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WHAT LIES AHEAD FOR OUR YOUTH

Rev Khayla Johnson

There's a stirring in our church that's hard to ignore. It's in the prayers of our leaders, the dreams of our young people, the way worship fills the room with expectancy. Something is happening—something fresh, something divine. In my short time here at FPC Metuchen I have seen and felt this energy in the ways I have been welcomed, celebrated and loved. I have also felt the energy in the joy of baptisms, the new food pantry and even in the staff working together. And as we look ahead to what God has in store for us, it's clear: we are stepping into a new season of purpose, growth, and revival.

For our church, and especially for our youth group, the future is not just bright—it's brilliant. And that brilliance doesn't come from human plans or perfect programs, but from the light of Christ leading us forward. This generation is not waiting for a seat at the table. They're creating their own spaces, asking bold questions, seeking deeper truths, and desiring real encounters with God.

In a world that is full of noise and distraction, our youth are leaning into the still, small voice of the Holy Spirit. They're hungry for something authentic—something eternal. And as a church, we are being called to come alongside them, not to control or contain their fire, but to fan it into flame.

The next phase of our youth ministry is about empowering, equipping, and encouraging. We're creating environments where students can discover their gifts, develop spiritual disciplines, and experience the presence of God in powerful, personal ways. What lies ahead is not just a calendar of exciting events (though we have plenty of those!). It's a movement. A movement fueled by vision, anchored in Scripture, and covered in prayer.

We are reimagining what youth ministry can look like—less about entertainment, and more about encounter. We want our young people to know what it means to follow Jesus fully, love radically, and serve sacrificially.

And it's not just the youth that are changing. The entire church is stepping into this season of

renewal. We're seeing intergenerational bridges being built, with older members pouring wisdom into younger hearts, and younger voices speaking life and energy into the church body. It's a beautiful exchange that reflects the heart of God.

The church is welcoming new projects that will have the greatest impact on our community and set us up for a successful future. With the Food Pantry expansion, the conversations around the preservation of our campus and the renewed energy in worship, we are seeing the Spirit moving all around us.

Hope isn't passive. It's active. And as a church, we are stepping into this next season with intentionality and expectation. We're dreaming big. We're believing that what we pray for starts here—with us. In the way we serve our neighbors. In how we welcome newcomers. In how we show up for each other, week after week. In the quiet moments of surrender and the loud moments of celebration.

As we move forward, we are not leaving behind the faithfulness of the past—we are building on it. We are carrying the testimonies, the answered prayers, and the miracles we've seen into a new season filled with even greater promise.

This isn't just optimism. It's hope anchored in Christ. And it's a call to all of us—youth, parents, leaders, and members alike—to step into the future with courage, unity, and joy. So let's embrace the excitement. Let's show up expectantly. Let's pray boldly, worship passionately, and serve generously. Because God is still working here in Metuchen.



Youth group Mardi Gras party. Rev Johnson helps Myles Bourne hit the pinata