

Hello parents of 7th-12th grade students!

If you are new to BUMC, please find some big picture information on our ministry in this letter including our vision for ministry, statement of why we need and use volunteers, and information on how we communicate to let families know what is going on.

**Our Vision**

One of our primary goals is to partner with you to help your student(s) develop a faith in Christ that will stick with them ***beyond*** High School and their time in our ministry. Sadly, recent research suggests that as many as 50% of youth ministry graduates will fail to stick with their faith in college and beyond (www.stickyfaith.org). There are important markers we can learn from the 50% who DO have a “sticky faith” beyond high school:

* They have a support network of faithful adults who care about them, pray for them, and walk with them on their Christian journey.
* They have been challenged to use their gifts as mentors for students younger than themselves.
* They have served God by serving other people in their communities and beyond.
* Their parents and families have made matters of faith a priority and a point of conversation at home.

This desire to see your student(s) have a faith that sticks beyond their time in our ministry informs everything we do in our ministry, from lessons in Sunday School to service opportunities both inside the church (like Church Now) and beyond (like tutoring at Harvest Hands or 61st Ave.) as well as small groups and youth choirs to mission trips, retreats, and choir tours. You can read more about how and why we program the way we do on the back of the Program Overview sheet!

Additionally, our Student Ministry L3 Leadership Team (comprised of youth program staff and some key student ministry adult volunteers) is continuing to meet regularly to partner in ministry and leadership together as we set strategies and goals for developing substantial faith in our teenagers.

**Volunteer Needs**

Our ministry depends on volunteer leaders, and our goal is that 100% of our parents will be involved in *some way* within our ministry. There are ***many*** and diverse ways to serve in our ministry throughout the year (both working with teens directly and behind the scenes), we hope you’ll consider using your gifts and find *a* *way* to serve. Our 2016-2017 parent commitment interest sign ups can be found here: <https://form.jotform.com/52035162622142>

**Communications**

Regarding our communications, we email a Parent Newsletter and Student Newsletter with the upcoming youth schedule, event registrations, and other announcements *every* Thursday. We also send out weekly text messages to students and parents along with posts on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter! All of our videos and Sunday night teachings are also posted on YouTube. To keep you informed, please contact Rosanne Schenck at [rschenck@bumc.net](mailto:rschenck@bumc.net) to add you to our email list. For links to our YouTube pages and social media, go to <http://www.bumc.net/youth/social-media/>.

Please know that there is an outstanding Student Ministry Staff here to be a resource for you and for your student(s) as we work together to help our students grow in their faith in Christ. Don’t hesitate to contact us! Thank you for allowing your middle and high school students to be a part of our ministry here at Brentwood UMC. We look forward to working with you in the coming weeks, months, and years!

In Christ,

Lindsay Brooks  
BUMC Director of Student Ministry