

Presbytery of New Hope

Youth Retreat 2026

Friday, March 20 - Sunday, March 22, 2026

Where?

Roanoke Christian Camp, Washington, NC - Check out the "[Camp Activities](#)" section of their website to see what kinds of activities that will be available to us!

Who?

Open to 6th - 12th grade students

How much?

\$85 per person (\$65 for Youth Council members) - This includes all expenses for housing, meals, activities, and supplies!

Payment can be made [online](#) or via check mailed to the Presbytery of New Hope (2022 McDonald Ln, Raleigh, NC 27608). The check's memo line should read "Presbytery Youth Retreat." All payments are due to the Presbytery by **March 6, 2026.**

Questions?

Email Alli Buikema Cooper - Youth@NHPresbytery.org

Retreat Theme - “Open Your Heart”

When reflecting on what to focus on for our weekend together, the Youth Council felt strongly that love should be at the center of this retreat. Inspired by Matthew 22:37-40, 1 Corinthians 13:13, and 1 Peter 4:8, we will spend the weekend reflecting on the different ways we as Christians are called to love each other, the world, and ourselves. The theme “Open Your Heart” comes from the Energizer song, “[Open Your Heart](#)” which we will definitely be dancing to at the retreat!

Retreat Program Leadership

Youth Council 2025-2026:

The Youth Council is a group of 10th-12th graders from New Hope Presbytery who serve by sharing their gifts with their local congregations and the presbytery at large. They planned this retreat with you in mind! If you are interested in being on Youth

Council next year, talk to one of the current Youth Council members or reach out to Alli Buikema Cooper (YC Coordinator, youth@nhpresbytery.org) to find out how to apply!

Keynote Speaker:

Katherine Peiper, Wake Forest
Presbyterian Church



Music Leader: Rev. Howard Dudley,
Kirk of Kildaire, Presbyterian Church



You may recognize our Keynoter and Music Leader! They are both pastors in New Hope Presbytery and paired up to lead keynote and music at Massanetta this past summer 2025! We are thrilled to have them back together for the Presbytery Youth Retreat!

Tentative Retreat Schedule

Friday, March 20	
7:00-8:00pm	Arrive & Registration
8:00pm	Welcome & Keynote 1
9:00pm	Small Group 1
11:00pm	Lights out!
Saturday, March 21	
8:30am	Breakfast
9:30am	Keynote 2
10:30am	Small Group 2
11:30am	Back Home Group

12:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm	Small Group 3
2:00pm	Free Time (crafts & activities)
3:00pm	Large Group Recreation Event
4:00pm	Free Time
6:00pm	Dinner
7:00pm	Keynote 3
8:00pm	Small Group 4
9:00pm	Energizer Party!
9:30pm	Campfire
10:00pm	Back Home Group Devotions
11:00pm	Lights out!
Sunday, March 22	
8:30am	Breakfast
9:30am	Pack up & Clean dorms
10:00am	Worship
11:00am	Checkout & Depart

Suggested Packing List

<input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping bag or Twin sheets set (sleeping on bunk beds)	<input type="checkbox"/> Towel & Toiletries
<input type="checkbox"/> Pillow	<input type="checkbox"/> Shower shoes (flip flops, Crocs)
<input type="checkbox"/> Casual clothes (for outdoor activities)	<input type="checkbox"/> Rain jacket
<input type="checkbox"/> Closed toed shoes (required for outdoor activities)	<input type="checkbox"/> Backpack or sling bag
<input type="checkbox"/> Swim suit (if you want to swim in the Pamlico Sound)	<input type="checkbox"/> Refillable water bottle
	<input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight
	<input type="checkbox"/> Bible
	<input type="checkbox"/> Inhaler/Epipen/needed medications (if applicable)

Adult Policy

Each church is required to bring 1 adult for every 6 youth and must have at least 1 adult in each housing unit their youth reside in. Youth will be split into housing based on a male and female gender binary according to the housing limitations of our retreat location. Nonbinary students may be in sleeping quarters that most align with their needs and comfortability. (Please contact Alli Buikema Cooper with questions or concerns-- we want everyone to be well cared for!)

For example if your church brings 6 youth-- 4 girls, 2 guys, and 1 nonbinary student who has chosen to stay in the male bunk house-- you'll need 2 adults: one male and one female (or a non-binary adult that feels comfortable in the necessary housing unit to meet the needs of your group).

For nonbinary youth or adults, please reach out to Alli Buikema Cooper (youth@nhpresbytery.org) so we can best accommodate their housing needs.

If you bring more than 1 adult with your group, any "extra" adults may be assigned to monitor an event or participate in a small group if needed.

Required Forms

[Click here](#) to download the required forms to gather from parent/guardians and student participants. There are 3 areas of this form to complete:

- **Photo Release:** Photos from the retreat may be used by New Hope Presbytery or the Youth Council to promote future retreats or Youth Council student recruitment.
- **Parent/Guardian Permission & Release:** Affirms that a parent/guardian accepts the normal risks that come with sending their student to camp.
- **Participant Covenant:** The Retreat Covenant outlines the expectations of participants at the retreat so everyone can stay safe and have fun!

Email this document with all areas completed and signed to Youth@NHPresbytery.org by **March 6, 2026**.

Student Health Information

[Click here to download the Student Health Information Form.](#)

This document will not be collected by retreat organizers. Each Group Leader should have this information already or should have one of these forms filled out by each participant. This health information shall be immediately accessible to the Group Leader at the retreat in case of an emergency or health event of a participant under their supervision.