

Presbytery of the Peaks Youth Council hosts the
2019 Middle School and High School Retreat



TRUE COLORS

Romans 12:1-8

When: February 22-23

Where: Camp Bethel

Cost: \$55/person

Registration Deadline: Feb. 11

*For more information contact Rachel Shepherd, Presbytery of the Peaks,
at (434) 845-1754.*

MEET THE LEADERSHIP TEAM



**Middle School
Keynote Speaker:
Rev. Rachel C.
Thompson**



**High School
Keynote Speaker:
Rev. Emily
Rhodes Hunter**

Rachel is the Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults at Second Presbyterian Church in Roanoke, VA. Rachel went to seminary at Duke Divinity School, where she grew in her faith and watched a lot of great basketball (although, surprisingly, she is a diehard UNC fan). She grew up attending a multi-denominational church in D.C. and became Presbyterian during seminary, due in large part to the love and witness of the wonderful people of Durham Presbyterian Church. Being a pastor for the youth of Second Pres has been one of the greatest joys of Rachel's life. Other great joys include winning at Bananagrams, eating popcorn, listening to Taylor Swift, and visiting her parents and brother in D.C.

Emily currently serves as a chaplain with Montgomery Hospice. She often describes this role as something akin to being a professional listener. Unlike the other members of a patient's medical team, her job isn't to poke and prod; it's to hear people's stories, to help them discover their own strengths, to empower them to wrestle with their questions, doubts, and fears, and to help them find hope, meaning, and peace in the midst of the end of life process. Though she also holds pastoral roles at The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in DC and Hermon Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, MD, in her role as a hospice chaplain, she provides spiritual and emotional support to people of all different faith backgrounds. Educationally, Emily earned both a Masters of Divinity from Union Presbyterian Seminary and a Masters of Science in Patient Counseling through Virginia Commonwealth University. A former NCAA basketball and softball player herself, Emily continues to be an avid sports fan, and along with her husband, Stuart, and their two cats, Newton and Tesla, she spends most of her free time cheering her teams on to victory and providing enthusiastic, yet constructive, criticism to the referees.

Presbytery of the Peaks Youth Council (PoPYoCo) Members

***= Adult Advisor**

- Matthew Aldas*
Raleigh Court PC, Roanoke
- Ellyn Anama
Covenant PC, Roanoke
- Sarah Bibeau
Forest PC, Forest
- Amanda Bowman*
*New Century Hospice, Inc.,
Farmville*
- Matt Bowman*
*Maysville & New Store PCs,
Buckingham County*
- Lilli Clevenger
Second PC, Roanoke
- Kaitlyn Dickson
Second PC, Roanoke
- Liza Giles
First PC, Lynchburg
- Helen Haslet
Forest PC, Forest
- Sara Hunter
Blacksburg PC, Blacksburg
- Emily Johnson
Salem PC, Salem
- Kathleen Lifsey*
First PC, Lynchburg
- Hollins Pierpoint
First PC, Lynchburg
- JoAnn Scott*
Forest PC, Forest
- Rachel Shepherd*
*Associate Presbyter for
Discipleship*
- Kinsey Verbrugge
Blacksburg PC, Blacksburg
- Skip Wodke*
*Quaker Memorial PC,
Lynchburg*
- Emma Grace Woolsey
Blacksburg PC, Blacksburg
- Kellene Wotring
First PC, Martinsville

DETAILS & PRACTICAL INFO

WHY SHOULD YOUTH ATTEND? *Our ministry-minded high school Youth Council members plan and lead all aspects of the retreat—keynotes, worship, music, recreation, and small groups. When young people see their peers in leadership, they remember that ministry is for everyone, and they usually want to come back year after year! Your group will meet other young Presbyterians from our area, which fosters a deeper understanding of how we are all connected in the body of Christ. Whether your congregation has a thriving youth program or one or two kids, our retreat is an opportunity to grow in faith and love for Jesus.*

MONEY & REGISTRATIONS

- **One fee of \$55 per person** covers it all—housing, two meals, and a t-shirt!
 - **Write ONE check** payable to Presbytery of the Peaks for the complete fees of all participants.
- **Deadline for registrations to be received is February 11!**
 - Please mail checks & completed registration forms for all participants to:
Julie Dyke
108 Melinda Drive
Lynchburg, VA 24502
 - All registrations must be mailed, not sent by fax, phone, or email.
 - We can only process participants with complete fees and forms; we cannot hold spaces.
 - You will be registered only when payment for your group is paid in full and all forms are completed.

SCHEDULING & GETTING THERE

- When you arrive at camp, PoPYoCo members will greet you on the road and show you exactly where to go.
- One adult participant will complete registration while the rest of the group gets settled into their lodging.
- Dinner will not be served Friday or Saturday. Please plan accordingly.
- 4 p.m. farewells on Saturday afternoon will conclude our time together.
- Our retreat includes worship, energizers, music, keynote, small groups, recreation, a mission project, vespers, games, pictures, free time, and so much more! Each participant will get a full schedule at registration.

ADULT PARTICIPANTS

- **Please bring one adult (21 or older) per seven youth you bring of each gender.**

If this would prevent someone from attending, please let us know. We can find a solution together!
- Adults are responsible for their group at all times and will participate fully.
- Some adults will be in the youth small groups for safety reasons, while others will have their own adult small group.

FOOD

- **Please note any food allergies or restrictions for anyone in your group.** We will do our best to accommodate everyone's needs.
- **Breakfast and lunch are provided** for everyone on Saturday.
- **Eat dinner before you come Friday!** There is no meal before we start. Make sure your group members know if they need money for dinner Friday, Saturday, or both.
- **Bring a snack to share Friday night with everyone!** Healthy options are always good!

MORE IMPORTANT DETAILS!

NEEDED:

- Favorite color T-shirt
- Bible
- Sleeping bag
- Pillow
- Towel
- Washcloth
- Any needed toiletries
- Shoes to move in!
(No flip flops)
- Labeled water bottle
- Appropriate clothing
- Weather-suitable clothing
 - Jacket or sweatshirt?
 - Raincoat and/or umbrella?
- Watch, alarm clock, phone charger—whatever you need to wake up on time
- Flashlight
- A snack to share with everyone Friday night

MAY BE NEEDED:

- An instrument if you play and would like to join in some freestyle “jam time”
- Money for dinner Friday/Saturday—please check with your church representative
- Prescription medications

NOT NEEDED:

- Inappropriate clothing either in style or promoting content.
Adults and youth are representatives of their home church, personal community, the Presbytery of the Peaks, the Church at large, and are all God’s children. Please dress as such.
- Scooters, skateboards, rollerblades
- Electronic games
- Laser pointers
- Unnecessary valuables or excessive money
- Alcohol, tobacco products, illegal drugs
- Weapons of any kind
- Any kind of flammables

Please keep in mind:

Retreat leadership reserves the right to send any participant back to their room to change if their attire is inappropriate or will prevent them from actively participating in the retreat activities.

Mission Project

Rise
AGAINST HUNGER

formerly  **STOP HUNGER NOW**

The Presbytery of the Peaks Youth Council (PoPYoCo) seeks to foster fellowship, leadership, spiritual growth, and outreach among the youth of our presbytery. Encourage your youth participants at the retreat to keep an eye on the PoPYoCo members—they could be one too! Adults are always welcome to serve as Youth Council advisors! Applications to join PoPYoCo, which include expectations and guidelines, will be available to youth currently in 8th-11th grades in January 2019. Stay tuned!

For more information, contact Rachel Shepherd :
rachel.shepherd@peakspresbytery.org
434-845-1754

Check us out [online](#) and on [Twitter](#)!

POPYOCO YOUTH RETREAT • Feb. 22-23, 2019 • REGISTRATION & COVENANT

Participant first & last name (*this will be on your nametag*): _____

School: _____ Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Grade (*or adult*): _____ T-shirt size (*all adult sizes—circle one*): S M L XL XXL XXXL

Gender: _____ Cell: _____ Birthdate (*xx/xx/xxxx*): _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Best phone: _____ Best email: _____

Parent/Guardian/I.C.E. Name: _____

Best phone: _____ Best email: _____

Are there any medical (*physical, mental, or emotional*) needs of which we should be aware? (*allergies, medications, etc.*)

Are there any specific dietary requests? _____

Insurance Policy Holder's Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Insurance Company Name: _____ Policy #: _____

Church (*name & city*): _____

Adult Participant's Name: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

Emergency contact at/from/for church & #: _____

As a youth participant, I agree to the following covenant: I have willingly chosen to participate in the PoPYoCo Middle and High School Retreat. I will work toward the goals of this event and strengthen our group as a Christian community by promising to:

- participate wholeheartedly and enthusiastically in all activities;
- speak up when I have a problem or need;
- listen and respond to others' needs;
- respect others' rights and property;
- abide by the rules of Camp Bethel;
- not use or promote the use of controlled substances (alcohol, drugs, tobacco, flammables);
- not leave the camp grounds without my adult leader;
- encourage others, striving to live as a supportive member of the group and a good example to others.

I understand that if I uphold this covenant, I will have a positive experience. I understand that if I break this covenant, I may be sent home at my parent's/guardian's expense.

Participant Signature (*youth and adults*)

As the parent/ guardian of this participant, I agree to the following statements:

- I give permission for my child to participate in the Middle and High School Retreat.
- I know and approve of the planned costs, dates, places, and activities for this event.
- I understand the degree of risk (if any) involved in this event and because I trust the adult leadership and my child, I hereby release Presbytery of the Peaks, Camp Bethel, and any of the leadership at the retreat, from any liability for any injury or problems occurring during participation in this event.
- I give permission for the Presbytery of the Peaks to use photography and videos including my child for reports, social media, and publicity.
- I have completed all of the Registration Form, and it is correct to the best of my knowledge.

I understand all reasonable attempts will be made to contact me if my child is in an accident. If I cannot be reached, I hereby give permission to the physician selected by the adult advisor to my youth, or the retreat leadership, to hospitalize and secure proper treatment for my child, including but not limited to any necessary injections, anesthesia, and surgeries.

Parent/Guardian Signature (*not required for adults*)