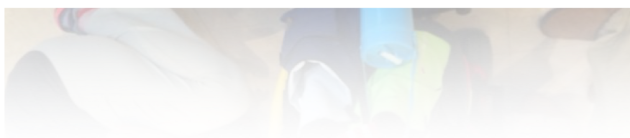




SONSHINE CHOIR

BRENTWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2016/2017 Information Packet



Answers for the new Sonshine members and parents

A Week In The Life Of A Sonshine Member

Where Do I Need To Be When?

Sunday Mornings

The **Youth Worship Choir** leads the 8:15 Sunday morning worship service year round and is made up of the combined voices of the Sonshine Choir and the New Covenant Ensemble. We gather each Sunday morning at 7:50am in the Choral Suite (*B-157 - down the Narthex stairs and through the Music Area*). A snack and juice are provided to get us started. We dress in robes, so wear appropriate yet comfortable clothes.

Sunday Evenings

Rehearsals for Sonshine Choir are Sunday evenings August-May. We gather at 5:00pm, before Youth Ministry small groups, in the Choral Suite (*B-157*). Regular attendance for rehearsals is very important, as it allows us time to prepare music for upcoming worship services and special events. Equally important, it affords us time for fun and fellowship with one another. Friendships can be developed here that will last a lifetime. We attempt to follow the many school calendars and observe major holidays.

Wednesday Evenings

Sonshine Ensemble rehearses 8:00-9:00pm, directly after Student Ministry Wednesday evening activities in The Chapel (*In the Children's Wing, next to the nursery desk*). This is a group of approximately 35 singers from Sonshine Choir who commit to additional rehearsals and performance opportunities throughout the year. Members must participate regularly in Sunday evening Sonshine Choir rehearsals, as well as Sunday morning Youth Worship Choir.

Events Scheduled for 2016/2017

Please mark your calendar for the following events.

November 2016

Sunday, November 27th

Time Commitment:

Youth Advent Concerts

1:30pm - 8:00pm

Our annual Youth Advent Concert provides an Advent experience for our congregation and the community in our beautiful Narthex, with evening performances at 3:30, 5:00 and 7:00pm. Choir members are asked to be at all performances. We will wear robes, but please wear appropriately comfortable clothes and shoes.

Rehearsals for the music will occur during regular Sunday evening choir rehearsals, but it will be necessary for all youth and adult shepherds to gather in the Narthex at 1:30pm the day of the concerts for a walk-through rehearsal and remain throughout the programs.

February 2017

February 3rd - 5th

Time Commitment:

Combined Youth Choir Retreat

2.5 days

Winter Retreat is a standing tradition for both Sonshine and Jubilation Choirs, held at Hillmont Christian Camp in White Bluff, TN. It's a time for us to come together and rehearse music for the new year, fellowship, worship and just have fun. We leave late Friday afternoon and return on Sunday in time to be the worship choir for the 11:05am service. Details regarding cost will be communicated closer to the date, but will be approximately \$130-\$150.

Events Scheduled for 2016/2017

Please mark your calendar for the following events.

March 2017

Sunday, March 5th
Time Commitment:

Share the Spirit
4:00 - 9:00pm

Our annual fundraiser that supports choir tours and mission trips. The evening begins with a dinner along with a live and silent auction for ticket holders then wraps up with the youth choir-led community worship service with a love offering in the Sanctuary. Since the proceeds from this event benefit our Summer tour and is our only fundraiser, this really is a “must do” event for all Sonshine Choir members. Occasional conflicts will arise, so good communication is absolutely necessary. If you have a conflict, please contact James Wells or Zack Liston. This event requires a lot of parent involvement. If you are able to assist, please refer to the **“How Can I Help?”** section, starting on page 7 of this packet.

July 2017

Sonshine Choir Rehearsal Week and Choir Tour
Time Commitment: Two weeks July 10th - July 23rd
Tentative Schedule Below...

► **Sunday July 10th - Thursday July 13th** **Sonshine Rehearsal**
Week (Sonshine Ensemble and Band Only Rehearse on July 9th, As Well)

Time Commitment is 6:00 - 9:00pm for all Sonshine members and 4:00 - 9:00pm for Sonshine Ensemble members. Soloists, dancers, band members, etc. will be asked to attend additional rehearsals starting as early as 1:00pm each day. These rehearsal times are subject to change a bit, but are good estimates. Even if you are unable to go on tour, you are invited to participate in this fun week of preparation, as well as the Nashville Rescue Mission performance and Home Concert.

► **Friday July 14th** **Performance at Nashville Rescue**
Mission

Time Commitment is 4:00 - 9:00pm for all Sonshine members. This first concert is a long-standing tradition for Sonshine Choir. It marks our first official tour stop and is one of our most moving performances. We gather at BUMC and ride charter buses to the mission.

Events Scheduled for 2016/2017

Please mark your calendar for the following events.

► Saturday July 15th - Saturday July 22nd

Sonshine Choir Tour

Time Commitment: 8 Days. Sonshine Choir Tour is a life-changing experience where we will hit the open road to spread God's love to others including long-term healthcare communities, homeless shelters, children's hospitals, churches and Cathedrals. We meet some amazing people and are instrumental in bringing them closer to God with music and the arts.

► Sunday July 23rd

Worship Services and Home Concert

Time Commitment: All Day. This is our BIG DAY to share our tour experiences with our BUMC community. We will sing in the 8:15, 9:45 and 11:05 morning worship services, eat lunch together at the Sonshine Pot Luck in the Gym where we share with our friends and family highlights of our trip. Tour members then return to BUMC for Home Concert rehearsal, dinner and the concert. Home Concert is at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. Parent help is needed to coordinate the Pot Luck lunch and the tour participant dinner. If you are able to assist, please refer to the **"How Can I Help?"** section starting on page 7 of this packet.

How Can I Help?

Interested in getting involved? Here are just a few ways you can help.

Youth Advent Concerts - Sunday November 27th, 2016

Email Julie Morgan at jmorgan@bumc.net with questions or to sign up.

Choir Shepherd If you've ever seen this program, you know it runs like a well-oiled machine and looks effortless to the congregation. Only we know how much goes on behind the scenes to get hundreds of youth through the back hallways and down staircases to their point of entry. It's a great way to learn your way around the church and get to know the youth. We ask that shepherds report at 1:30pm for rehearsal the day of the programs, help out for two programs, leaving one program for you to sit and enjoy. Time Commitment: 1:30pm - 8:00pm the day of the program

Program Set Up Set up chairs in the Narthex directly following the 11:05 service. Time Commitment: 12:00noon - 1:00pm the day of the program

Program Tear Down Stack chairs and put items away after the 7:00pm performance. Time Commitment: 8:00pm - 8:30pm the evening of the program

Robes Prior to the 1:00pm rehearsal, we need parents to assist in fitting Jubilation Choir with robes. After the 7:00pm performance, we need parents to make sure the robes get back on the racks. Time Commitment: 1:00pm - 1:45pm the day of the program and/or 8:00pm - 8:30pm the evening of the program.

Snack Dinner Coordinator This is a great project for a Sunday school class or a group of friends to do together. Coordinate dinner for program participants, including ordering food (usually something really simple, like sandwich box), picking up or making arrangements for delivery, putting together a team of parent helpers for set up and clean up. The dinner starts around 6:00pm and only lasts about 30 minutes. Time Commitment: 30 minutes two weeks prior to program then 5:00pm - 6:30pm the evening of the program.

Photographer We are looking for someone with professional equipment to take some high-quality pictures of the event. Time Commitment: 3:00pm - 8:00pm the evening of the program.

How Can I Help?

Interested in getting involved? Here are just a few ways you can help.

Combined Youth Choir Retreat - February 3rd - 5th, 2017

Email Julie Morgan at jmorgan@bumc.net with questions or to sign up.

Chaperone Sonshine and Jubilation parent chaperones are needed to accompany 100+ youth and staff to Hillmont Christian Camp in White Bluff, TN. It's very low key, a lot of fun and a great way to get to know the youth and other parents. We leave church about 4:30pm on Friday and return in time for the youth choir to sing at the 11:05am service. Time Commitment: 2.5 days

Retreat Preparation Make name tags, copies etc. Anything that needs to be done prior to retreat. Time Commitment: Flexible

Share the Spirit Event - Sunday March 6th, 2017

Email Julie Morgan at jmorgan@bumc.net with questions or to sign up.

Dinner Assist with set up, tear down or any other aspects having to do with the dinner

Decorations Work with the dinner coordinator on creative theme-oriented decorations for the dinner and auction.

Acquisitions Work with the coordinator in acquiring items for the live auction. Make phone calls to repeat donors and brainstorm about new items.

Publicity Work with the chairperson on different ways of getting the word out to our congregation and the community regarding the dinner/auction and worship service, including social and printed media.

Thank You Notes Work with the Acquisitions Coordinator after the event in sending thank you notes to vendors who donated items.

Photographer We are looking for someone with professional equipment to take some high-quality pictures of the dinner and auction, as well as the worship service.

Worship Service Clean Up Be available after the worship service to help put items back and straighten up the Sanctuary.

How Can I Help?

Interested in getting involved? Here are just a few ways you can help.

Sonshine Tour 2017

Email Julie Morgan at jmorgan@bumc.net with questions or to sign up.

Rehearsal Week Dinner and Snacks Parents are needed to coordinate a 5:00pm snack supper each night of rehearsal week for youth who are asked to be at rehearsals prior to 6:00pm, specifically, Sonshine Ensemble and band members. This involves ordering, preparing, shopping for and picking up food for 30-35 youth. Also, serve a snack around 7:30pm each evening to the whole choir. Food is either donated or paid for by BUMC. A great project for a couple of families or a Sunday school class to coordinate each night. Time Commitment: 4:00pm - 8:00pm on your assigned day of rehearsal week.

Tour Memory Boards Parents who are not able to go on tour are still able to experience it by creating memory board for the tour. You will work with the tour coordinator to be sent pictures to include on memory boards. All items used will be paid for by BUMC. We just need a dedicated and creative parent to make them. Time Commitment: Tour week, flexible

Tour Memory Book Each year, we produce a memory book for Sonshine Tour participants of pictures and written reflections contributed by youth and chaperones. You will work with the tour coordinator to be sent pictures and reflections to format into a memory book. Time Commitment: Flexible, needs to be completed by the first part of September.

Sonshine Pot Luck Luncheon Held the Sunday of Home Concert (July 23rd, 2017) following the 11:05am service for all Sonshine members and their families. We need parents to coordinate food, drinks and paper products, set up and clean up, as well as communicate details to the Sonshine parents. Usually consists of a team of 10-12 parents not going on tour. Time Commitment: 2 hours prep and the morning of July 23rd until 1:00pm

Sonshine Home Concert Dinner Held immediately prior to Sonshine Home Concert (July 23rd, 2017) for all participants of tour. This includes ordering, picking up or arranging delivery of food, set up and clean up. Food is paid for by BUMC. Time Commitment: 2 hours prep and the afternoon of July 23rd.

How Can I Help?

Interested in getting involved? Here are just a few ways you can help.

Sunday Morning Youth Choir

Email Julie Morgan at jmorgan@bumc.net with questions or to volunteer.

Breakfast Breakfast sponsors have two options. Be creative and make something yummy for 60-70 youth. No time for that? No worries...you can pick up some donuts on the way to church. Bring the breakfast items, along with a gallon of juice to the table outside the Choral Suite in the music department. Paper products are provided. Sign up through Signup Genius or contact Julie Morgan and she will email you the link.

Sunday Morning Assistant Very easy. Be available in the Choral Suite with the choir while they warm up for the 8:15am worship service. Directors like having parents around to corral youth and make sure they get signed in and seated on time. You're already coming to that service anyway, so why not help out for a few minutes. Email Julie Morgan and let her know when you can serve. It's a great way to get to know the youth if your interested in going on tour. Time Commitment: 7:45am - 8:15am on your assigned Sunday morning.

Sunday Evening Youth Choir

Email James Wells at jwells@bumc.net or Zack Liston at zliston@bumc.net with questions or to volunteer.

Section Leader For those of you who read music, come help us lead sectionals for Sonshine and/or Jubilation choir rehearsals. It's a lot of fun and a great way to get to know the youth. Time Commitment: 1 hour during weekly choir rehearsal time.

Rehearsal Assistant Assist directors with general administrative needs of choir rehearsals, such as attendance, gathering music. Commitment Time: 1 hour during choir rehearsal time.

Frequently Asked Questions for Sonshine Choir

for those “Oh...did I forget to mention...” moments

Q - What are the different youth choirs?

A - BUMC has two youth choirs. Sonshine Choir is 10th, 11th and 12th grade students and Jubilation Choir is 7th, 8th and 9th grades. Each choir also has a smaller ensemble that rehearses separately from the larger choirs; Sonshine Ensemble for Sonshine Choir and the New Covenant Singers for Jubilation Choir. JoySound Orchestra is a multi-generational instrumental opportunity for youth and adults.

Q - How often do the choirs sing?

A - Sonshine Choir and the New Covenant Singers join together each Sunday morning and serve as the youth worship choir in the 8:15am service. Jubilation Choir will sing in worship about once or twice a month, on average.

Q - How do we get involved in the youth choir program?

A - It's very simple. You can contact...

- James Wells, Director of Choral Ministries at jwells@bumc.net or (615) 587-0676,
- Zack Liston, Associate Director of Choral Music (Youth) at zliston@bumc.net, or (469) 271-4732
- Julie Morgan, Assistant to Music for Youth and Children at jmorgan@bumc.net.

We will be happy to answer any questions. Your youth may also simply come to rehearsal at 5:00pm on Sunday evening and give it a try.

Q - Does our family have to be a member of BUMC in order to participate in Youth Choirs?

A - No. Some youth are active members at other area churches that don't have the benefit of a youth choir. Wanting that youth choir experience, they participate at their own member church with their family on Sunday mornings and here for the active youth choir on Sunday evenings. In other cases, youth have gotten their families involved at BUMC because their participation in choir. We welcome any and all youth to the program.

Frequently Asked Questions for Sonshine Choir

for those “*Oh...did I forget to mention...*” moments

Q - How does my youth get involved in Sonshine Ensemble?

A - Contact Zack Liston at zliston@bumc.net or (469) 271-4732. All active Sonshine choir members are invited to join. Eligible members are required to regularly attend Sonshine rehearsals on Sunday evenings as well as the 8:15am Youth Worship Choir on Sunday mornings. Rehearsals are held on Wednesday evenings 8:00-9:00pm in the Chapel, following Student Ministry activities.

Q - What is Share The Spirit and how important is it?

A - The 2017 **Share the Spirit** Event will be held Sunday, March 5th and IS THE Youth Choir fundraiser that benefits choir tours as well as mission trips in Student Ministries. It is extremely vital to our summer tours. Since it is our only fundraiser, all Sonshine members are asked to attend. The evening starts with dinner and live auction for ticket holders and ends with a youth-led worship service in the Sanctuary open to all. Proceeds from the live auction and the love offering collected at the worship service go to offset the cost of youth choir summer tours for regular rehearsal participants. **Share the Spirit** is solely driven by volunteers and all youth choir parents are asked to participate in some way. Contact Julie Morgan at jmorgan@bumc.net to volunteer.

Q - Do I need to let you know if my youth cannot be at rehearsal or sing on Sunday morning?

A - Sure!! We always like our parents and youth to communicate as much as possible. We like to know if you have a conflict, especially if it's a school or sporting event that may prevent several members from participating. Contact Zack at zliston@bumc.net or text him at (469) 271-4732

Frequently Asked Questions for Sonshine Choir

for those “*Oh...did I forget to mention...*” moments

Q - Are there opportunities for my Sonshine member to play an instrument?

A - Yes. Sonshine Choir may have opportunities throughout the year where we are in need of certain instrumentalists for certain songs or events. Patsy Wade, Director of the JoySound Orchestra loves to meet instrumentalists for the orchestra, as well. If your youth plays an instrument, please email James at jwells@bumc.net, Zack at zliston@bumc.net or Patsy at pwade@bumc.net to schedule a time for us to hear you play.

Q - Can my youth bring friends to choir?

A - Absolutely! Not only is it OK, it's highly encouraged and is the life blood of this choir. If you ask some of the current Sonshine members, that's how they got involved - coming with a friend. Even if it's just a one-time visit, please be inviting.

Q - If my youth decides mid-year to become a part of the choir, is it too late?

A - It's never too late. Sonshine Choir works on “semesters”. September - December, we are working on music for worship services and special music for Advent and Christmas. January - May, we are working on music for worship services and tour. It is usually easier for the student if you join at the beginning of a semester, but we are open to new students any time of year.

Q - Does Sonshine Choir have a uniform that they wear?

A - On Sunday mornings, we wear choir robes and members are encouraged to wear something appropriate yet comfortable. The robes have a tendency to be a little hot. For Sonshine Tour and some special events, we often wear our BUMC Red Concert Polo with khaki pants/skirts. The shirt is available through the youth music department.

Q - Who is the youth music staff with which my child will be working?

A - **Zack Liston**, Associate Director of Choral Music (Youth), directs the Sonshine Choir, assisted by **James Wells**, Director of Choral Ministries. **Patsy Wade** is our Youth Choir Accompanist and the Director of JoySound Orchestra. **Julie Morgan** is the Assistant to Music for Youth and Children.

Let's Talk TOUR!

Frequently Asked Questions for Sonshine Tour

for those *“Oh...did I forget to mention...”* moments

Q - How much time do we need to set aside for Sonshine Tour?

A - Two weeks. This year, youth need to be prepared to have July 10th - 23rd available for rehearsal week, tour and Home Concert (July 9th, as well if you are in Sonshine Ensemble or the band). Rehearsal Week and the events leading up to our departure are as much a part of tour as the actual tour week and are mandatory for all tour participants. Please refer back to the ***“Sonshine Rehearsal Week and Tour”*** section of this document found on pages 5 and 6 for a tentative schedule.

Q - How much does it cost to go on Sonshine Tour?

A - It varies from year to year, but in past years has ranged from \$325-\$550. It depends largely on two things.

- 1) The success of our Share the Spirit Fundraiser Event
- 2) The tour location. Some cities are just more expensive to visit than others. Our tour coordinator does an amazing job of spending our dollars wisely and getting the most bang for our buck anywhere we go.
- 3) Your Youth's attendance at Sunday evening rehearsals. 2016 was the first year we were able to offer the REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE INCENTIVE. It's never a guaranteed option from year to year, as the available funds are strictly driven by the success of Share the Spirit. If we are able to offer it again in 2017 and your youth attends Sunday evening rehearsals on a regular and consistent basis, they could be awarded additional funds toward the balance of their tour cost. More details will be communicated regarding this option after Share the Spirit proceeds are determined. Bottom line; your youth is asked to electronically check in each week at Sunday evening rehearsals and we monitor this weekly attendance. Regular attendance throughout the year could mean a discount on your tour cost.

The tour price will be communicated as soon as it is determined. Registration will begin in January with a non-refundable \$50 - \$75 deposit, then subsequent payments can be made toward your balance.

Frequently Asked Questions for Sonshine Tour

for those “Oh...did I forget to mention...” moments

Q - Is there a registration and payment deadline for Sonshine Tour?

A - Yes. All deadlines will be communicated at the time registration becomes available. We try to be as accommodating as possible because we want EVERYONE to experience Sonshine Tour, however, we do have deposits and final number that have to be turned in to university dorms and other vendors several weeks prior to tour departure so we ask that everyone be respectful of these deadlines. There will also be a point when balances are nonrefundable. This date will be communicated, as well.

Q - My youth is unable to go in tour. Can he/she still be involved in Rehearsal Week?

A - Absolutely. We encourage all who have a conflict with tour to come to the pre-tour and post-tour events including, rehearsal week, the Friday evening Nashville Rescue Mission worship service, BUMC worship services the Sunday after we return and Home Concert.

Q - What are the performance clothes youth need to have for Sonshine Tour?

A -

- **The BUMC Red Concert Polo.** This shirt will be ordered by BUMC. It does not have to be purchased in advance unless we use it for other performances, but you will be notified if we do that. Contact Julie Morgan prior to tour.
- **Fall Student Ministries T-Shirt.** At the Youth Kick-Off, all students will be given the BUMC Student Ministries T-Shirt for the 2016/2017 year. **Hang on to it.** We usually incorporate that into a uniform for Sonshine Tour. If you miss the Youth Fall Kick-Off, ask any youth staff and they will be happy to get you one.
- **Share the Spirit T-Shirt.** In March, all Sonshine members participating in Share the Spirit will be given a t-shirt specifically designed for the event to be worn for the youth-led worship service. **Hang on to it.** We will incorporate that into a uniform for Sonshine Tour.
- **Tour T-Shirt.** This is a t-shirt that will be given out during rehearsal week specifically designed for our summer tour.

Frequently Asked Questions for Sonshine Tour

for those “Oh...did I forget to mention...” moments

- **White Button-Down Shirt/Blouse.** All male tour participants will be asked to pack a white button-down long sleeve shirt. All female tour participants are asked to pack a white sleeved blouse. These will be incorporated with khaki pants/skirts as a tour uniform. Ties will be provided to the guys.
- **Khaki Pants/Skirts.** Guys and girls are asked to bring Khaki pants. Ladies may bring khaki skirts, as well. Guys, please don't wear skirts :)
- **Nice Blue Jeans.** In good condition, no holes, not too faded.

Q - How can I be considered for Sonshine Tour Parent Chaperone?

A - This is one of the most rewarding experiences you will have. In any given year, there may be more chaperone requests than there are spots available, so consider the following...

- **GET YOUR NAME IN EARLY!** We, literally, start getting chaperone requests more than a year in advance, so let Julie Morgan know your interested in being considered.
- **BE INVOLVED WITH THE CHOIR THROUGHOUT THE YEAR** It's important that the youth know who you are and see you as an adult leader prior to tour. Help with Sunday evening rehearsals and Sunday morning warm ups, chaperone winter retreat, etc.
- **VOLUNTEER** for the *Share the Spirit Event*
- **COME PREPARED TO WORK.** Every chaperone will have responsibilities in the planning and execution of Sonshine Tour and rehearsal week. We start building our chaperone team early so that, by the time tour arrives, we have already established a good working relationship together.
- Chaperones pay the same price as students for tour
- Contact Julie Morgan at jmorgan@bumc.net to obtain an application. It's a simple document we ask all who are interested to complete that give us an idea of your gifts to help make Sonshine Tour a success. We want to make sure we pair you with a job that matches your gifts.

Q - I'm unable to chaperone Sonshine Tour, but would still like to be involved. What can I do to help?

A - There are several ways to help. Please refer to the “How Can I Help?” section starting on page 7 of this packet.

Frequently Asked Questions for Sonshine Tour

for those “*Oh...did I forget to mention...*” moments

Q - If my youth has special dietary needs, is that a problem on tour?

A - Absolutely no problem. Our sustenance on tour comes from a combination of university cafes, restaurants and churches; all are used to providing many choices when it comes to groups our size. If there is a specific dietary need, please give us details upon registration.

Q - Do any medical personnel go on Sonshine Tour?

A - Yes. Each year, we ask either a doctor or nurse to accompany us on tour with necessary medical supplies. During registration, you will be asked to provide specific medical information for your youth including allergies and medication. Please be as specific as possible. If you need to discuss your child's personal information with the doctor/nurse, there will be an opportunity to do that during rehearsal week.

Q - How important is the Medical Release Form on Tour?

A - It's very important, in fact, it's a requirement to go on tour. No one ever thinks it will happen to them, but in the event of an emergency, if we can go to the hospital with this form completed, it will expedite the process tremendously. *We'd rather have it and not need it than to need it and not have it.* It's a good idea to go ahead and complete this form, have it notarized and turned in to the Student Ministries Department at the beginning of the semester and, that way, you don't have to worry about it. We keep it on file and it's good for all youth retreats and tours. We have a notary at the church who will be happy to help you. Just give the receptionist a call.

Q - Are there any other forms that need to be completed for tour?

A - Possibly. It depends on the activities on tour. Some activities and universities require a waiver of their own in order to participate, over and above our own medical release form. Any necessary forms that need to be completed will be given to you well in advance. We ask that you get these turned in to us as soon as possible, as they usually have to be mailed back to the company prior to our departure.

Thanks for taking the time to read this document. It is designed to answer your most pressing questions, but if we've left something out, please feel free to contact us with any questions left unanswered. We're glad you're a part of our youth choir community.