunteers, patient parents, and increasingly necessary a working knowledge of whatever social media platform or word choices teenagers have moved onto this month.

Youth ministry may have interesting line items that fit into the budget and at the same time as you look over this fall's youth schedule, you'll notice this is embedded in the "cost". We hope it is evident that youth and their spiritual formation are a priority at DPC. We don't want cost to be the reason a family sits out or to stand between a teenager and a community trying to help them know God. Spiritual formation isn't a service we sell; it belongs to every family here. (Retreats and trips are a little different, given real travel costs.)

Here's what we're hoping instead: that families will show up, again and again, because presence itself is a form of investment. If you're able, because you've seen what is building here at DPC's youth ministry, come invest in other ways. Showing up for youth group, driving a carpool, signing up for a meal or birthday treats, sharing about DPC with a friend, sharing a skill you have and how it ties to your faith, or volunteer with your teen with some of your time at a mission opportunity. It doesn't have to be youth specific, the whole church benefits from you!

We are grateful for the youth and their families here at DPC, all of us working together in God's ministry.

Meet Our Youth Team



As your Pastor, I couldn't be happier. When I'm not at DPC, I love exploring the Doylestown area with my husband and two kids, trying endlessly to find the best Mexican food and coffee shops. I enjoy photography, listening to music and playing with our rescue dog. What I love the most is creating community working together to do the work that God has called them in this world to do.

Becca Bateman



Andy Benson

My wife and I have 2 sons, Sumner and Chatham. We also have a Springer named Basco (short for Tabasco) and 8 chickens. I studied photography and currently work for an advertising agency based in Philly and NYC. My favorite food is either BBQ or tacos, so I guess BBQ pork tacos would win out. I'm really looking forward to working with the youth at DPC, having fun flexing our creativity and getting some recommendations for new music.



Caryn Bowe

My husband and I have been members of DPC for over 20 years. We have two grown kids that are "graduates" of the DPC youth group. We have a dog named Milo who's a little bit crazy and you might see me walking him around town. I am a high school chemistry teacher and a science nerd. I love the Phillies and Wisconsin Badgers and I can recite most of the HP movies by heart. I am the Vice-Moderator of the Youth Committee and Confirmation Mentor.



Mina Choi

I am the Organist and Youth Music Director, and am ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. When I'm not at DPC, I work at Princeton Seminary. I've travelled to over 40 countries, and it's hard to decide on a "few" favorite spots. I LOVE exploring nature more than exploring famous tourist places. I really hope that my work at DPC will include more young students to participate in music ministries, as well as growing in discipleship and faith formation together. Come join the youth choir and festival ringers and share your musical gifts!



Dee Dee Cox

I am a life long member of DPC. As a youth I attended Sunday School, choir and youth fellowship. When my daughter was in Sr High Fellowship I said I would drive supplies and cook meals so they could help serve meals to the homeless in Washington, D.C. After that I continued to lead Jr High Fellowship for 3 years and followed my original 7th graders through 3 years in Sr High Fellowship. It is wonderful to be part of today's youth program.

More of our Youth Team



Megan Craig

I am so excited to be a youth leader for my 5th consecutive year (but 9th or 10th year total!). I am probably most famous for being a mom to many and former 5th grade teacher. I met my husband through the youth group here at DPC, and we have been married for 19 years. I love live theater, all kinds of music, and talking to people to hear their stories and learn all about them.



Meredith Gapsis

I've been a member of DPC since I was a kid, so this church has been a meaningful part of my life for a long time. My parents have always been very involved at DPC, and now my own kids love being part of the youth programs, which makes it especially meaningful to share this community with them. I recently stepped away from the classroom after many years in education, so I'm really excited to reconnect with young people in a different way. I'm looking forward to getting to know the youth at DPC, having some fun, and helping create a space where everyone feels welcome, supported, and able to be themselves.



Glenn Haas

I joined DPC in 1990. My favorite part of DPC is working with the youth. I am a Youth Leader and Confirmation Mentor. I have taught 9th grade Sunday School and served on the Youth Committee. I went to many schools you may recognize...Linden, Lenape and East, graduating from Kutztown University with a BS in Public Administration. I recently retired from being the Bucks County Recorder of Deeds. Favorite foods are pizza, pizza flavored Goldfish and BLTs. Favorite movie is Star Wars. Favorite places to vacation are Disney World and Boston.



Katy Schafer

I became a member of DPC when my husband Mac was called to be your pastor. We have 4 children. I am definitely a "cat lady". We have a sweet Maine Coon cat named Jamison who is 17. His sister Snickers died this year so I am still very sad about that. I went to see the Cat Video Fest at the County Theater and laughed for an hour and a half. I grew up in Florida but part of my heart has always been in the Northeast where I went to Princeton Seminary and lived in Lawrenceville. While I was Interim Youth Director I got to know so many cool middle and high school students! I serve on the Connections Committee, help lead the Walk and Talk Growth Group, serve on the hospitality team, and I am so glad to be part of this awesome congregation!



Andy Smith

Life would be drastically different if it weren't for a thriving youth program and leaders that cared for me at DPC throughout my teenage years and beyond. I studied Adventure Recreation at Green Mountain College in VT. I returned to start a family with my wife, Justine. I started a team building and adventure company with Jonathan Craig, both of whom I met in youth group. I operate the business remotely while caring for our three children. I'm excited for the future of the youth program at DPC and hope I can impact someone's life the same way mine has been.