

# ABY: The Gathering Youth Board Application:

We're excited that you are interested in applying for the Youth Planning Board for *The Gathering*. As a member of the board, you will play an essential role in shaping the event, from choosing speakers and planning the theme to leading activities and guiding fellow youth. This is a fantastic opportunity to grow in your leadership and faith while contributing to an event that will impact the lives of many. Please complete this application thoughtfully and have your pastor/youth leader sign. All responses are confidential. *All current youth board members will need to complete the application and interview for the 2026 planning board.* This is for a 1 year term. We will be holding interviews during dinner on Saturday, November 8th. Applications should be emailed to Joyce at [auntbean930@gmail.com](mailto:auntbean930@gmail.com) or brought to the event on Friday night.

1. Name: (First & Last) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Age: *Must be between 14 and 17 (Grades 9-11)* \_\_\_\_\_

3. Grade Level (Fall 2025: *9th, 10th, 11th*) \_\_\_\_\_

4. Email Address & Phone Number:

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5. Church Name & Pastor/Youth Leader Name:

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6. *What interests you most about helping to plan The Gathering?*

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*7. Have you ever been in a leadership role (in church, school, or community)?*

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*8. What is one area of your spiritual life you are currently growing in, and how would being on the board help in that growth?*

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*9. Being part of the board requires a commitment of time and energy. How will you balance this responsibility with your school and personal life?*

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*10. What do you hope to gain or learn from being on the board for The Gathering?*

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*11. Is there anything else you'd like to share with us that would help us understand why you'd be a great fit for the board?*

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Your signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor/Youth Leader Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

American Baptist Year  
Presents "The Gather



*IDENTITY:  
WHO ARE YOU*

First Baptist Church

# Hotels:

*These hotels were suggested by our contacts at FBC Bloomington as good options. The prices are as of 6/5/25. Please book early to secure lodging as November is a busy time for events at ISU and Wesleyan.*

- 1) The Chateau Hotel & Conference Center- \$100 nightly for a 4 person room.
- 2) Hampton Inn & Suites- \$114 nightly for a 4 person room.
- 3) Best Western Plus- \$103 nightly for a 4 person room.

# “The Gathering” 2025

## First Baptist Church of Bloomington

Dear Youth Pastor/Youth Leader,

We are excited to announce that the 2025 ABY Gathering will be held November 7-9 at the First Baptist Church of Bloomington! This year's theme is “Identity” and we can't wait for you and your youth group to join us for an inspiring weekend of worship, fellowship, and service.

Online registration is now open—simply follow the link at the bottom of this page to sign up. The cost to attend is \$50 per student and \$35 per adult leader. Included in this packet, you'll find the event schedule, waivers, and other important details to help with your planning. Feel free to make copies of the forms for your students.

We are also excited to offer an opportunity for students to apply for a position on the event board! This year, students in grades 9-11 are eligible to interview. If you have any interested students, they should email their application to Joyce at [auntbean930@gmail.com](mailto:auntbean930@gmail.com) or bring a paper copy with them on Friday night. Interviews will take place on Saturday evening.

For accommodations, there are several hotels in the area, but we encourage you to secure lodging early as the local hotels fill up quickly due to nearby sports events.

We are thrilled to announce that Neil Ferris will be our speaker this year! Neil is the Student Minister at Taylorville Christian Church in Taylorville, IL. Originally from Evansville, Indiana, he moved to Central Illinois before his freshman year of high school. The son of a pastor, Neil has been in ministry for 7 years, including 5 as a worship pastor and 2 as a student minister. Neil is married to Mary, and together they have two daughters, Anastasia and Felicity. He's passionate about the outdoors, sports, and coaching basketball, which he's done for the past 9 years. His favorite scripture is Psalm 23, a passage that has been a source of peace for him through many phases of life.

In addition to inspiring worship sessions, we will offer a variety of break-out groups tailored to both junior high/middle school and high school students. We will also

provide mission opportunities for your students to serve the local community, allowing them to put their faith into action.

We are looking forward to a powerful weekend of growth in faith and fellowship. If you have any questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to reach out.

We can't wait to see you and your youth in November!

Registration Link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSctG7BPeufzkHoVibGqV0w1oPW-ZmADDpaJWXMq3ixHd5Hm6A/viewform?usp=header>

Blessings,

The ABY Gathering Board Members:

Kathy Hutchins, Jacob Chase, Joe Mann, Joyce Wells-Mann, Drew Phillips, Andre Britten, Natalie Thiems, Andrew Rains

For general questions contact:

Pastor Jacob Chase at [jacobmarkchase@gmail.com](mailto:jacobmarkchase@gmail.com) or at 309-409-9847

For youth board application questions contact: Joyce at [auntbean930@gmail.com](mailto:auntbean930@gmail.com)



**Transportation and Lodging Release Form**  
**The Gathering, Nov. 7 – 9, 2024**  
**Bloomington, IL**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ M / F (Circle one)

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_

**Medical Information of Participant**

Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Medications: \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Insurance: \_\_\_\_\_ Policy # \_\_\_\_\_

Physician's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contacts**

Primary Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to student \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to student \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

(Secondary contact will only be contacted if primary contact is unreachable)

The undersigned assumes all risk injury or harm to the participant associated with participation in the Activity and agrees to release, indemnify, defend and forever discharge **American Baptist Youth Fall Gathering Board** and its staff, and agents (collectively "**The Gathering**") of and from all liabilities, claims, demands, costs, expense, actions and causes of action (collectively the "Claims") in respect of death, injury, loss or damage to the participant or by the participant, howsoever caused, arising to or arise by reason of or during the participant's participation in the Activity.

Authorization for emergency medical care to minors: The undersigned parent or legal guardian of the above named minor hereby authorizes **The Gathering** or its agents – Jacob Chase, Andre Britten, Drew Phillips, Joe Mann, Joyce Wells-Mann, Kathy Hutchins, Natalie Thiems, and Andrew Rains (the temporary custodians of the minor) to consent to or permit any duly licensed physician or dentist to prescribe any X-ray, examination, anesthetic, medical or general or special supervision or advice of any or several physician(s), surgeon(s), or dentist(s) licensed under the laws of any state, whether such diagnosis or treatment is rendered at the office of the physician, surgeon or dentist, or at a hospital licensed by the state.

Permission is hereby granted for **The Gathering** to use photographs, images and/or videos of the person named above in any and all forms of media for advertising, trade and all other lawful purposes.

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## *The Gathering 2025: Tentative Schedule*

### *Friday, Nov. 7th:*

*7:30-8:30: Registration, games & introductions*

*9:00-10:00: Acoustic Worship*

*10:00: Depart for hotels*

### *Saturday, Nov. 8th:*

*9:00-9:30: Registration for those who didn't register Friday*

*9:30-11:00: Worship & Speaker*

*11:00-11:45: Church Groups*

*12:00-12:45: Wash your hands/Lunch*

*12:45-1:45: Game*

*1:45-2:30- Breakout Groups*

*2:30-3:30- Large Group Game*

*3:30-3:45: Meet in Sanctuary for missions info.*

*3:45-5:30: Mission Projects*

*5:45-6:30: Wash your hands/Supper/Board Interviews*

*6:45-8:00: Worship and Speaker*

*8:05-8:45: Church Groups*

*8:45-9:15: Snacks*

*9:15: Depart for hotels*

### *Sunday, Nov 9th:*

*9 AM: Breakfast provided by FBC Bloomington*

*10 AM: Church Service*

*11 AM: Depart for home*