



Youth Ministry Transition



Listen first.
Discuss.
Develop a Ministry Blueprint.
Build a sustainable, healthy ministry.

Dear Church Family,

Remember these babies? (*See pictures on back of page.*) Years ago, when parents brought each of these cherubs to the Baptismal Font, the Church promised to help raise these children in the faith. Over the years, many have had a hand in their faith formation as Sunday School teachers, retreat sponsors, Vacation Bible School volunteers, manna bag buyers, and general encouragers and friends. We thank you for taking an active role in helping our kids grow into active, faithful followers of Christ!



Following the “Who We Are Project” last fall, a strong desire was expressed among the congregation to invest energy and resources into growing our ministry with children and youth. This spring, we are undergoing an intentional transition period with our youth ministry. In January, Michelle Cato stepped back from her role as Director of Youth Ministries to pursue a career in education. Instead of immediately seeking to hire a new Youth Director, our three Pastors are leading the youth ministry in the interim. We are using this time to intentionally recruit new volunteers for youth ministry. These new volunteers, along with those who have already been helping for years, will form the essential support base for a new Youth Director.

For the next step, our Youth Ministry team has invited a consultant team from **Ministry Architects** to complete a full assessment of our Youth Ministry.

On April 2-3, Ministry Architects will hold focused listening groups throughout the afternoon and evening with a variety of youth ministry stakeholders. We hope to see participation in those groups from a broad spectrum of parents, volunteers, youth, parents of future youth, and those who simply care about youth ministry. After two days of listening, our consultants will present their report in an open meeting on April 4 at 6:30 p.m. Based on what they have learned through listening and through their expertise with other youth ministries around the country, they will share our assets and challenges and offer a blueprint of recommendations as we move forward.

All are invited to find the group that best fits you and come share with Ministry Architects your insights, frustrations, and dreams for youth ministry at FUMC! Come make your voice heard!

APRIL 2, SUNDAY
Ministry Architects On-Site Assessment
Room 213, Sanctuary Building

- 12:30 p.m. General Church Membership
- 2:00 p.m. SPRC
- 3:30 p.m. Youth
- 4:30 p.m. Youth Parents (*Youth in supervised activities*)
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Volunteers/Teachers

Blessings,

Taylor

THEN *and* NOW



Hart Black



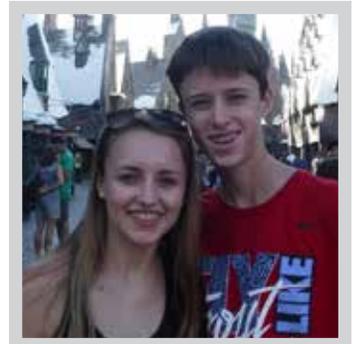
Abby Buchanan



Peyton Ivey



Ryan Schuelke



OUR CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation is underway for our youth entering high school in the fall, a significant milestone in their lives. Confirmation is an important step in their faith journey. The word “confirmation” literally means “to make firm.” It is closely linked to, and dependent on:

- God’s prevenient grace;
- The sacrament of baptism;
- Christian nurturing by family and faith community.

The purpose of Confirmation Class is to prepare youth to respond to God’s grace and to take up the responsibilities of Christian Discipleship. This preparation is not only informational, but also formational. During the spring semester, confirmands will experience an environment of love and acceptance; receive an overview of the faith and what it means to live a Christian life; experience relationships, both in small groups and with adult mentors; and experience mission and service.

The Confirmation Class will be confirmed during the 11:00 a.m. worship service on **Sunday, April 23.**

MINISTRY ARCHITECTS

Ministry Architects helps churches across the US build sustainable, healthy ministries. The process includes:

- **Listening** – Process begins with an onsite ministry assessment. Stakeholders are heard and valued;
- **Questions** – Exploratory questions are asked to ensure the full picture is discussed;
- **Design** – A strategic plan is developed that honors the vision created while addressing the challenges and systems that need to be in place;
- **Construction** – A month-by-month plan is created during the assessment and will aid in the start of the plan while onboarding a new Youth Director.

To learn more, visit www.ministryarchitects.com.

