

Hello Parents and Youth,

I hope everyone is having a wonderful day.

I wanted to give families that are interested the information on how to sign up for a Middle School retreat called Kaleidoscope, which is held at Camp Don Lee, April 13 - 15, 2018. Cost is \$100.00. **The deadline to register is March 17, 2018 or until capacity is reached.**

The NC Conference of The United Methodist Church, of which we are a part as a United Methodist Church in eastern NC, holds several events for youth throughout the year. One Conference youth event that Harbor has participated in over the years is Pilgrimage. These events are open to all United Methodist churches and are staffed by qualified, trained, and Safe Sanctuary compliant adults. This year I will be on staff at Kaleidoscope.

All registration is between parents and the NC Conference. It must be done online by parents - I cannot register youth for this events, but I am here to help if you need help registering.

The theme of Kaleidoscope this year is "Underdogs of the Bible" and is based on stories of unlikely leaders overcoming their social expectations. As middle schoolers it is easy to be overlooked, but through scripture, we will discover how underdogs rise to the occasion. During this weekend together we will gather for four worship services and dive into the four holy habits: prayer, worship, Bible study, and service. These four practices will help us grow closer to God and each other as we, the young disciples of the church, discover the importance of each of our voices, regardless of our age (description taken from the Conference website.)

I have staffed this, and other NC Conference youth events in the past. These events are safe, fun, and focus on spiritual growth. If you have any questions please contact me!

If you would like your Middle School Youth to attend here's what you need to do:

1. Click on the following link and register your youth **by March 17, 2018.**

<https://nccumc.org/youth/events/kaleidoscope>

Registration deposits are nonrefundable.

2. After you have registered please email or contact me and let me know. I need to know if you are registered by **March 17, 2018.** Once we know who is registered we will make travel arrangements. What type of arrangements are made will depend on the number of people who register. We will need parents to be willing to carpool, or we may rent a van and travel together. After the registration deadline of March 17 we will firm up travel but be prepared to possibly drive to Camp Don Lee on Friday, 4/13/18 and then back to pick up your youth on Sunday, 4/15/18.

3. After the March 17 deadline we'll schedule a parent meeting to go over all the details.

NOTES for registration:

-We are in the Harbor District.

-The form asks for a roommate preference - you can complete this only if you know of other youth that will be going that will mutually request your youth as a roommate. In other words if both youth request each other they will try to put them in the same cabin. If not, then they will be assigned with any youth attending from other churches. All Harbor Youth will not be assigned together automatically. This is a chance to get to know other people. There will be spiritual growth groups and they will not put youth from the same church in the same group.

Grace and Peace to you,  
Pastor Emily