



November 4th- 6th

INFORMATION BOOKLET

EVERYTHING PASTORS & YOUTH LEADERS
NEED TO KNOW!

What is NEXUS?

“NEXUS” is the new name given to the annual Chattanooga District Youth Fall Retreat. The word “Nexus” actually means “to connect.” This is an exclusive United Methodist event and all United Methodist Churches (from any district) are welcome to come and CONNECT with one another at this retreat! We want to connect our churches and our youth with JESUS and each other!



The retreat will be held at the Ocoee Retreat Center in Ocoee, Tennessee (just East of Cleveland). Over the weekend your students will be challenged to “Connect” with Jesus and each other. Plus, your students will get to hang out with other Methodist students from all over Chattanooga and Cleveland. We estimate over 300 youth to be in attendance!

Conference @ Camp:

The Fall Retreat is basically a mini-conference with camp style activities thrown in (See “Activities” section). There are four sessions over the weekend with music, games, and messages. Plus, community strengthening things like “Mail Call” (where students get to write notes to each other) and “Family Gatherings” (which is time set aside to meet with only your youth group).

Speaker Bio:

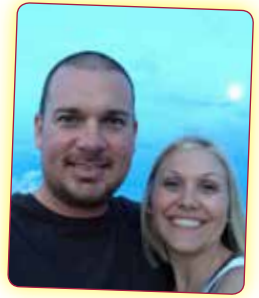
Our speaker’s name is Sam Dawkins. He was born and raised outside of Atlanta, Georgia. He graduated from The University of Georgia with a Bachelors in History, and then graduated from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University with a Masters of Divinity. He was commissioned as an

elder in the North Georgia Annual Conference in June 2015. He is married to Natasha Dawkins who he met while playing in the worship band together at the UGA Wesley Foundation. They have two dogs, Wall-e and Lucy. He is currently an associate pastor for The First United Methodist Church of Lawrenceville where he gets to oversee student ministry, young adult ministry, and two modern worship services. The mission of these ministries is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who love God, love others, and reach the world.



Music Info.:

We are pleased to have Jeff Blake return as our Worship Leader. Jeff is the worship leader for the VINE at First-Centenary United Methodist Church. He also created and runs a campus ministry called “The LOFT” at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga. Jeff is married to the lovely Christy Blake and they have two sons, Brycen & Drew. He has been leading worship for various churches for twenty years and truly has a heart for worship and young people.



Jeff is excited about this year’s Fall Retreat and has exciting plans for the music! We highly value the experience Jeff and his band brings to this event.

Activities:

Every student will get to choose a camp activity: “Paintball” or “High Ropes.”

- **Paintball** - The Ocoee Retreat Center has an awesome paintball course! They have all the safety equipment, guns, and ammo you need. They officiate the games and perform pre-game safety instruction.
- **High Ropes** - This activity is really three activities in one. Students who choose High Ropes get to use the 50 foot climbing wall, a “V-Swing,” and a Zipline.

What Students Should Bring:

All students and adults should bring a sleeping bag, a pillow, toiletries, a flashlight, a light rain jacket, shower shoes (cheap flip flops), a bible, and old clothes for activities. (If your students choose paintball as their activity then a long sleeve shirt is recommended.)

It is up to individual youth leaders whether or not you allow your students to bring phones, tablets, etc.. Neither the camp nor the district is responsible for lost or stolen items.



Photo above is from the 2015 Fall Retreat. Last year’s theme was “Jump.”

Cost:

The total cost for students is \$130. This includes each participant's registration fees for the retreat, a T-shirt, materials, lodging, meals, and activities.

The total cost for adults is \$100.

The registration cost is \$30 per person if paid/postmarked by October 24, 2016. Late registrations will be accepted after the 24th at \$50 per person (\$150 total) but we cannot guarantee T-shirts after October 24, 2016.

Registration fees are non-refundable. **Your housing is assigned based on the number you register so it is important to be as accurate as possible.**

Lodging, meals, and activities are \$100 per person and must be paid in full the day of the event. Checks should be made out to "Chattanooga District UMC" with "Fall Retreat" in the memo line.

Important Dates:

- Non-refundable \$30 deposit dueOctober 13, 2016
- T-shirts sizes must be turned in byOctober 24, 2016
- Must turn in your final boy/girl numbersOctober 24, 2016
(You may still change your final numbers after this date but by no more than 10%)
- Final payment & waivers due / 1st day of event November 4, 2016

Registration Information:

Fill out the enclosed registration form and the photo release form and mail them and a check (again, made out to the "Chattanooga District UMC" with "Fall Retreat" in the memo line) to:

Signal Crest UMC
Attn: NEXUS Retreat Registration
1005 Ridgeway Avenue
Signal Mountain, TN 37377



Important Note: The other two enclosed waiver forms (the Ocoee Retreat Center Waiver and the Chattanooga District Waiver) need to be filled out by each participant's parent/legal guardian (as well as all adult volunteers) and brought with you on the day of the trip. The Chattanooga District Waivers require a notary.

All participants who register by October 13, 2016 get a free T-Shirt (must provide exact sizes when you register or by October 24, 2016).

Also, because boys and girls will be roomed separately we must have a

\$30
(Registration)
+ \$100
(Lodging & Activities)
= \$130
(Total)

breakdown of boys and girls ahead of time. If your numbers change (which they usually do) then please send us a quick email at registrar@nexusretreat.com and adjust your numbers.

Lodging:

The Ocoee Retreat Center is a 300+ acre mountain campus in southeastern Tennessee. This is the perfect spot for our Fall Retreat. The fun, forested setting will keep our groups engaged, energetic and eager. We will stay in climate-controlled bunkhouses and lodges and enjoy meals in a spacious dining hall. Each bunkhouse/lodge has separate bathrooms and showers for boys and girls. Your lodging is assigned to you based on the number you bring and your breakdown of boys and girls.

Meals:

The meals are cafeteria style with a youth friendly menu. Please let us know if you have any students with special dietary restrictions or food allergies!



What Youth Leaders Need To Know:

Youth Leaders: We have done the work for you! For the most part, you just have to show up with your students and enjoy what is going on!

- You are not responsible for any of the programming for the weekend. You simply make sure your students know where to be and when to be there.
- Family gatherings- Your group will meet together each night for a private “family gathering” so that you may talk about your day and how your students have been impacted.
- You will be responsible for:
 - 1) getting your group to the sessions,
 - 2) the conduct of your students,
 - 3) making sure you have a 5:1 adult to youth ratio (“Safe Sanctuary” rules)
 - 4) conducting the “family gatherings” after each nightly session
 - 5) keeping & dispensing your youth group’s medications (if any)



Directions To Ocoee Retreat Center:

The address for your GPS:

186 Hawkins Drive,
Ocoee, TN 37361

Warning: Old GPS devices or outdated maps may lead you the wrong way. It is better to use the following directions:

Directions from Chattanooga, TN (30 miles):

From I-75 take exit 20 for the Cleveland by-pass. At intersection bear right and travel on by-pass for six miles to the Ocoee exit (US 64 East). Take US 64 East and travel ten miles (cross over 411 Hwy.) until you come to the "Whitewater Grill" on the right. Turn right at "Whitewater Grill" onto Cookson Creek Rd. and follow for 2.5 miles until you see the Ocoee Retreat Center sign on your right. Turn right onto Sloans Gap Rd. and follow for one mile to the next Ocoee Retreat Center sign and turn left onto Hawkins Dr. Follow signs that lead you to the office.

Promotion Materials:

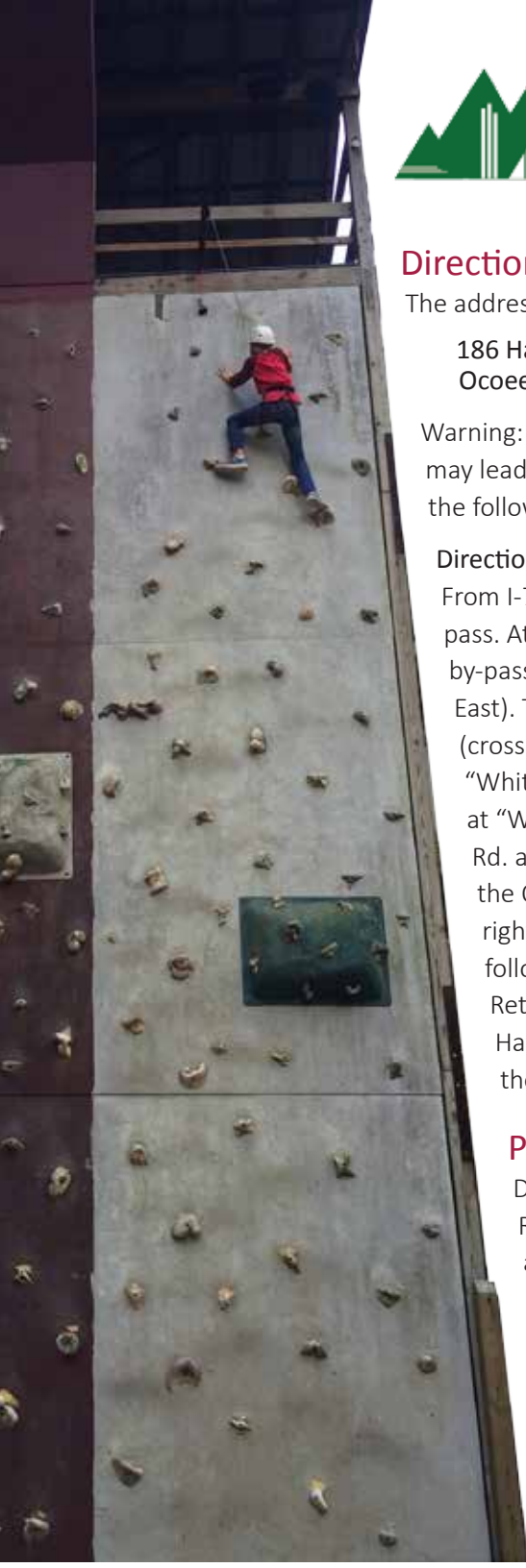
Digital copies of all the forms and Hi Resolution copies of the "Nexus" logo are available upon request. Request copies via email:

info@nexusretreat.com

Still have questions?

Contact us at:

info@nexusretreat.com





Tentative Schedule:

FRIDAY

6pm-7pm Registration
 7:00pm Dinner
 8:30pm SESSION #1
 (music, message, family gathering)
 11:30pm Lights out

SATURDAY

8:00am Breakfast (Group B & C)
 8:30am Breakfast (Group A)
 9:15am SESSION #2
 (music & message)
 10:30am Activities #1
 Group A- ORC Activities
 Group B- Free Time
 Group C- Free Time
 11:30am Lunch (Group B & C)
 12:30pm Lunch (Group A)
 12:20pm Activities #2
 Group A- Free Time

Group B- ORC Activities
 Group C- Free Time
 2:10pm Activities #3
 Group A- Free Times
 Group B- Free Time
 Group C- ORC Activities
 6:00pm Dinner (Groups A & C)
 6:30pm Dinner (Group B)
 7:30pm SESSION #3
 (music, message, family gathering)
 Midnight Lights out

SUNDAY

8:00am Breakfast (Groups B & C)
 8:30am Breakfast (Group A)
 9:00am SESSION #4
 (music & message)
 10:00am Clean up
 10:15am Load up
 10:30am Head for home!





**Chattanooga District
United Methodist Church**

Street Address: 4315 Brainerd Rd., Chattanooga, TN 37411

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 80353, Chattanooga, TN 37414

Phone: 423.629.0333 Fax: 423.622.8360

Email: chatdist@holston.org