



Mary Carlson, Director

I am so excited to be back serving the Lord in youth ministry here at First Presbyterian. A little bit about me (for those who don't know me): I am married to David Carlson and we have four children (young adults), one son-in-law, and one grandson. I recently retired from a career in education. During my career I was a teacher at a variety of grade levels and a principal for the last 16 years. For a few years during a pause in my teaching career, I served as the Children's Ministry Director here at FPC. It was such a blessing to use the gifts God gave me in my role at that time. I have been praying that God would use me again in ministry work during this next phase of my life, and I feel so blessed that he has called me to this position once again. I am excited to work alongside Lorna and our Church family to further God's Kingdom here on earth. I will be helping lead the various youth ministry programs throughout the year. As I begin, I will be leading the 5th/6th grade youth group, the 789 Youth and the Senior High Youth Group.

Proverbs 22:6 reminds us that we should train up our youth in the way they should go. By sharing the love of Jesus and God's word with our youth, they will be equipped to make a difference in our world that desperately needs them to shine God's Light. I ask that you join me in prayer to expand our programs to reach more students so that we can share the good news of God's Grace with them. Encourage your children to keep coming to our youth ministry events and to invite others as well.

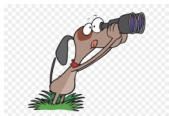
**KID'S CLUB & 5th/6th
Youth Group Skating Party**

**Wednesday, February 1st
3:30p.m.-5:00p.m. Kingsford Skating Rink**

Weather permitting, we will have another great time skating with our KID'S CLUB and youth group people! Drop off and pick up is at the outdoor skating rink in Kingsford. Hot chocolate and snacks will be provided!

789 YOUTH GROUP

Lorna planned a bowling party for the 789 Youth Group with pizza, soda, cupcakes and bowling at Recreation Lanes on January 26th. I was thankful I could join this group for the first time in such a fun environment! We had a great time and I look forward to meeting with this great group of students on a weekly basis.



Looking ahead...

• **Sunday, March 12th: YOUTH SUNDAY**

All children and youth are invited to take part in this special day! During the next month we will start planning for the youth service. We'd like them to lead as much of it as possible.

• **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29th: EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA**

This outreach event is a powerful way to share the Easter Story with our youth and their families. We will need many volunteers for this event so please pray about setting aside this evening to help us out. More information regarding this event will be forthcoming.

• **VBS: June 12th-16th 9:00a.m.-Noon**

Our amazing volunteers drive the success of this program that we open to the community.

Please reach out to me at any time if you have questions, concerns, ideas, to volunteer, etc.:
906-396-2781 or carlsonmary1962@gmail.com.

Peace and Blessings!
