



# STUDENT MINISTRY: SO WHAT?



## MISSION STATEMENT:

Connecting students to God, community, and purpose.

## HOW?

We believe in building relationships with students. That earns us the right to share the Gospel with them. It's through knowing Jesus that we expect students to come to know our Lord, learn how important it is to have and live in community, and to understand what their purpose is. Of course, dodgeball and shaving cream help, too!

## SUNDAY MORNING

We have options for students to get involved on Sunday morning:

- Sunday school classes at 9:30 and 11:00
- Serving as a teacher or helper on the kids hall
- Student choir, hand bells, and orchestra play frequently on Sunday mornings.

## WESLEY STUDENTS

Sunday Night, Wesley Students gathers at 6:00pm for snack supper, fun games, meaningful worship, and a relevant message. This is our main weekly event, and a great starting point for students to come for the first time. Pickup begins at 7:30pm.

## WESLEY CHOIR

The Wesley Choir is open to students 6th-12th grades and rehearses each Sunday from 5:00-6:00 pm in the Choir Room. They lead in traditional worship on a regular basis and participate in the Christmas and Easter programs along with our adult choir and orchestra. The Wesley Choir has also previously presented Into the Woods Jr and Shrek, Jr. Contact Heather Peacock at [hpeacock45@gmail.com](mailto:hpeacock45@gmail.com) for information.

In addition to the Wesley Choir, students may also join the adult choir for seasonal choir music preparation. Contact Jeff Wickell at [jeff@wesleyumc.net](mailto:jeff@wesleyumc.net) for information.

## STUDENT HANDBELL CHOIR

Our Student Handbell Choir meets during the school year on Wednesdays from 4:00-5:00 in the Handbell Room. Neither music reading ability nor experience is required to join this motivated group of musicians. Contact Jeff Wickell for information.

## CHURCH ORCHESTRA

High school instrumentalists are encouraged to join our church instrumental ensemble which is a great way to participate periodically throughout the year. Rehearsals are scheduled as needed and generally take place on Sunday night in the sanctuary following Sunday night Student activities. Contact Jeff Wickell for information.

## STAY IN TOUCH!

We have multiple ways you can stay in touch with us!

- To see pictures from trips and events as well as get up to date information, follow us on Instagram and Facebook @wesleystudents.
- You can receive text updates by texting "WESLEYSTUDENTS" to 40650.
- You can visit our website for an up to date calendar and trip information
- Give us your email so we can make sure you'll get email notifications



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# STUDENT MINISTRY: FAQ



## WHAT IS SNACK SUPPER?

We think there is something holy about sharing a meal together! Jesus set this example by frequently eating with sinners. Even his last moments were spent around the table with his disciples. Therefore, we offer a snack supper beginning right at 6pm as part of our weekly time together. This gives students a chance to share food and time together before we worship. We ask 2 families to cover one Sunday per year as to lessen the burden. Receipts for groceries/meals can be turned in for reimbursement OR be given as a donation (which is tax deductible).

## IF I HAVE A QUESTION OR JUST WANT TO TALK TO SOMEONE, WHO SHOULD I CALL?

For registrations, payments and other logistical questions, contact our Student Ministries Coordinator, Ellyn Gilbert @ [ellyn@wesleyumc.net](mailto:ellyn@wesleyumc.net) or call 706.869.0888

For any other middle school or high school questions, you can contact our Director of Student Ministries, Aaron Talbott @ [aaron@wesleyumc.net](mailto:aaron@wesleyumc.net)

## MY STUDENT WANTS TO ATTEND ONE OF THE RETREATS BUT WE CANNOT AFFORD TO PAY THE FULL COST. CAN WE GET FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE?

We want to eliminate any hindrance that could keep a student from attending a retreat or event because we believe retreats, trips, camps, and events are extremely important in what we do within our Student Ministry. Please contact Aaron and we will work with you in whatever way we are able.

## HOW DO I BEGIN VOLUNTEERING WITH OUR STUDENTS?

We love this question! If you are interested in serving as a Sunday Night volunteer or a Small Group Leader, contact Aaron and he will be in touch.

## WHAT IS A SMALL GROUP?

Small groups are groups of students, separated by age and gender that meet both on and off our church campuses in homes and in the community. These groups take the next step in doing life together by committing to a single group, consistently praying for one another and learning more about what it means to be a part of the Church. These students make a commitment to attend worship, consistently meet with their small group, and to live out their faith through service in our church and our community.

High School small groups meet throughout the week at various times. Middle School Small groups meet on Wednesdays at 6pm.

## WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?

Confirmation is a study designed for students and their families. It is a rite of the church, symbolizing your child's decision to become a follower of Jesus by intent. As a conformed follower of Jesus, s/he assumes personal responsibility of their faith which includes becoming a full member of our community of faith. Classes begin in August and ends with a celebration in early December.



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# STUDENT MINISTRY: WHAT ABOUT TRIPS?



## HOW DO I SIGN MY STUDENT UP FOR A TRIP?

You can sign up your student by going to [www.wesleyumc.net](http://www.wesleyumc.net) and clicking on our “Age Groups” tab. You’ll see “Students” in the dropdown menu, which will direct you to our student ministry page. Registration links, as well as trip details and information will be located there.

Contact Ellyn Gilbert ([ellyn@wesleyumc.net](mailto:ellyn@wesleyumc.net)) for questions regarding the sign-up process for all trips or how to sign up in person.

## WHAT FORMS DOES MY STUDENT NEED TO ATTEND A TRIP?

Wesley Students Permission Form

This is a parental consent form and liability release that must be notarized. Every Student must have one on file with the church before any trip. You only have to do this form once each school year and they are good from August to July.

## TRIP-SPECIFIC FORMS

We do attend certain events that require forms specific to the organization hosting us. These forms will be mailed to you from our Student Ministries Staff in response to your signing up with payment.

## WHAT IF THE TRIP FILLS UP?

If the trip fills up, there will be a waiting list. No money or forms are required in order for a student to be placed on the waiting list. If a spot opens, we will contact in the order students were placed on the waiting list.

## HOW LONG DO SIGN-UPS LAST?

Sign-ups will last until there are no spots remaining for the trip OR until the deadline we have set (this varies for each retreat). The rate you pay may vary according to the date it is turned in.

**Early Bird Rate:** For some trips, there may be a discounted rate for each trip available for students who sign up early! The dates and rate will be listed in the trip information. If a deposit is required, it will be non-refundable.

**Regular Rate:** For trips with an Early Bird rate, there will be a regular rate set for students signing up after the Early Bird date has passed. If a deposit is required, it will be non-refundable.

## WHO CHAPERONES THE TRIPS?

The Student Ministry Staff are always the first staff members in attendance on each trip. Sunday night volunteers and small group leaders are the second list of adults we pull from because of the priceless time they can have to further develop relationships with students. These are also adults who give up their time, energy, and resources throughout the year in order to serve our students! If we are still in need of other adults beyond regular volunteers and small group leaders, we will pull from other staff members and parent chaperones.

We adhere to Safe Sanctuaries that requires us to have a specific ratio of adults to students. We also require that every adult attending retreats and working with students has a background check on file with our church.



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# STUDENT MINISTRY: MAJOR EVENTS



**FALL RETREAT:** October 12-14th, 2018

**CONFIRMATION RETREAT:** November 30 - December 1st, 2018

**HIGH SCHOOL WINTER RETREAT:** February 15 - 18th, 2019

**MIDDLE SCHOOL BELIEVE CONFERENCE:** March 15-16th, 2019

**HIGH SCHOOL GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP:** June 15-24th (Approx) 2019

**HIGH SCHOOL RIVER OF LIFE:** July - July 10th - 14th

**MIDDLE SCHOOL WEST VIRGINIA MISSION TRIP:** July 23rd - 28th, 2019