
Youth Ministry
Sonia Donnelly, Director
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VBS 2026

This year over 275 people joined together in celebration of God for our annual Vacation Bible School program. During our week at *Rainforest Falls* we all learned more about the love of Christ, the joys and sorrows of life, and more about each other as we navigated through the jungle together. The snacks were plentiful, the weather kind, and the hallways full of love, smiles, and laughter as crews travelled station to station throughout the building. How privileged are we to have such a safe and accommodating building that we can host so many people each year for VBS! 10% of our campers identify with First Presbyterian as their home church, leaving the remaining 42% of our campers coming from one of 11 other local churches and 48% of our campers having no church affiliation.... **Wow, God!** While the majority of our volunteers consider FPC their home, we also welcomed volunteers from 4 other churches, truly making this a week of fellowship not only for us, but for our community! Throughout the week we met new friends and learned about the awesomeness of God:

- Day 1** **Tango taught us that God is our creator ... Wow, God!**
- Day 2** **Seymour taught us God knows everything ... Wow, God!**
- Day 3** **Dottie taught us that God is our safe place ... Wow, God!**
- Day 4** **Tia taught us that God is love ... Wow, God!**
- Day 5** **Howie taught us that God is forever ... Wow, God!**

Our Operation Kid-to-Kid mission this year was to raise funds to purchase fruit trees for families in Guatemala and Honduras. These trees will bless families with nutritious food and offer a source of income, helping to break the cycle of poverty. Each \$9 raised purchases one fruit tree. In total we raised \$2,532 which will purchase 281 trees to bless families in need. This is our highest total in years - thank you to ALL who contributed!

From start to finish VBS is a huge event to undertake, especially since we open our event to the public and our attendance is so high. It would not be possible without months of planning and preparation, along with the help of our amazing congregation. Thank you to ALL who had some part in our VBS this year, whether you helped by cutting and prepping at home, decorating and organizing materials, leading a station or a crew, participated in creating snacks or cleaning up, played your heart out in the band, or organized behind the scenes with your computer skills - please know that it takes a village to make it happen, and we have a strong one! I am so thankful for each one of you and your contribution to our program this year more than ever, and so proud that we were able to channel our sadness into love for these kids in Lorna's memory. She would have loved to see our pavilion full of kids and adults singing their hearts out to the music so lovingly played by the band, and I think we all know she was watching over us Friday as we closed out our week... **Wow, God!**

LIFEST: Saturday, July 11th (chartered bus to Oshkosh)

We still have room on our bus so sign up in the Fireside Room today to secure your spot! It's an amazing day of fellowship, Christian music, good food, and fun. Tickets can be purchased at the door and are \$56 for adults (16 and over) and \$32 for youth (ages 8-15). If you would like to donate prepackaged snacks or money toward Subway for the bus ride down, please reach out to Sonia or drop them in the Church office.

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Youth Ministry cont.

Summer of Service Project: Friday, July 31st, 5:00p.m.-7:00p.m.

Everyone is welcome to join us for a cookout and a special night of service. The Donnelly's will provide dinner, and we hope that you come ready to serve! We are collecting donations through July for items that will be used to create bags that will be gifted to those going through cancer treatment. We will work with several local organizations to have an impact in our community, as well as local families who can use a little love. If you have sewing skills, would like to be a part of planning, or have someone who could use a little extra love while they are receiving treatment, let me (Sonia) know. A donation list has been started on Amazon and you can use the QR code to purchase or to look at items for ideas on what to donate.



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