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Benton FUMC Youth Ministries Handbook



Who We Are

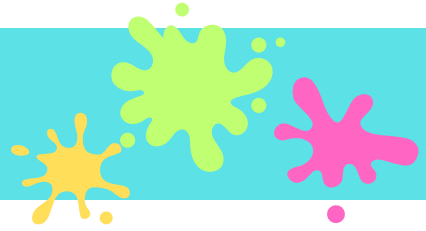
Our Youth Ministries at Benton First United Methodist Church serve students, grades 5th-12th, in Saline County and beyond. Our Goal is to help students develop and grow in their personal relationship with Jesus Christ and share God's love with the world.



Our Values

Our Value	What It means
FAITH	We seek to be continually growing in our faith and as a follower of Jesus.
GRACE	We believe that all people are loved and valued by God and should feel supported, valued, and loved in our community.
INCLUSIVITY	We are a space where all people, no matter what, are welcomed.
FELLOWSHIP	We have fun with our friends while building respectful relationships with ourselves, our peers, our adults, and Christ.
EXPERIENCES	We value the relationship building, faith building, and new experiences that Youth Trips and Events can bring.
POSITIVE VOICES	We believe our voices can be one of the most powerful ways to share the Love of Christ and will focus on building others up, sharing our stories, and communicating with one another without negativity and anger.

Our Ministries



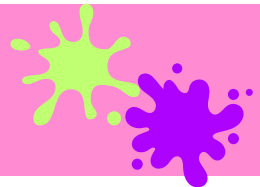
Benton FUMC Youth Ministries houses two groups of students, The Bridge Middle School Ministry, and Made to Worship Youth Ministries

- The Bridge Ministry challenges our 5th through 7th graders to develop a personal relationship with Jesus and one another through meaningful interactions in Discipleship Groups, Sunday school, events and trips.

- Made to Worship (MTW) Ministry gives students in 8th-12th grade opportunities to experience faith in different ways. Our goal is to create a safe place for students to be authentically who they are, to explore and develop a faith that is on fire for God and to have the tools to live their faith out once they graduate.



Weekly Programming



Sunday School

Sunday Mornings are for you and the Bible! You will get to learn about different lessons and stories from the Bible and engage with them through conversations, activities, and games. This year, we will be diving deep in the Story of God. Come share your knowledge and grow with one another in your faith!

- **Sunday Mornings from 10:00-10:45 AM in the Youth Wing**
- **5th-7th Grade in the Red Room**
- **8th-12th Grade in the Green Room**

Youth Group

Join us on Sundays for a time of connection, growth, and fun! We start with Snack N' Study, where students can bring their homework, get tutoring help if needed, and enjoy snacks while working together in a supportive environment. Then Youth Group kicks off with hang time, games, and plenty of space to just be yourself. We'll break into age groups for Bible study, then come back together for worship and community. With snacks, laughter, and meaningful conversations, there's always a place for you at Youth Group!

- **Sunday Afternoons from 3-6 PM In the Youth Spaces**

Discipleship Groups

Discipleship Groups are group oriented opportunities for you to grow deeper in your faith, focusing on what it means to live a Jesus Centered life, and what it looks like to live out your faith as a committed Christian. This year, we will be deep diving into books of the Bible and seeing how they apply to our lives today. Come recharge with your friends and talk about life!

- **Wednesday Night from 6-7 PM in the Youth Wing**
 - **The Bridge in the Bridge Room**
 - **8th-9th grade in the Junior High Room**
 - **10th-12th grade in the Youth Room**



Youth in 7th grade and above will develop an understanding of the Christian faith and who we are as United Methodists. Through discussion groups, and hands on experiences, our Confirmands will have many opportunities to see faith lived out in others and to put their faith into action. Through Confirmation, our Confirmands will learn the Story of God's Love and see how it plays out in their lives. At the end of their journey, our Confirmands will share their stories and share the Light and Love of Christ with the world.

Confirmation meets on Wednesday Nights in the Confirmation Room in the Youth Wing from 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Made to Worship Praise Team



Wherever you reside along in your musical journey, we want to help you use your gifts to become amazing leaders. Our worship team creates a community of worship and is always looking at innovative ways to lead our students in worship. All students are welcome to come and participate.

- **Youth Worship Team practices Sundays from 3:30-4:15 PM in the Big Youth Room**

Annual Youth Events



CDCYM Unite @ St James UMC	October 5	Join us and youth from across the Central District in worship, food, fellowship, and fun.
Fall Festival	October 29	The Youth will help serve through set up and tear down, passing out candy, and working game stations during the vent.
Hiking	November 15	Lets spend some time together in fellowship and experience the beauty of God's Creation.
Hanging of the Greens	November 23	Youth will help to decorate the Fellowship Hall and other areas of the church for the upcoming Christmas Season
Chili Cook Off and Dessert Fundraiser	December 10	Chili Cook Off and Silent Dessert Auction Fundraiser to help off set costs of trips and provide scholarships for those who need.
Breakfast with Santa	December 6	Youth will serve a pancake breakfast with the community, work some activity stations
Christmas Lights at Garvan Gardens	December 6	Join us in a new Tradition after Breakfast with Santa and come look at Christmas Lights with the Youth Group in Hot Springs.
Carols and Candles	December 14	Youth will help lead the congregation in Christmas Carols and perform a skit about the Christmas Story.
Youth Christmas Party	December 17	Come fellowship with a fun night of Carols on a Hay Ride, a Potluck, and a Crazy Sock Gift exchange.
Skatium	January 24	Join us for Ice Skating and Roller Skating at the Skating.
CDCYM Unite @ Cabot FUMC	January 25	Join us and youth from across the Central District in worship, food, fellowship,
Wild Game Dinner	March 14	Youth will help work stations at the event, wait on tables, and clean up after the event.
Main Event	March 22	Join us for a night of bowling, arcade games, and laser tag!

Maundy Thursday Service	April 2	Youth will help to lead in worship through telling the events of Holy Week.
Easter Egg Hunt	April 4	Youth will help serve and lead the Easter Egg Hunt for our Children's Ministry
Top Golf	April 25	Join us for some early morning golf and fellowship at Top Golf
Confirmation Sunday	April 26	During a Unity Sunday Service, our Confirmands will join the church and share who is Jesus Christ to them.
CDCYM Unite @ Benton FUMC	April 26	Join us and youth from across the Central District in worship, food, fellowship. We will be hosting this night.
Senior Sunday	May 3	We will honor our graduating Seniors at Both the 9:05 and 11:00 services, with a breakfast in their honor during the Sunday School hour.

This is a tentative list of Youth Events for the Upcoming year. We will be working on adding in more fellowship events to our calendar and will share any and all date changes in a timely manner.

Annual Youth Trips

Refuge

Refuge is a weekend retreat designed for Middle School and Junior High students to take a step away from the craziness of the world and reconnect with God! They will experience Worship, Adventure Activities, and connecting with youth from all over the State of Arkansas.

- **Refuge is November 7th-9th at Shepherd of the Ozark in Harriet, Arkansas. It is for 6th-9th graders.**
- **Early Bird (until Oct 3) \$185**

Veritas

Veritas is a weekend worship Conference designed for Youth to hear the Word and sing praise! They will experience 4-5 sessions of worships, spend time in small groups, and participate in workshops with other youth from all over the state of Arkansas.

- **Veritas is February 27th- March 1st at Fort Smith Convention Center in Fort Smith, Arkansas. It is for 6th-12th graders.**
- **Early Bird (until Dec 31st) \$200**
- **Registration (Jan 1- Jan 31) \$215**
- **Late Registration (Until Feb 10th) \$235**

MTW Retreat

Retreat is a weekend designed for students to take a step away from the craziness of the world and reconnect with God! We will focus on a Character from the bible and break down their story and how it applies to our lives.

- **Senior High Retreat is Tentatively April 10th-12th It is for 8th-12th graders. Location TBD**
- **Registration (until March 25th) \$200**

Assembly

Assembly is a week long, camp like experience for our youth where they will grow deeper in their faith through building relationships youth from all over Arkansas in Small Groups, Worship and other activities.

- **Assembly is over the summer and traditionally takes place at Hendrix College. It is for Students in 6th-12th grade.**
- **Early Bird Registration Until May 31st is \$295.**

Summer Missions

We are currently working on Summer plans and tentative will be doing either Ozark Mission Project or another similar Camp. More information will come out as soon as possible.

Service Opportunities



We understand that service is an essential part of a faith building experience. We also know that our students need service hours as part of a requirement for graduation. We offer multiple ways for students to receive service hours at Benton FUMC. Check out the many ways students can serve in our community. Other Service Opportunities will be presented throughout the year.

Audio Visual Team	Work the slides, live stream, or sound in services	1 hr per time
Breakfast with Santa	Helping to set up/tear down and work event	3 hours
Fall Festival	Helping to set up/tear down and work event	3 hours
Easter Egg Hunt	Helping to set up/tear down and work event	3 hours
Mission Trips	Working on projects to serve our Neighbors	24 hrs
Vacation Bible School	Serve as a Station Leader or Crew Leader	12-15 hrs



Benton FUMC Youth Ministry's Financial Policy



We understand that one of the most important tools that we have in developing our students faith is through the fellowship that Youth Trips bring. We also understand that trips can be expensive and want to work with our families to allow for as many experiences as possible.

- In order for a student to be registered for a trip, a deposit, specified by the Director of Youth Ministries per event, must be given to the Director of Youth Ministries. A student will not be considered registered until a deposit is made.
 - Deposits are non-refundable, but go towards the total cost of the youth trip.
 - If a student contacts the Director of Youth Ministries prior to Registration closing about not being able to attend, the deposit may be moved to a future event.
- If a student needs a partial or full scholarship to an event, a parent or guardian needs to contact the Director of Youth Ministries prior to the registration deadline.
- All money will be due 2 weeks before the event, unless otherwise discussed with the Director of Youth Ministries.
- If a student is not able to go to the event after registration has closed, due to illness or a family emergency, a refund of up to 50% of the cost of the trip (not including the deposit) will be granted. A total refund can be granted if the spot can be filled by another youth.
- If a student has an outstanding balance, they must pay that and the deposit before they are registered for another trip.






Youth Ministry Code of Conduct and Trip Covenant

It is expected that everyone will abide by the rules and guidelines in this covenant. These are held to be the minimal expectations of any participant in Benton FUMC Youth Ministries.

1. We will respect all people, (to include) fellow youth, adult sponsors and volunteers, and other people from other youth groups at all event, both on and off Benton FUMC property. We want to reflect our Christian nature in all that we say and do.
2. We will respect the physical property of others, including the space where we participate in our Ministries the **vans or buses** we travel in, and the **facilities** we visit and stay at.
3. Alcohol, tobacco, inhalants, fireworks, weapons (**including knives**), illegal drugs or any illegal activity of any kind will not be tolerated. The law requires that we report any such incident to the police.
4. The **language** we use and our attitude needs to reflect the Christian nature of our group. Be positive & reflect who we are as a Christian community in all we say & do! Profanity, abusive language, inappropriate language and derogatory comments and put downs have no place in our youth ministry spaces. This not only includes spoken, but texting, messaging and social media platforms as well.
5. Everyone - youth and adults - will be expected to be **present during** all events. While on Overnight trips, we need to be **on time** and **in the building (room, tents, etc.) by curfew**, which will be stated by the Youth or Trip Director. We will **refrain from using our electronic devices**, including cell phones, gaming devices, tablets, etc. while in at **Youth Ministry events, during worship services or on any activities**. We will be asked to put away our phone if we are on it excessively in non free time periods. We know that we can use our phones in our rooms and during any down time during said events.
6. We are **never to be off by ourselves**. Make sure that you always have others with you when you are out. **Adults need to know where we are at all times** . If we leave on an errand, we need to tell the adults where we are. If we are dating, we are not to be off by ourselves, without at least 2 other youths with us and an adult knowing where we are. We are never to get into a vehicle that is not with our group. We are never to go off with anyone who is not with our group.
7. We encourage expressions of affection and caring; however, **Youth Ministry events are not dates**. Expressions of romantic affection need to be appropriate to our trip. Save your “romantic interludes” for back home! Do not put yourself in an embarrassing situation.
8. **Ultimately: Have fun**, help others to have fun, and get to know others. Be kind and considerate of others on the trip. Our focus on this trip is to grow our relationship with Jesus Christ.

Stay Connected



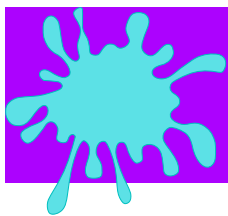
	@fumcbentonyouth
	@fumcbentonyouth
	New Texting System Coming Soon
	email michelle.anderson@fumcbenton.org to sign up for the weekly newsletter

Youth Registration form



Confirmation Registration form





Acknowledgement Form



By signing below, I acknowledge that I have received, read, and understand the policies and guidelines outlined in the Benton FUMC Youth Ministries Handbook for Benton FUMC Youth Ministries. I agree to follow and support the expectations, including but not limited to:

The Financial Policies regarding fees, payments, and refunds

The Code of Conduct for students, parents/guardians, and volunteers

All additional guidelines, rules, and procedures as stated in the handbook

I understand that failure to comply with these policies may result in disciplinary action or dismissal from the program.

Name of Youth(s) Participating in Ministries:

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____