

F.I.S.H. IS A CIRCLE

- **A circle of friends**, who stand together as an intentional community, committed to supporting and caring for one another. Joined by hands and hearts we recognize that collectively we are more than we are alone. The circle offers us a safe place to discover who we are and to be that together. It's a place where we are invited to come alive!
- **A circle in motion** rolling back, remembering those who came before, and rolling ahead, eager to support those yet to stand within it. Our tradition contains sacred rituals, rhythms and repetitions, songs, prayers and celebrations.
- **A circle that grows**, always maintaining room for one more. In the circle our differences are celebrated and our similarities affirmed. We remain open to growing in quality and quantity. We remain willing to take risks together, to try something new.
- **A circle that expands**, reaching beyond to spread life and love to the world around. As members of the circle we seek to serve even as we are served ourselves. We practice compassion as our circle stretches to enfold others.
- **A circle with a center** recognizing that wherever two or more of us stand together, the presence of God is there. It is a presence that takes on different names for different people, but in the circle we meet face to face and see the divine good shining in each other. From this center we learn love and forgiveness. From this center we are invited to shine on the world.



FISH is an outreach ministry of the Education Ministry Unit of the
State College Presbyterian Church
132 W. Beaver Ave. ~ State College, PA ~ 16801
814-238-2422 ~ scpresby.org

State College Presbyterian Church



Fellowship In Senior High Parent Information Fall 2021

FISH stands for "Fellowship In Senior High." It is an outreach ministry of the State College Presbyterian Church to area high school youth. In FISH, the whole person is ministered to through a variety of activities, discussions, (and normally) retreats and service/mission projects.

FISH is designed to enable youth, with compassionate leadership, to develop strong moral and spiritual values. Leaders and youth together confront and discuss pertinent issues like drug abuse, sexual activity, violence at home and school, and relationships with peers and parents.

FISH is adults and youth in partnership. Its goal is to create a sharing and caring community open to any high school youth wishing to participate. Everyone involved in FISH is treated as a child of God. Without imposing religion, FISH leaders are called upon to share their experience of Christ's unconditional love.

What Will FISH Look Like for Fall 2021? — With the departure of *Associate Pastor Mike Ozaki*, we are in the process of figuring out what FISH will look like this fall. A youth ministry visioning team has been meeting and seeking feedback on what the future of our youth ministry will look like. *Katie Nurmi* has agreed to be our Interim FISH Coordinator for the fall and *Laura Millard* will help lead. While we are transitioning into new leadership, we want to provide the FISH experience to those who are currently in grades 9-12, and we hope your youth will join us!

Parent involvement is essential to the success of the program, we especially need folks on our cooking crews. Please let us know how you can help.

We are planning an in-person program for Fall 2021

When: 6:00 – 8:30 pm on Wednesdays

Where: We begin in the SCPC Social Hall

What: We will eat dinner together and then move into small group time

Since the vaccine is available to those age 12 and older, it is our hope that we can meet together while still observing some precautions to keep us all safe:

- Masks will be required in the church except when actively eating or drinking
- No hugging or hand shaking
- Please maintain a respectful distance from others

The FISH Program — is based on a holistic approach to building faithful relationships. FISH tries to provide a variety of settings for youth - in partnership with the leaders - to have opportunities to find new relationships and strengthen old ones. The weekly programs at FISH are thematic giving small groups a chance to discuss specific topics throughout the year. Small group time comprises the majority of a typical FISH evening.

The program/discussion allows for open dialogue on a variety of issues. Topics such as sexuality, family relationships, global concerns, and dating have been explored through the eyes of faith. The leaders are equipped to facilitate discussion as they share their faith in Christ with the youth.

FISH Leadership — Leadership for FISH is provided by a team of adults who work together to create programs, develop projects, plan retreats, organize fundraisers, and decide on rules of conduct and policy. The most important work of the leaders is direct involvement with the youth to provide nurture and support.

Katie Nurmi is serving as Interim FISH Coordinator. She can be reached at: katienuirmi@gmail.com or 814-321-4269.

Martha Trout, Program Associate, is responsible for administration, registration, general organization, finances, and the management of information. She can be reached at marthascpc@gmail.com, or at the church 814-238-2422.

Tuition — No one will be excluded from the FISH program because of financial need.

We have established a tuition rate for FALL 2021, a subsequent tuition will be set for SPRING at a later time.

<p>Tuition Rates for FALL 2021/2022 1 FISH Youth: \$50 \$25 for each additional youth</p>
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There are scholarships available. If you have a need, please contact: Martha Trout (at 814-238-2422 or at email listed above). All scholarships will be given in the strictest confidence. If you are interested in contributing to the FISH Scholarship Fund, please contact Martha.

<p>A one-night Fall Retreat is being planned for Saturday/Sunday, October 2nd and 3rd. <i>Diana Malcom</i> will be the staff leader for this retreat. Separate retreat forms are available and need to be returned by Sunday, September 26. The retreat fee is \$75.00 per youth.</p> <p>CANCELED</p>
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Behavioral Guidelines — All FISH youth are expected to adhere to **Responsible Behavior** characterized by the following:

- Abiding by the FISH Covenant
- Maintaining regular attendance
- Arriving on time to FISH activities/Zoom meetings
- Participating in FISH activities (weekly meetings, retreats, etc.)
- Honoring small group confidentiality
- Respecting one's self, others, and the surroundings

Irresponsible and Non-Negotiable Behavior will be addressed by the FISH Coordinator and/or FISH leaders.