

# *a light in the darkness*



PYOCA FALL YOUTH CONFERENCE  
OCT. 4 - 6, 2019

KEYNOTE: Rev. Shelly Wood  
WORSHIP: Matthew Black

We know that youth are not immune to darkness and times of struggle. They deserve to have a space that is open for them to talk about their fears, anxieties, and what challenges them.

When we are able to talk about the darkness around us we bring light to difficult situations. We find hope that God is right alongside us in our darkest places moving us into the light.

## Registration

Youth leaders can find registration forms for youth and adults at [www.pyoca.org](http://www.pyoca.org) under "Retreats." Please indicate whether you plan to join us by emailing [program@pyoca.org](mailto:program@pyoca.org). Group and adult registration forms are due no later than Fri., Sept. 13th, 2019.

The conference is open to any youth group and their youth leaders. Youth in grades 6-12 are welcome. Small groups will be split by age group, 6th-8th grade and 9th-12th. Individual youth without a group attending are encouraged to group up with another church to register.

## Bios



## Fees

Youth: \$150.00

Adults: \$75.00

Fees are all-inclusive, including meals all day Saturday and breakfast Sunday, programming, and two nights of lodging.

## Activities

In addition to our keynote sessions we will hold afternoon rotations in small groups, as well as our evening Fall Fest including: pumpkin carving, night hikes and wagon rides, campfire, s'mores, and more.

### **Rev. Shelly Wood**

Shelly is a pastor in the Presbyterian Church and has served at Orchard Park Presbyterian Church in Carmel, IN since 2013. She holds a doctorate and masters in divinity and a masters in counseling. Her first love has always been youth ministry and talking to youth about how life and faith intersect. She has three kids, all of whom are either in junior high and high school. They keep her informed and somewhat cool. She and her family have a cat named Henry and a yellow lab named Samwise, named after the loyal friend in *The Lord of the Rings*.

### **Matthew Black**

Singer-songwriter, worship leader, and lover of ice cream, Matthew taught himself to play guitar while listening to the Beatles, Cat Stevens, and 90s monster ballads. The literal son of a preacher man, he moved a lot when he was young, and learned to observe the world from the outside looking in, taking what he saw and turned it into music. He plays for crowds large and small in and around Chicago, IL where he lives and keeps a day job as a web developer.