

WEEK 4 July 15-21, 2012



We will come together as a community of faith in this sacred place. Free of distraction, we will focus on the God who accepts us just as we are. While we have fun with friends, we will celebrate God through meaningful, creative and interactive worship. Youth will be inspired and challenged to affirm and deepen their sense of Christian identity.



Keynoter: Casey Thompson... is pastor at Wayne Presbyterian Church in Wayne, PA. Casey has had a varied career, including stints as a semi-professional juggler, magician's assistant, youth minister, and George Washington impersonator (it's a major plus that no one knows what George sounded like). If he has any regret in life, it is that he hasn't created a dance crew to dominate America's Best Dance Crew. As he doesn't actually dance, it's a small regret.



Keynoter: Shelli Latham... is associate pastor for Preaching and Outreach at Westminster Presbyterian Church, West Chester, PA, where she is constantly challenged and inspired by the abundant mercy and creative power of our God. She thinks church should be a place where youth are seen and heard, dancing and laughter are abundant and enthusiastic, and people aren't afraid to get their hands dirty. Prefers to eat dessert first at church potlucks. Is a master packer and especially loves to load up her handy backpack for mission adventures in our beautiful, broken world. Looking forward to the adventure of MYC.

Preacher: Cleophus J. LaRue...



is Princeton Theological Seminary's Francis Landey Patton Professor of Homiletics. He received his B.A. and M.A. degrees from Baylor University, his M.Div. and Ph.D. degrees from Princeton Seminary. He specializes in the theory and method of African American preaching and worship. An ordained minister in the National Baptist Convention of America, LaRue is the former pastor of two churches in Texas as well as the former interim pastor of churches in Harlem and Jamaica Queens, NY.



Recreation Leader: Neeley Rentz Lane... serves as the Director of High School Ministry at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC. She attended Presbyterian College, served as the Director of Christian Education at First Presbyterian Church in Hartsville, SC, and is currently studying at Union Presbyterian Seminary working on her Master of Divinity degree. Neeley enjoys family time, laughing, beach vacations, tap dancing, and playing with her dog Bailey.

Recreation Leader: Lindsay Layendecker... of Jacksonville, FL, is a middle school teacher and writer who attends Ft. King Presbyterian Church. Lindsay has been attending Montreat for the past 15 summers, doing everything from participating as a conferee to co-directing the Middle School Conference with her BFF, Neeley Rentz Lane! Lindsay enjoys many things, but nothing more than laughing. She will laugh with you, laugh at you, but mostly laugh at herself. Lindsay can't wait to laugh with everyone at the 2012 Youth Conference!

Music Leader: Eric Timothy Nanz... of Leesburg, VA, is a guitar instructor at The Catoclin School of Music. As a former Montreat youth conferee and summer staffer, he holds a special fondness for the life-changing experiences found only behind the Montreat gates. His hobbies include trail running, eating Garden Salsa SunChips, and turning guitar amplifiers up to 11.



A MONTREAT YOUTH CONFERENCE is a unique event - a gathering of young people from all over the country for a week of study, worship, and recreation. A typical day at Youth Conference includes: morning energizers, keynote, and small group meetings, where the conference theme is explored; afternoon recreation activities and other options (Wednesday afternoon is free); and evening worship and recreation. The Montreat Youth Conferences are designed for high school students, entering freshmen through graduated seniors. They are co-sponsored by Montreat Conference Center and the General Assembly Office of Ministries With Youth.