ACC Fall Youth Retreat
February 12-14, 2027
Camp Swatara, Bethel, PA

Details for Fall Retreat 2027

Hi Youth Leaders,

The Youth Committee is excited to invite you and your youth to the 2027 ACC Winter Youth Retreat at Camp Swatara. We hope you will come and bring your youth!

Resource & Spiritual Theme:
This year's Youth Retreat theme is "Love Your Neighbor As Yourself". What if we already carry a compass that points straight to the heart of God? This weekend, we'll explore the "Greatest Commandment" as the compass for our lives. Jesus tells us that loving God and loving our neighbor as ourselves sums up everything else, and living by this principle draws us closer to the One who is love. Like Jack Sparrow's compass, which points to what he desires most, the compass Christ gives us points toward the heart of God.

Together we'll unpack the commandment's three movements: Love, Neighbor, and Self. We'll begin by asking what love really is and what it looks like in action. Then we'll wrestle with Jesus' surprising answer to "Who is my neighbor?" and what it means to love the people around us, even when that's hard. Finally, we'll look inward at what it means to love ourselves, naming the lies that get in our way and listening for what God says is true about us. Along the way, we'll hear words of wisdom from our ACC "Neighbors" through video, followed by discussion and activities led by members of the ACC Youth Committee. Come ready to explore, question, laugh, and find your bearings with friends from across the conference.

We're also excited that worship times will again be led by Andrew Pauls-Thomas! We hope you can join us this year.

Cost:
$150 per person - youth and leaders. This cost covers lodging, four meals, and activities.

Forms:
1. ***Registration Form***: submit to the ACC office **by January 27th.** A check may follow by mail but should be received before the retreat.
2. ***Medical Release Form***: To be kept with youth leaders in the event that one of your youth would require medical assistance during the weekend. This is a template for you to use.
3. ***Congregational Youth Event Verification form***: must be signed by each youth leader/chaperone after the necessary clearances have been filed with the church. Should be handed in by registration on Friday night. Please fill this out completely!
4. ***Youth Events Volunteer Covenant***: To be signed by a congregational representative after the necessary clearances for each youth leader attending the Fall Retreat have been filed with the church. Must be submitted to ACC Office prior to the retreat.

For facility information, a view of the camp and directions visit campswatara.org/map

Weekend Schedule:
Please arrive between 7:00-8:45 pm Friday evening. Our first session together will be held at 9 pm. The weekend will conclude Sunday at 11:30 am after our last worship session. The final meal is Sunday morning breakfast. A final schedule will be available at registration Friday night. A draft copy is available on the retreat webpage.

What to Bring:
--bedding (sleeping bag or sheets/blanket)
--pillow
--flashlight
--washcloth, towel, toiletries
--warm clothes for outdoor activities

--Medical Release Forms
--Volunteer Covenant Forms *(leaders)*
--Each youth group should bring plenty of snacks & drinks to share for Friday night Snackapalooza

Registration deadline: January 27

Our ACC Youth Committee hopes that you will attend. We thank you for loving youth and giving so freely of your time to encourage them in life. Pray for this event; that those who attend will be encouraged, challenged, and inspired to commit to/continue the "journey of faith in Jesus."

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Please pray for our time together!