

2026 Senior High Summer Summer Mission Trip

JUNE 21- 28, 2026



Trip FAQs

Each summer, for 16 of the past 19 years, East Main Church has sent a PowerUp Work team to support their mission and ministry of Urban Promise in the inner city of **Wilmington, DE**. Our mission teams help with support staff and kids with their first week of summer camp programs and also complete physical projects such as roof replacement, sidewalk repair, painting, mulching for Urban Promise.

The mission of [Urban Promise Wilmington, DE](https://www.urbanpromise.org/) is to equip children and young adults through Christ with the skills necessary for academic achievement, life management, personal growth and servant leadership. Their vision is to be a community in Christ of servant leadership and transformation, seeking a full life for all involved: urban youth, families, staff, and volunteers in the neighborhoods of our city. They accomplish their mission through afterschool programs, summer camps, Street Leader Job Training Program, Urban Promise School, Urban Promise Academy, and other programs as well. Learn more at <https://www.urbanpromise.org/>.



Who can go on this trip?

Any student who has completed grades 9 – 12 is eligible to go on this trip. Students who want to go on the trip are expected to attend **3** pre-trip meetings and to complete pre-trip assignments and required payments. College students who are trip alumni may apply to participate on the trip as well (clearances required). Adult leaders with a heart for service and love for teens are also welcome to come as co-leaders (clearances required).



2025 UP DE PowerUp Work Team from EMPC

When do we go? How long is the trip?

This year's trip will take place from June 21-June 28 2026.

We leave on a Sunday morning and return to Grove City the following Sunday (8 days). After we finish with Urban Promise on Friday the group will head to the [cozy and rustic Mountain View Bible Camp in Danville, PA](#). The group will spend Saturday at [Knoebles Amusement Park](#) in Elysburg, PA and then return to the retreat center for dinner, games, and reflection on the week together. This allows our group to reflect on our shared mission trip experience and to rest a bit before heading home. Students (and leaders) love this time together!

Who are the Leaders for the 2026 Trip?

We are so grateful for each of these returning Mission Trip Team Leaders:

- Tracy Jackson - Trip Leader
- Mike Jackson
- Keith Johnson - Trip Leader
- Dan Kulp
- Jimmy Clark

Support staff: Melissa Danielson - mdanielson@eastmainpc.org

If you are interested in serving with this leadership team, please reach out to Melissa!

What is the cost for this trip?

** Please note: Urban Promise charges \$300 per person. However, once additional expenses are factored in (rental vans, gas, food, supplies, weekend accommodations, etc.) the cost ends up being closer to **\$850 per person.**

- **For students who are regularly involved at East Main Church:**

Base cost for high school students is \$250 each. (Each additional sibling is \$50 less.)
Adult leaders' costs are covered by the church.

Due to generous support from our Session, the church will cover the additional \$600 per person in anticipated expenses for this trip! This GENEROUS support is a gift we are committed to stewarding well through faithful preparation and committed participation from each team member. Our church is investing richly in each participant to grow and serve in faith through this opportunity!

Additional money recommended for:

1. Lunch on Sunday (Sheetz) on our way to DE
2. Minimal spending money during the week (there are very few opportunities to buy anything; however, on Friday we accompany Urban Promise on their Friday field trip so students might want to buy a drink or snack there).
3. Lunch and extras on Saturday (Knoebel's has free entry but each ride requires the purchase of tickets. Students will each get \$20 of tickets, but will need additional spending money for lunch, extra ride tickets, drinks, etc.)
4. Breakfast on Sunday (hopefully a Sheetz); we will have breakfast options that morning before leaving, but if kids want anything extra, they will need to have money for that.

**Recommended to bring \$50 to cover the basics.

- **SCHOLARSHIPS:** If the cost will be the deciding factor in your ability to participate, and/or you do not have a home church, please see Melissa Danielson. We never want money to be the reason that someone was not able to participate in an event or trip that we do!
- **MULTIPLE FAMILY MEMBER DISCOUNT:** If multiple students from the same household are attending, a \$50 discount will be applied to each additional student. For example:
 - Student 1 - \$250
 - Student 2 - \$200
 - Student 3 - \$200
- **FUNDRAISING and SAVING:** There are many creative ways that you can raise the money for this trip from saving earnings from work to writing letters requesting financial support. For example, you can save gift money and put it towards this. If you are working you can set aside money each month towards the trip. Ask a family member to match what you are saving.

What do we do?

A typical day when serving with Urban Promise looks something like this:

- Breakfast / Devotions
- Summer Camps: with a small group from our church, participants work alongside Urban Promise staff and street leaders to help with their summer camp programs located around the city of Wilmington.
- Lunch
- Service Projects: participants help with projects that range from landscaping, painting, cleaning, mailings, or even something like replacing a roof or a sidewalk!
- Showers
- Dinner
- Activity / Devotions / Hang out
- Bed

Where do we stay?

We stay at the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew (SsAM) in Wilmington, DE. It is a large and historic inner city church that provides us with a safe and clean place to stay. Showers take place every afternoon at the local YMCA.

Trip Safety

Participant safety is a priority for us. When working and traveling in an inner city urban environment, our group members always move around, work, and travel together in groups. We have never had a safety concern or any issues around safety in all of the years that we have been serving with Urban Promise.

Urban Promise has an incredible reputation throughout the city and has established a great rapport with people from all walks of life. When we serve, we benefit from the reputation and relationships that they work on throughout the year.

Students will see homelessness, people struggling with drug and alcohol addiction, and poverty in some up close ways as the group travels throughout the city. However, we are NOT working with these populations during the week. Our focus is working with Urban Promise team members and children in the community in safe, designated areas. The children we serve and street leaders we serve alongside often have stories of how gun violence has taken the life of someone they know. Hearing a personal account of this kind of loss may come up as students connect with others.

We share all of that so that participants and parents are informed. We would NOT go on this trip if it was unsafe for our students or adult leaders.

If you have questions or would like additional information about this aspect of the trip, please reach out to any of the adult leaders or Melissa Danielson

2026 Participant Payment Timeline and Pre-Trip Meeting Requirements:

- Student and Parent INFORMATION MEETING: **Sunday, March 8 - FH from 10:20 - 10:40 am**
- **REGISTRATION DEADLINE = Sunday, April 12, 2026 - register for the trip online**
- ***Payments - payment must be complete by May 17, 2026***
- ***No refunds will be available after June 14 (unless there is an emergency)***
- **Full Participation in 3 Pre-Trip Sessions:**
 1. **Meeting #1: Sunday, April 19 from 12 - 1:15 pm (lunch provided)**
 2. **Pasta Dinner Fundraiser: Wednesday, April 22 - 4 - 9 pm* (see info below)**
 3. **Meeting #2: Sunday, May 17 from 12 - 1:15 pm (lunch provided)**

*Unless there is a pre-communicated reason (a previous commitment), participation in the **Pasta Dinner Fundraiser** is required for all summer mission trip student participants. This is a great way for the team to serve together before heading to DE in June, and for them to raise money for the trip together. Family members are also welcome to help serve.

Sign up for the PASTA DINNER FUNDRAISER will be available soon via a link that will be sent by email. Contact Tracy Jackson with any questions related to the fundraiser. The team's goal is to raise \$1500 for trip expenses; any funds raised over that amount will go directly to Urban Promise to support their ministry and mission.

*If you are unable to attend one of these sessions, you must let **Tracy Jackson** (724) 974-8350 know at least 48 hours in advance (unless it is an emergency) and provide a reason for your absence.*

Questions? Please ask!

Call Melissa Danielson, Youth Pastor at 724-992-8696 or email her at mdanielson@eastmainpc.org