



STUDENT MINISTRY

welcome packet



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8955 Columbia Ave, Munster, IN, 46321 • 219.838.3131 • wpcmunster.org
Rev. Quincy Worthington, Pastor • Rev. Beau Brown, Associate Pastor



Welcome!

Hello, my name is Beau Brown, and I am the Associate Pastor for Youth and Mission at Westminster. On behalf of our Leadership Team, I want to welcome you and your student to the WPC Student Ministry.

We're very excited to have your family as part of our student ministry. Our mission is to help students integrate Christian faith and service into all aspects of their lives by partnering with families and forming inter-generational relationships.

This packet is full of information to help you and your student plug in to our ministry and continue developing supportive relationships with other students and adult volunteers.

Included here, you will find our ministry philosophy, our calendar of major and regular events, our leadership team, and other information about our youth ministry.

Before you get started, here are a few of our commitments:

1. **We are Christ-centered.** We hope to help students form a deeper relationship and understanding of Jesus so that they can develop an identity rooted in God's love for them and a desire to share this love through serving others.
2. **We are Student-centered.** We plan our ministry around the emotional, intellectual and physical needs of young people. We also work to accommodate any students with special needs, so they can be an authentic part of the community.
3. **We are family-centered.** Many studies have now shown that the most important spiritual influence in a student's life is his/her immediate family. So, we want to supplement and support your spiritual guidance, not replace it.

our philosophy of ministry

Our purpose is to accompany students...

We want to form healthy relationships with students and walk beside them as they navigate the journey of adolescence.

as they integrate Christian faith...

The search for personal identity is a major aspect of the teenage years. Many students begin to question everything at this point in their lives. A more mature understanding and practice of faith is a very positive part of personal growth.

and service...

As we read in the 2nd chapter of James in the New Testament, faith and practice go hand in hand. Belief naturally inspires service to others, especially victims of injustice. We try to emphasize this strong connection in everything we do.

into all aspects of their lives...

We trust that as students develop stronger identities as followers of Christ, they will become committed to sharing the love of Christ at home, in school, during extra-curricular activities, and at their workplaces. As St. Francis has been quoted as saying, "Preach the gospel everywhere. If necessary, use words."

by partnering with families...

Throughout the year, we will have opportunities for families to spend time together without having to worry about all the details of home life. In addition, we are always available to offer pastoral care and guidance to students, parents, or entire families.

and forming intergenerational relationships.

We are convinced that building relationships across generational lines is important in seeing what faith looks like in the long run. Having a network of friends that go beyond one's immediate peer group enables a broader sense of perspective and a greater understanding of life's journey.

Therefore, WPC Student Ministries exists to:

accompany students as they integrate Christian faith and service into all aspects of their lives by partnering with families and forming intergenerational relationships.

our leadership team

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Wanna join the team?

Interested in helping out with either Middle School or High School students? If your answer is “yes,” then, first off, you’re awesome! Volunteering your time to develop relationships with students is an incredible way to practice your faith! It’s challenging, but also really, really fun! There are a lot of different ways you can be involved with the WPC Student Ministry. All you have to do is contact Pastor Beau to get the ball rolling. Either send an email, call, text, or Facebook message.

our programs

Wednesday Night Middlers || **WED** | **Gr 6-8 from 4-6 pm**



WNM is our mid-week gathering in the South Hall. Every middle school student is welcome to hang-out regardless of where they are in their faith journey. No preregistration necessary; just show up! Each time we meet, we will have time for food, games, friendship, and discussion. Students are encouraged to bring their friends each Wednesday. Every week, our adult volunteers show up to encourage your student. They are fun, passionate and caring adults who love to spend meaningful time with young people! WNM is a great place to

bring a new friend, find out about upcoming student ministry events and activities, and belong to a group that is excited about loving God and others!

High School Volleyball & Bible Study || **THURS** | **Gr 9-12 from 5:30-7:30 PM**



The Christian Youth Volleyball League (CYVL) has become a great way for high school students from across the Region to connect with each other. Everybody is welcome to play, and there are always opportunities to be involved without playing. Following the volleyball games, we gather to relax and think theologically about our lives through discussion, Bible study, prayer, and more.

Sunday Morning Donuts || **SUN** | **Gr 6-12 from 9-10 AM**



Of course we have more than donuts, but Munster Donuts are the best in the world! On all but the first Sunday of the month, middle and high school students are welcome to join us. Sometimes, we study the Bible. Sometimes, we watch Netflix and discuss the theological aspects of our favorite shows. Sometimes, we make art and pray together. Most of the time, we play table tennis and pool. I know it's early, but it's worth it!



STUDENT MINISTRY

major events calendar

2017-18

August	13 Worship & Fun at the Beach (9am-3pm)
	27 Car Wash Fundraiser (8am - 12pm)
	30 Youth Kick-off Event (5:30 - 7:30 pm)
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September	6 Middlers Begin Meeting (4-6 pm)
	7 Seniors Begin Meeting (5:30-7:30 pm)
	27 Purdue Cal vs. St Francis (No Mid. Youth Group - come to game!)
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October	8 Paintball (12 - 5 pm)
	13-14 Lock-In (7 pm - 12 pm)
	21 Eric Estill Memorial Run (Volunteers Needed, Free Spaghetti)
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November	3-5 Great Banquet Awakening (Sr. High Only)
	18 Family Game Night
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December	11 Living Nativity and Soup Kitchen
	22 Youth Christmas Party (7 - 9 pm)
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January	4 Ice Skating, Valparaiso (Leave 10:30 am)
	20-21 Senior High Ski Trip
	28 Confirmation Begins
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February	2-4 Confirmation Retreat @ Geneva Center
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March	2-3 Middle School Retreat (Timber Ridge Lodge - Lake Geneva)
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April	1 Easter
	TBA Volleyball Sunday
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May	20 Pentecost (Confirmation Sunday)
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June	3 Graduation Sunday
	TBA Senior High Mission Trip
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July	TBA Middle School Mission Trip

SIGN UP FOR ALL EVENTS AT BIT.LY/WPCSTUDENTS

staying connected

Remind || www.remind.com/join/bgk79

This is the best way to keep up with what's going on with our student ministry. Remind is a great that allows anyone in a private group to post photos, announcements, or start group chats. Notifications come straight to your cell phone. You can sign up at the above web address.

WPC Students Website || bit.ly/wpcstudents

You can find calendars, forms, and ministry information at this site.

Facebook Page || www.facebook.com/wpcstudent

You can "like" us on Facebook to get access to all kinds of great information: invitations to events, devotionals, pictures and videos from past events, and more.

Instagram || [wpcstudent](https://www.instagram.com/wpcstudent)

This is a private account where we'll post photos and videos of our students doing really great things (i.e. feeding the hungry, spiking a volleyball, etc.)

Westminster's Main Informational Table

At the information table, you'll find calendars, registration forms, flyers for upcoming events, and anything else you might need.

If all else fails, call or email || 219-838-3131 || bbrown1@gmail.com

frequently asked questions

How Do I Register My Student for an Event or Activity?

One of the coolest things about our ministry is that we frequently host different activities, events and retreats. At different times throughout the year, your student will have the opportunity to get out of Munster with a group of students and adult volunteers to learn about and serve God in different ways. Some events are day excursions. Some events are weekend-long retreats or conferences. Either way, we have a simple process for you to register your student for a Faith Student Ministries event:

- 1. Go to our website and click on *Events*.** This is probably the simplest way to register. You can fill in all information and pay any fees this way.
- 2. Pick up a promotional piece for the activity or event.** For each event, we will have a half-sheet promotional card available at student ministry events and at the church Information Table. This card will feature important information for the event, such as a schedule, a packing list, some contact information, the costs and the sign up deadline. Please keep this form to refer to as the activity or event draws near.
- 3. Hand in your Form along with a check or cash.** Please turn in the Event Registration & Medical Release Form with your form of payment. If you are writing a check, make it out to “Westminster Presbyterian Church” and write the event name in the memo field. If you are paying with cash, please enclose it in an envelope with your student’s name written on the front. If you want to request a scholarship, please designate that on your Event Registration Form. You can mail in your required documents or put them in Beau’s staff mailbox (located by the main offices).

How Do I Register My Student for mid-week and Sunday programs?

Simple: just have them show up! There is no pre-registration required. If your student has never attended one of these programs before, we would love for them to fill out an “I’m New” card. This way, we will get a chance get to know your student, and be able to communicate better with you.

How Do I Apply for a Scholarship for my Student?

We want every student who is part of the youth group to have the opportunity to go to as many events as they would like. We trust that parents will try to fully pay for their student’s involvement. When this is not possible, there are resources to assist those in need. A scholarship must be requested by the student or her/his parent in writing by filling out a Scholarship Request Form found in the “Forms” section of the website at www.wpcmunster.org/youth. Turn that form in with your Event Registration Form. If you are interested in contributing to the youth scholarship fund, please call or email Beau.

How Do I Become a Leader with WPC Student Ministries?

Want to work with students? Great! Send Beau an email at bbrown1@gmail.com to get the ball rolling.



WPC Student Ministry

Release & Consent Form
(Please complete and return to Beau's mailbox)

STUDENT INFORMATION

Student Name: _____ Age: _____ Birth Date: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Student Cell Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Cell: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Cell: _____

MEDICAL INFORMATION

Medical Insurance Company: _____ Policy #: _____

Check the following areas of concern for this student. If necessary, add another page with details:

1. For your student's safety and our knowledge, is he/she a:

Good swimmer Fair swimmer non-swimmer

2. Does your student have any allergies (i.e. pollens, medications, food, insect bites)? Yes No

If yes, please describe allergy and treatment: _____

3. Has your child ever experienced any of the following?

Asthma Epilepsy/seizure disorder Heart trouble Diabetes Disability

How can we be most responsive to your student's needs? _____

4. Should this student's activities be restricted for any reason? Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

Current Medications	Dosage	Frequency	Reason

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK, MEDICAL AND MEDIA RELEASE

Activities may include, but are not limited to: cookouts, boating, water skiing, swimming, basketball, games in the park, soccer, ice skating, volleyball, baseball, camping, downhill skiing, snowboarding, hiking, biking, concerts, miniature golf, hayrides.

Note, if you desire to limit your child's participation in any activity or event, please submit your wishes in writing below.

My Child is limited from the following activities & events:

This consent form gives permission to seek whatever medical attention is deemed necessary, and releases the Church and its staff of any liability against personal losses of named child.

I/We the undersigned have legal custody of the student named above, a minor, and have given our consent for him/her to attend the activity and event (except those noted above) being organized by Westminster Presbyterian Church (hereinafter the "Church"). I/We understand that there are inherent risks involved in any ministry or athletic event, and I/we hereby release the Church, its pastors, employees, agents, and volunteer workers from any and all liability for any injury, loss, or damage to person or property that may occur during the course of my/our child's involvement. In the event that he/she is injured and requires the attention of a doctor, I/we consent to any reasonable medical treatment as deemed necessary by a licensed physician. In the event treatment is required from a physician and/or hospital personnel designated by the Church, I/we agree to hold such person free and harmless of any claims, demands, or suits for damages arising from the giving of such consent. I/We also acknowledge that we will be ultimately responsible for the cost of any medical care should the cost of that medical care not be reimbursed by the health insurance provider. Further, I/we affirm that the health insurance information provided above is accurate at this date and will, to the best of my/our knowledge, still be in force for the student named above. I authorize the Church to use photos or videos taken of my child at Church events for documentary, legal, and promotional purposes.

Parent/guardian's signature: _____ Date: _____