

Senior Pilgrim Fellowship (SPF) at Greenfield Hill Congregational Church

What it is – and what we covenant together

What it is: SPF was begun, many years ago, as the high school youth group at Greenfield Hill Church. Over the years, as friends brought friends, SPF became a group to which *any* teen in the community was welcome, regardless of religious background. The aim, then and now, is to provide a place where teenagers can be with one another in an atmosphere of respect and care, free to talk together about the issues which concern them.

Who runs the program: Rev. Alida Ward, pastor at Greenfield Hill Church, has led SPF since 1989. But not solo! SPF has a wonderful team of 10-12 adult leaders each year. Our leaders are church members and friends who enjoy our teens, and the chance to be part of these exciting years.

What happens at a Thursday night meeting: We gather at 6:00, with pizza served at 6:10. At 6:30, we have a short period of devotions (frequently readings or videos contributed by our youth). From 6:35 to 7:25 is program time, which includes anything from 'open topic' discussions, to visits from interesting speakers, to the occasional "just for fun" evening. Guests have included such speakers as Stephen Panus, Det. Beth Leetch, local school counselor Tim Morris, Cindi Bigelow, and many others!

Dues: There are none! But we will be asking participants to contribute pizza or desserts throughout the year, to keep us fed!



(Yes, we do get silly!)



Communication: We reach out to the kids (and parents) each week via email, Facebook posts, and text messages. Make sure you and your child are on our email list, by sending a note to Alida Ward at AWard@greenfieldhillchurch.com 'Like' our Facebook page, which is "Greenfield Hill Church SPF". And finally, text 'SPF' to 475-330-2300 to get weekly text messages.

Appalachia: A highlight of our SPF program is the summer Appalachia trip, which will take place from June 26 to July 3, 2027. During these eight days, we participate with the Appalachia Service Project, Inc., to repair homes for families in need. The costs of the trip are met in two ways: by an individual fee of \$750 per child, and by fundraising through the year (actual cost to take each youth is well over \$1000). Please note that the ASP trip is **for SPF participants** – being active at SPF is a requirement to sign up for ASP!



This life-changing trip also needs **adult** participants! Please be in touch with Alida if you, or others you know, have an interest in coming along as an adult leader. No home repair experience needed! just a heart for service and for teens!

A note about Greenfield Hill Church and its pastors: Just as SPF is open to all, the ministry of this church is open to all. Rev. Alida Ward and Rev. David Rowe, married co-pastors, are always glad to talk with you about your kids, or any way else that we can be of service to you. Our worship on Sundays is also open to anyone, at any time (9:00 and 10:30)

You can reach Alida in the office at 203-259-5596 (ext 1210), or by cell at, 203-521-3139, or email AWard@greenfieldhillchurch.com. David can be reached at DRowe@greenfieldhillchurch.com

See next page for our 'SPF Covenant'!

The SPF Covenant

SPF is built on the belief that God's love extends to everyone, because everyone is a child of God. Jesus taught that, and we are called to live it!

Therefore: everyone who comes through the door of the Barn is welcome and accepted here, just the way they are, without regard to race, color, religion, gender, or sexual orientation.

And that means:

We respect each person here. We listen to one another with open minds, we accept each other with open hearts, we don't judge, we never put people down, and we don't ever exclude.

We respect the group. When we are here, we are fully present to each other. Among other things, that means that phones are off during discussions, guest speakers are given our full attention and respect, and everyone stays with the group through our closing circle.

We respect ourselves. We dare to believe that each one of us is created for a purpose, capable of creativity and wisdom, given a heart to serve others with compassion, and blessed with unique talents. Each of us is needed, and each of us belongs!