

Flint Freedom Schools trip, 6/21/2022

A crew of eighteen people from Chelsea First were welcomed to Flint on June 21 by the incoming teachers at the Flint Freedom Schools Collaborative. These enthusiastic and passionate young people are mostly current college students or recent grads, many of them hoping to become certified teachers. We were impressed by their preparation, which includes a weeklong training in Tennessee on the nationwide Freedom Schools approach and curriculum. Several high school students will also help as paid interns.

Our group started at Calvary UMC, the host site for fifty kids from grades 3-5. We were treated to a rousing round of “Harambe,” meaning “Let’s Pull Together.” This is a high-energy set of chants and songs and moves meant to inspire and “get the wiggles out.” Then Jaylen, the director for this site, let us know what he most needed from us: “Pictures of carnival food!” It turns out that the Freedom School staff faces a compressed timeline and limited budget for decorating the spaces that the kids will be using. So they pressed into service making drawings, cutting out stars and letters, and hanging colorful signs and props. The many ex-teachers among us had flashbacks to years of school year prep.

We shared a wonderful lunch (including an order from Flint’s famous Fish and Chicken Land) with staff from all three locations. Then in the afternoon, we split up between Hope UMC (grades 6-8 and 9-12), and Bethel UMC (grades K-2). These sites will also host fifty students each – plus there is a wait list of kids hoping for a slot.

There will be a return trip on Monday, July 29, to help these wonderful people with tear-down and clean-up. Cannot wait to hear their stories! You can sign up by calling the church office or click the following link to sign up.

[Flint Freedom School Signup](#)