

High School Montreat 2022

Montreat is a special place where youth are invited to bring their true selves to God and to neighbors. This summer's theme was "More than enough." Each day the youth heard stories from the Bible where God provided *more than enough* such as feeding the 5000, manna from heaven, and the midwives resistance to Pharaoh. They were challenged to stand up for the oppressed, resist evil, receive God's blessing, and pass those blessings onto others. The keynote speaker lifted up topics that were relevant to the lives of our high schoolers such as bullying, school shootings, image issues, and inclusion. Each night during worship we heard a sermon that empowered our youth to live out their calling as God's own in the world, that their voice matters and to use that voice creatively with the gifts God has given each of them. Youth met with their small groups two times a day to build new relationships and unpack what they heard from the speakers of the week. I like to call this week "Super Church" in the most positive way possible. I am thankful to lead our youth through weeks like these where they let down their guard some and work through challenges that may take a back seat in their lives away from Montreat.

Russ Pearson



Next summer 2023:

After a few discussions the youth voted to go back to Montreat next summer and add a mission experience through Asheville Youth Mission. We will plan on leaving Saturday, June 3 and return Saturday, June 10. The mission experience will be Sunday afternoon, June 4 and we will attend church together that Sunday morning in Montreat. I am planning on an even larger number of youth next summer and with that, we may need to add a small fundraiser or two during the year to help pay for a larger house. All good opportunities for our group to tackle together.

