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## NASHVILLE EVENT GUIDE

### EVENT SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

#### **MONDAY- April 20, 2026**

**Event Times:** 2:15 PM to 9:00 PM (Central Standard Time Zone)

- 11AM-2PM – New 2 Ministry Pre-Conference
  - Register for this as part of your YPS Registration. Lunch is provided. \*\*Space is limited.\*\*
- 2:15 PM – Registration
- 2:30 PM – Doors Open
- 3:00 PM – Mainstage Session Block One
  - [David Nasser](#), The Winds of Revival: What God is Doing in the Nations
  - Worship With Edenfield Band
  - [Dr. Kathy Koch](#), 8 Great Smarts: Seeing Students the Way God Does
- 5:30 PM – Dinner break on your own
- 6:45 PM – Mainstage Session Block Two
  - [Dr. Zach Clinton](#)
  - Worship With Edenfield Band
  - [Luke Lezon](#), Your Mess Matters: Leading from Brokenness. Ministering in Authenticity
- 9:00 PM – Conference Dismissed

#### **TUESDAY- April 21, 2026**

**Event Times:** 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM (Central Standard Time Zone)

- 8:00 AM – [Youth Ministry Booster](#) Coffee Fellowship for Early Risers
- 8:30 AM – Registration/ Doors Open
  - Worship With Edenfield Band
  - [Joshua Broome](#), The Who You Are Created to Be
- 9:00 AM – Mainstage Session Block Three
- 10:40 AM – Leadership Lab Session A
- 11:40 AM – Leadership Lab Session B
- 12:30 PM – Lunch provided by event sponsors
- 1:30 PM – Mainstage Session Block Four
  - Worship With Edenfield Band
  - [Kate Downing](#), Courage Over Fear: Leading with Faith When Fear Is Loud
  - [Ryan McDermott](#), Crossroads: Leading with Clarity When Every Decision Shapes a Generation
- 3:30 PM – Conference Dismissed

## EVENT OVERVIEW

Youth Pastor Summit is a two-day conference that brings together student pastors, educators, and volunteers into one room to foster **collaboration, community, and soul-care**. It is a direct response to the growing need for people to pour into this generation.

As Student Leadership University trains up the next generation, we increasingly recognize the exponential impact that the leaders have on these students. YPS gathers thousands of leaders from across their regions of the country from 30+ denominations and movements. Each YPS includes mainstage sessions and leadership labs. This year, we will host spring YPS events in SoCal, Dallas, Nashville, and Raleigh and YPS National in Orlando, Florida in November.

We bring in some of the world's best student ministry minds, communicators, and practitioners to address four foundational and ever-present questions:

1. **Spiritual Formation:** Who are we becoming?
2. **God's Mission:** What story is God telling?
3. **Ethics:** How should we think?
4. **Leadership:** Why and how do we influence?

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### **Venue & Parking Notes:**

LIFEPOINT CHURCH (SMYRNA CAMPUS)  
506 Legacy Drive, Smyrna, TN 37167

Please plan to park in lot A or B.

**What to Pack:** Make sure to pack a Bible, pen, notebook, & a bottle of water for you to have during the conference.

**Meals:** Dinner on Monday is on your own. Take advantage of restaurants close to the church as traffic could get bad around 5, and you will want to make it back in time our evening session! Lunch will be provided on Tuesday. Make sure to stop by our sponsor tables and say thanks!

**Registration:** In order to expedite your registration and to minimize gathering in the lobby, please bring a copy/screen shot of your registration in one of the forms below. Having one of the options above will ensure a smooth check-in for you and your team the morning of the event. **Registration Proof (any of the options below will work):**

- Printed Copy or Screen Shot of your Registration Email
- Printed out or/Screen Shot of your registration account with YPS Nashville Listed – you can access this from here:

<https://events.circuitree.com/studentleadership/Account/Login/?returnUrl=%2Fstudentleadership&skip=False>

**Wristbands:** You will receive a YPS wristband when you check in. You must wear this for the duration of the event as it is your access into all sessions and meals.

## TUESDAY LEADERSHIP LAB DESCRIPTIONS

Leadership Labs (breakout sessions) are designed to inspire and equip you and your team. We encourage every participant to take full advantage of the practical and relevant training sessions the labs will provide. Make sure your group splits up and attends as many lab sessions as possible on Tuesday. Leadership Labs descriptions will be updated in this document and sent in the pre-event email two weeks prior to the event.

### 10:40 AM Leadership Labs

#### Lab 1 in Main Room

Wayne Stender, COO of Celebrate Kids Inc.

**Evangelism and Discipleship Through the 8 Great Smarts and 5 Core Needs:** A practical and transformative lab equipping leaders to disciple every student more effectively by understanding their unique God-given design and creating environments where identity, belonging, and spiritual growth come alive

#### Lab 2 in The Hub

Kate Downing, Student Director of Battlecreek Church

**The People Pipeline:** Volunteers who last and MVP leaders are always needed. This lab provides a practical framework for recruiting, developing, and retaining volunteers through healthy systems, clear expectations, and a culture that values longevity over urgency.

#### Lab 3 in D1

Daniel Kinkade, Lifeway Publishing Team Leader: Bible Studies for Life

**Organized for Success: Making Much of the Weeks, Months, and Years of Ministry:** There is more work to be done in youth ministry than any one leader can possibly accomplish, so what do we do? Like actually, what do we do? Let's talk about how to best steward our limited time, energy, and attention without burning out or drifting from what matters most? This breakout is for youth pastors that want to move from reactive busyness to intentional leadership. We'll explore how to organize ministry around priorities instead of pressure, how to think in weeks, months, and years (not just in days or events), and how to build simple systems that serve your people faithfully. This session is for anyone who feels overwhelmed but still deeply called.

#### Lab 4 in Café Round

Dr. Jonathan Denton, Professor of Christian Studies/Student Ministry at CSU

**3 Principles for a Disciple-Making Strategy:** A clear and practical framework to help leaders move beyond attendance-driven ministry and build a disciple-making strategy that produces real, lasting

### 11:40 AM Leadership Labs

#### Lab 1 in Main Room

Dr. Jeff Wallace, CSO of SLU

**The Leadership Ecosystem:** A strategic deep dive into creating a healthy leadership culture where vision, values, people, and systems align to develop and sustain thriving leaders.

#### Lab 2 in The Hub

Steve Cherrico, Executive Director of First Priority Middle Tennessee & Regional Manager with FPoA

**The One Thing:** Stop guessing how to reach your community, learn how to intentionally build meaningful bridges between your youth ministry and local schools to create real, lasting impact

#### Lab 3 in D1

Jeff Borton, Family Ministry Executive Pastor at Long Hollow Church

**5 Shifts to Effective Family Ministry:** This lab outlines five essential shifts leaders must make to equip parents, align ministries, and create a church culture where faith is formed both at home and at church.

## **Lab 4 in Café Round**

**Kayla Fowler**, Lifeway Hifi Team Lead

### **Beyond Discussion: Growing Gospel-Centered Small Groups That Form Students:**

A practical and vision-driven lab equipping leaders to transform small groups into gospel-centered environments where students are known, challenged, and shaped through meaningful, Christ-centered conversations.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **What is the New 2 Ministry Pre-Conference Gathering at YPS?**

Get what you need before the conference even starts! A special pre-conference session designed for those who are New2Ministry (2ish years or so) in mind! This is a roundtable session that is wildly practical, conversational, pro-active, and specifically tuned to set up you and your team, a new-ish youth ministry leader, with an action plan for how to better build a healthy ministry. Our friends at Lifeway Students want to connect and equip you with the strategy and stuff you need to lead well now. You can sign up for this as part of your regular YPS registration. See you from 11:00 AM-2:00 PM on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. Lunch is provided. **\*\*Space is limited.\*\***

### **Who should attend YPS?**

Youth Pastor Summit is geared to all youth pastors and key youth leaders (staff or volunteers). It is also open to Christian educators. **All attendees must be 18 years or older.**

### **Can my spouse attend?**

Of course! We love when couples do ministry together. Make sure you register them so that they are guaranteed a spot. Each attendee of YPS must be registered for the event and each attendee must register with their unique email address.

### **I have a small child; can they attend with me?**

We think families are great and time together is important. However, this event is **only for those who are 18 and older** and who have graduated high school. We want everyone to have the best experience possible at this event, so please make arrangements to leave your children at home or arrange childcare outside of the conference.

### **Can I transfer my ticket to someone else?**

If you are registered as a group, we will do a one-time transfer of any of your participants, without penalty. Transfers are not available on individual registrations. This one-time transfer must occur a minimum of ten business days before the event. To make a transfer on your account, email us at [yps@studentleadership.net](mailto:yps@studentleadership.net) from your group leader's email indicating the individual(s) you are canceling and the name, email, and DOB of the new registration(s). We will only make a transfer(s) on each group registration one time, and once you have made a transfer, your group is then finalized.

**2026**



