

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PENSACOLA

First time at Blue Lake Retreat

Frequently Asked Questions

Where is the nursery? The nursery is behind the lounge, moving away from chapel.

What is the PJ parade? The kids dress up in fun pj's and slippers. We meet in the lounge, the kids will get a noise maker and then they will parade down the hallway towards the chapel and into the Linwood area and then back by lounge then outside to see the pumpkins lit.

Do we need to bring a pumpkin? No, we have a donor that buys the one pumpkin for each family and we bring them up to Blue Lake. If you would like a pumpkin for each child in your family, please bring extra pumpkins. Please bring your own pumpkin carving supplies.

Are kids with the adults the entire time? No, during the adult sessions, the children, tween, and youth are broken up into their own age groups and they have lessons based on their ages. The kids will leave from the gym and you will be told where to pick them up. Tweens through youth will be released with out parents.

What is free time? Do we have to do all activities? There is no scheduled programming from noon until 5:20 PM on Saturday. There are lots of activities during the free time. Please feel free to do as much or as little as your family feels they can handle.

What snack should I bring to share with our church family? We encourage families to share their favorite snack with your church family. The church provides fruit, popcorn, snack bars, hot chocolate, hot cider, coffee in the lounge. You can be as easy or as elaborate as you want (Suggestions: chex mix, brownies, cookies, hummus). I promise it will be eaten. (I suggest bringing the food in a container that you do not care if it get lost or thrown away.)

Should we bring extra food and drinks? If there is a snack or drink you can't live without then bring it, especially for kids. I have found over 12 years of going, I take a bunch and never use most of it.

What is a gaga pit? Ask almost any child, tween or youth!

How do You keep up with kids, tween or youth? Each family has different rules. I suggest you get a watch or have a specific time or place to meet the kids. I have heard of people using walkie talkies. It is up to you and how much you want to keep an eye on your children.

Is there a lake? Yes, there is a small lake and during free time there are life guards. Your family can swim, canoe, paddle boat. There are life guards provided from 1 pm to 5 pm on Saturday.

How do you make the best space out of your room? Most people push two twin beds together (A king fitted sheet fits over both.) and bring air mattresses for kids to sleep on floor.

Cell Phone Service? There is very limited cell phone service. It would be safe to assume while you are on Blue Lake property you will not be getting calls, text or internet.

Other Items of Note

Bed linens and towels:

Blue Lake only provides linens for the number of twin beds in the rooms. You will need to bring extra linens and towels for those over your allotted bed numbers.

Lounge:

This is the heart beat of the camp. All snack and drinks are provided in this area. The TV is in the lounge.

Leaving Blue Lake:

To make leaving enjoyable for all, please make sure that you clean your rooms, strip the beds, and place all towels by the door before you leave.

Love Offering for Kitchen Staff:

It is customary to bring a small monetary love offering for the Blue Lake kitchen staff.

Evaluation Forms:

Please fill out an evaluation form at the end of retreat. This helps us keep up with the things you like and want to keep.