

WELCOME!

7th-12th Grade

STRAWBRIDGE
STUDENTS



WELCOME TO STUDENT MINISTRY

We would love to have you join us at any and all of our Student Ministry gatherings. We are a Student Ministry that gets involved with the church at every level and welcomes all to be a part of it.

We hope to see you there!

-The Strawbridge Students

EXPECTATIONS

- Be kind and be respectful to everyone. Young, old, sibling, stranger, everyone is made in the image of God and deserves kindness.
- Introduce yourself, make new friends, cliques are no fun.
- Participate actively in small group discussions & activities. We're all here to grow in our faith!
- Clean up after yourself. Sometimes we all need a little help, but we're all capable of taking care of our own trash and keeping our shared spaces clean and inviting!

If you're not sure, ASK!

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Great Commission

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. -Matthew 28:19-20

UMC Mission Statement

The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

UMC Vision Statement

The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.

Wesley's 3 Simple Rules

Do No Harm

Do Good

Stay In Love With God

A Spirit of Hesed

Hesed is a rich Hebrew word often translated as "steadfast love," "loyal love," "mercy," or "loving-kindness". More than a mere emotion, it is an action-oriented love rooted in a committed relationship, going above and beyond what is expected or deserved.

WHAT TO BRING

- ☐ Your Bible! It's not decoration, it's a workbook! Take notes in it, highlight it, read from it!
- ☐ A willingness to learn. Whether it's a game night or bible study. There's so much to learn about the people and world around us.
- ☐ Questions! Asking questions is truly a sign of being alive, not just physically, but being alive in your faith journey.

ADVICE FROM OUR CURRENT STUDENTS AND "ALUMNI"!

"Be yourself & have fun!"

"Ask for help when you need it. Doesn't matter if it's a question about the bible or you need a ride to church. People will show up for you."

"Embrace the change and just be yourself!"

"Bring your actual bible, mine is full of notes over the years and it is so helpful to look where I started!"

"Keep showing up! It's the best way to make friends and form connections!"

"Talk to EVERYONE! You'll be surprised by how much we all have in common."

"Don't be embarrassed to try something new or to look silly."

"Find a way to plug in. If it's music, a/v, crochet, retreats, bible study or AYM."

"Everyone there loves you, supports you, and will always have your back!"

"Be yourself and be kind to everyone."

"Consistency is key. Not just for making friends, but for your faith journey. It's a lot of fun and it's a lot of learning about yourself and God"

"Always invite Kristen to your school events!"

"Make friends with people of all ages, don't stick to just your grade level"

"People really do want to get to know you, don't be afraid to share!"

"Go to everything, talk to people, bring friends!"

"Show up & put yourself out there."

Not a single person in this youth group will laugh at you or judge you for simply being yourself"

WHAT EXACTLY IS STUDENT MINISTRY?

Student Ministry is more than pizza & dodgeball. (I mean, we still do that BUT it's so much more!!)

Student Ministry is typically how the Church refers to its members between 12-18 but it can look like a lot of different things that aren't limited to "Student Events". We serve as Ushers, Greeters, Church Council Members, Chancel Choir Singers, A/V Techs, Family Promise Volunteers, and so much more. The Student Ministry is a place to belong, to ask questions, to figure out who you are, to form friendships, and to name and claim YOUR faith.

Sometimes it looks like reading scripture together on a Sunday morning or Wednesday evening, other times it looks like building wheelchair ramps, visiting the museums, or even sitting around the table creating art together. We laugh, we sing, we cry together, we support, we ask brave questions, we build one another up, and we welcome everyone who joins us!

WHAT'S UP WITH THE STRAWBERRY?

As a Student Ministry we have gone to many events with multiple Youth Groups and on several occasions our church name was misread as "Strawberry UMC". After more than a few times of that, our Student Leadership Team made us a logo and embraced an identity of a youth group that strives its best to embody the fruit of the spirit! What started as something we chuckled at, became a reminder of how we represent Christ in our everyday lives!

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." - Galatians 5:22-23

DIGITAL CONNECTIONS



Strawbridge UMC Students



@strawbridgestudents



linktr.ee/SUMCStudents



Text "Hello" to 833-705-6277

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

What is the Student Leadership Team?

The SLT is a team that represent students in grades 7-12. The SLT is responsible for giving guidance and leadership to the student ministry, specifically the planning and implementation of Youth Fellowship, mission trips, and retreats, so that they align with the mission and vision of the church, and our theology of youth ministry.

Our Theology of Youth Ministry

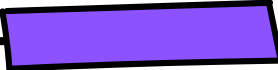
To create Christ centered incarnational community to foster Christian identity through theological exploration: discovery/formation, vocational discernment, empowerment of youth through theological education, spiritual formation, and service to others.

What is the time commitment for the SLT?

SLT members are expected to give a minimum of 2 hours of service per month to the church. SLT members are expected to attend a minimum of 6 of the 10 monthly meetings (typically 1 Sunday afternoon a month Jan-May & August-Dec), be active in Youth Fellowship, Sunday School, Worship, and Bible study. Additionally, SLT members may be asked to serve as youth liaisons to specific church councils and teams, attending those meetings as needed. SLT members meet informally on a weekly basis with the Director of Student Ministries, to discuss the overall youth ministry and specific upcoming projects.

What are the different ways the SLT serves?

Fellowship/Outreach works toward planning and coordinating fellowship activities such as weekly fellowship, special events and retreats, keeping up with current members and visitors of the programs, and assimilating students into the youth group. Worship is responsible for planning and coordinating worship for events such as Student Ministry Sunday, worship during retreats, etc. Missions & Service is responsible for helping plan yearly summer mission trips, service projects and outreach in the community. Students will be appointed specific weekly duties to make sure that our fellowship/outreach, worship, and missions and service goals are met.



COMMON STUDENT MINISTRY EVENTS

Sunday School

Students, **7th-12th grade**, will gather together in the Student Gathering Space for the first few minutes of the Sunday School Hour for Announcements. From there, we split into age-level classes to read and discuss scripture in community.

Youth Fellowship (YF)

Students, **7th-12th grade**, are welcome and Youth Fellowship is a great place to bring friends as it is a relaxed atmosphere. It's where life and faith intersect, as we seek to connect with God and one another. Each week, we will examine a different topic through fellowship, games, worship, and devotion. A typical evening of youth fellowship includes a student-led devotion, followed by a game or activity and closing with a group prayer.

Mid-Week Bible Study

Students **6th-12th** Grade join us on Wednesday evenings during the school year. During this time we break into small groups to focus on discipleship. Mid-Week Bible Study is a chance for students to go deeper as we read and discuss God's word together. Our group will read through books of the bible, discuss practical faith application for everyday life, and on occasion play games together.

Confirmation

Students in **8th Grade** will spend their school year in their own Sunday School class along with additional gatherings as they study scripture, what it means to be a United Methodist, and take on the responsibility of their own faith. Additionally, we invite students who have decided to wait to be confirmed to join us in our "Refresher" classes offered periodically.

CONTACT INFO



I am here to walk alongside your student (and YOU) as they navigate faith and life as a teenager. I may not have all of the answers, but I am always willing to look for them together. I also love supporting your student in their extra-curriculars, whether it's sports, music, theater, academic celebrations, FFA, whatever it is, let me know about it! Sometimes I don't know about the events until after they've happened. If you want me to add it to my calendar, a text or an email is your best chance; I can't show up for things I don't know about!

If you have questions or need extra support, you should always feel free to reach out. Unless it is an emergency, I am unlikely to respond to calls/texts after 9 PM on any given evening, but I will get back to you as soon as I am able. Additionally, I will typically respond to my work email during office hours Monday-Thursday.

I encourage parents and guardians to contact me with any concerns or questions.

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