

PURSUING HIS PRESENCE

Eastern PA District Youth Retreat

Weekend #1 • April 25-27, 2025 Weekend #2 • May 2-4, 2025

Pursuing His Presence

In a world with lots of sizzling and shiny distractions, we all need time in the presence of the most glorious being in the universe. God is all-knowing, all-powerful, everywhere present and the only One whose faithful love endures forever. His presence is something that made Isaiah shake in his shoes and cry out "woe is me!" and made John fall "at His feet like a dead man", yet also the same One whose perfect love casts out fear.

While the Lord is holy, majestic and worthy of our trembling, He also sent Jesus to tear down the barrier between us and Him so that we can be His friends and family. He longs to take us under His wings like a mother hen with her chicks. While God is addressed in Scripture as Creator and the Lord Most High, Jesus taught us to pray "Our Father (Abba, Papa) in Heaven...". His prayer reminds us that we are called to hold onto the juxtaposed truths that God is both holy and just and loving and merciful.

For DYR this year, we are calling students and their leaders to pursue this glorious God who can make us shake in wonder and also comfort us with His quiet love. We will be praying for and looking forward to the Lord graciously revealing Himself to everyone present at DYR in a way that compels them to fully surrender to this Perfect One who sent His Son to die for us so we can be welcomed in His presence and empowered by His Spirit. As you register your group for DYR, please join us in this prayer and expectation.

- The Eastern PA Alliance District Youth Retreat Planning Team



RETREAT SPEAKERS

Dan Min

Weekend 1: April 25-27

Dan Min is all about the things he loves-his amazing wife, his two boys, great food, brewing the perfect espresso, hitting the gym, cheering for Penn State football, and catching the latest Netflix series. But more than anything, he's all about Jesus and His people, the church. At State College Alliance Church, Pastor Dan leads the worship and discipleship ministries as the Pastor of Spiritual Formation, and he's passionate about helping people get closer to Jesus and discover His heart.



Jody Hickok

Weekend 2: May 2-4

Jody Hickok loves to serve Jesus by hanging out with students and helping them to understand how to have a relationship with Jesus. She is overly enthusiastic about Dunkin coffee-or, really, almost any coffee. She questions if it is even possible to truly sing worship music without moving. If you're part of her church, you're likely to catch her dressing in crazy costumes. For extra fun, she loves to binge watch action movies, especially Marvel movies.

Most of all, Jody can't fathom doing life without Jesus and she loves helping students fall in love with Him! She is thankful she gets to do this through her role as Director of Student and Family Ministries at Fairlawn Community Church near Williamsport, PA.



GOD'S BIG STORY

Beginning this year, we will be framing our Eastern PA District Youth Retreats with God's Big Story. Our hope is that EPD students will be able to see Scripture as more than a book of rules or wisdom and instead see Scripture as God's way of revealing Himself and the big story He is writing. Of course, our even bigger hope is that students will see themselves in God's story and take the steps of faith to live in relationship with the author of the grandest story of all time.

Creation	God generously shared His goodness through a perfect creation.
Fall	Through their choice not to trust the almighty and good God who created everything good, Adam and Eve brought sin, brokenness and death into the world and we will still experience the pain of their choice today.
Redemption	Immediately after mankind fell into sin and brokenness, God promised redemption that would be fulfilled through the life, death, resurrection, and reign of Jesus for those who put their trust in Him.
Restoration	Jesus will return victoriously as King and put an end to sin, sickness, pain, and death forever and make all things new.

Eastern Pennsylvania District of the C&MA Medical and Release of Liability

I understand that I will be notified in the case of a medical emergency involving my child. However, in the event that I cannot be reached, I authorize the calling of a doctor and provision of the necessary medical services in the event my child is injured or becomes ill. I understand that neither the church, nor the Eastern PA District of the C&MA will be responsible for the medical expenses incurred, but that such expenses will be my responsibility as a parent or guardian. I, The undersigned, being the parent or guardian of the child named herein, do hereby agree to the participation in all of the scheduled activities for the Eastern PA District of the C&MA at the 2025 retreat at Lake Champion in Glen Spey, NY which includes all camp actives and travel occurring during the weekend.

Parent or Guardian Name (Please Print)

Parent or Guardian Signature:

Date: _____

Participant's first and last name: _____

Age: _____

