



June 9, 2017

Greetings Parents!

Working with middle school students I have found that one of the most difficult hurdles to overcome is the transition from children's ministry to student ministry. For many students, they never get to experience all that our middle school ministry offers because they didn't get involved during the first few months. I want you to know that I am very excited about getting your son/daughter involved in our ministry and want to help in whatever way I can.

When I begin to talk with incoming 7th grade students about the transition into student ministry I use these 5 key words:

FEAR: I tell them that the transition from being the "big shot" in children's ministry to being the youngest (and most often the smallest) in youth is scary. I want them to know that their feelings are natural and real. It is scary walking into a room of students who look old(er).

FUN: I explain that our student ministry will be fun. We want students to have a good time. "Laughter" and "celebration" are two key words we use to describe the value of fun. Most students use the word "boring" when they describe church. Because of this, we attempt to shatter the stereotype that church is boring. You may hear some wild things over the next six years and chances are good that they were intentional (although some wild things will happen that weren't planned that can sometimes be bad).

FAITH: Our primary goal is to help your child mature in his/her faith. We have a defined strategy with quality programs that assist students to grow in their faith. Our goal is the same goal God has for all Christians and that is to grow in the likeness of Jesus Christ. I want to emphasize the word "assist" because I know that one's spiritual growth isn't solely dependent on our student ministry. I believe, with all my heart, we have the best student ministry around. If a student wants to grow in his/her faith we can help at any place in their spiritual journey.

FINISH: I want to see students finish their time with us strong in their faith – knowing what it means to love God, love people and how to change their world. Our adult leadership is committed to seeing our graduating seniors having strong convictions about their faith, a lifestyle that reflects their convictions, and plans to serve God through ministry. It's our goal to see every student finish strong.

FRIENDS: "Students become like the people they hang out with." Even though students don't like to hear these words, I've seen that truth played out thousands of times over the years. Almost everything in middle school and high school revolves around friends! To finish strong, good friends are vital.

It is my goal for every student to have the opportunity to grow in his or her faith while in student ministry. I am committed to creating an environment where your son or daughter can discover how to love God, love people and their part in changing our world. Please don't be afraid to ask for help...if I can't help, I will find someone who can!

With that said, I hope you will register your son or daughter for **PASSAGE**, our confirmation program for this year (your Passage Registration Form is included in your packet). This is a 30-week program designed to build a solid spiritual foundation within your child. PASSAGE will take place on Sunday mornings from 11am to 12pm with our first class taking place on **August 6th**! I will be working together with our Passage leaders throughout the program this year and I am very excited.

I would encourage you to take a moment and look over the attached schedule. You will notice that we have **two mandatory retreats** – one in the fall and one in the spring. Also, there are **six passage gatherings** where your student and your student's faith friend get together. These also are mandatory. We also ask that your student make every attempt to attend most of the Sunday morning classes. We realize that schedules are crazy and you will have to miss a few. Finally, mark your calendars for **Sunday, April 22nd at 5:30pm** for Confirmation Sunday.

Each student will need to have a Faith Friend. You might be wondering, what is a Faith Friend? A Faith Friend is someone known to your family who will walk with your student through the Confirmation experience. This can be a close family friend, a favorite Sunday school teacher, etc. **We only ask that they be the same sex as your child, not a relative and involved in a local church.** This person will be responsible for making contact with your student once a week, praying for them, encouraging them and joining them for our six passage gatherings, our Confirmation Covenant Service, and Confirmation Sunday. There is a **Faith Friend Fact Sheet** in your packet that will need to be filled out and returned no later than **July 24, 2017.**

Now, this doesn't mean that you are off the hook parents. You have a huge role in the confirmation experience. Each week your student will get a "Take Home Sheet" for you and your family to do at home. You will also need to keep encouraging your student throughout the confirmation year! That's huge! We also will have a **PASSAGE Parent Meeting on Sunday, July 16th at 12:15 in The Garage.** This will be a great time to ask questions, meet other parents and confirmands and also finalize the registration packet. We will have a notary available to notarize the required forms.

The total cost of Confirmation is \$150. This covers the cost of the two retreats, supplies, and passage gatherings. We split the payments into two. The first payment of \$75.00 is due on Sunday, August 6, 2016 and the second payment of \$75.00 is due on Sunday, January 7, 2017. Please remember that if money is tight we have scholarships available if you will just let us know.

I am super excited for this year's confirmation experience. Please take a moment and fill out the registration form and turn that form in no later than **July 24, 2017.** Also, you can always find out the latest on PASSAGE by going to www.brandonyouth.com and clicking on PASSAGE in the main menu! Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns you might have!

We look forward to getting to know you and your family,

Chris Temple

Director of Student Ministries



PASSAGE SCHEDULE 2017-2018

OUR JOURNEY				
AUG 6	WEEK 1: READY, SET, GO!	11am to 12pm	W210	
AUG 13	WEEK 2: WHY CONFIRMATION?	11am to 12pm	W210	
AUG 20	WEEK 3: WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?	11am to 12pm	W210	
AUG 27	WEEK 4: MAKING A COVENANT	11am to 12pm	W210	
AUG 27	PASSAGE GATHERING #1	12pm to 2pm	The Garage	
OUR ROOTS				
SEP 3	NO CONFIRMATION	---	---	---
SEP 10	WEEK 5: JEWISH ROOTS	11am to 12pm	W210	
SEP 15	FALL RETREAT: COVENANT SERVICE	TBA	BOYS & GIRLS CLUB	
SEP 15	FALL RETREAT: CATHOLIC	TBA	BOYS & GIRLS CLUB	
SEP 16	FALL RETREAT: PROTESTANT	TBA	BOYS & GIRLS CLUB	
SEP 16	FALL RETREAT: UNITED METHODIST	TBA	BOYS & GIRLS CLUB	
SEP 17	WEEK 6: CHRISTIAN ROOTS	11am to 12pm	W210	
SEP 24	WEEK 7: OUR CHURCH ROOTS	11am to 12pm	W210	
OUR CHURCH				
OCT 1	WEEK 8: METHODIST TALK FUNNY	11am to 12pm	W210	
OCT 8	WEEK 9: WORSHIP	11am to 12pm	W210	
OCT 15	NO CONFIRMATION	---	---	---
OCT 22	WEEK 10: HOLY COMMUNION	11am to 12pm	W210	
OCT 22	PASSAGE GATHERING #2	12:15 to 2pm	BOWLING	
OCT 29	WEEK 11: HOLY BAPTISM	11am to 12pm	W210	
NOV 5	WEEK 12: SOCIAL PRINCIPLES	11am to 12pm	W210	

NOV 12	WEEK 13: MISSION & OUTREACH	11am to 12pm	W210	
NOV 19	WEEK 14: FAITH	11am to 12pm	W210	
NOV 26	NO CONFIRMATION	---	---	---
OUR BELIEFS				
DEC 3	WEEK 15: BELIEF	11am to 12pm	W210	
DEC 10	WEEK 16: THE BIBLE PT1	11am to 12pm	W210	
DEC 10	PASSAGE GATHERING #3	12am to 2pm	MISSION EXP	
DEB 17	WEEK 17: THE BIBLE PT2	11am to 12pm	W210	
DEC 24 & 31	NO CONFIRMATION	---	---	---
JAN 7	WEEK 18: BIBLE PT3	11am to 12pm	W210	
JAN 14	WEEK 19: GOD	11am to 12pm	W210	
JAN 21	WEEK 20: PRAYER	11am to 12pm	W210	
JAN 21	PASSAGE GATHERING #4	12pm to 2pm	PUTT-PUTT	
JAN 28	WEEK 21: IMAGE	11am to 12pm	W210	
FEB 4	WEEK 22: SIN	11am to 12pm	W210	
FEB 11	WEEK 23: JESUS	11am to 12pm	W210	
FEB 18	WEEK 24: SALVATION	11am to 12pm	W210	
FEB 25	WEEK 25: HOLY SPIRIT	11am to 12pm	W210	
FEB 25	PASSAGE GATHERING #5	12pm to 2pm	The Garage	
OUR DECISION PART 1				
MAR 2	RETREAT: I CHOOSE JESUS	TBA	Warren Willis	
MAR 3	RETREAT: I CHOOSE XIAN LIFE RETREAT: I CHOOSE SPIRIT RETREAT: I CHOOSE DISCIPLESHIP	TBA	Warren Willis	
MAR 4	RETREAT:		Warren Willis	
OUR DECISION PART 2				
MAR 11	NO CONFIRMATION	---	---	---
MAR 18	WEEK 26: END TIMES	11am to 12pm	W210	
MAR 25	WEEK 27: CREEDS	11am to 12pm	W210	
APR 1	EASTER: NO CONFIRMATION	---	---	---
APR 8	WEEK 28: THE VOWS	11am to 12pm	W210	

OUR DECISION PART 2

APR 8	PASSAGE GATHERING #6	12pm to 2pm	The Garage	
APR 15	WEEK: 29 PROFESS	11am to 12pm	W210	
APR 21	CONFIRMATION SUNDAY PRACTICE	9am to 10:30am	SANCTUARY	
APR 22	WEEK 30: NEW LIFE	11am to 12pm	W210	
APR 22	CONFIRMATION SUNDAY	5:30pm	SANCTUARY	

*Must Attend 20 out of 30 weeks.

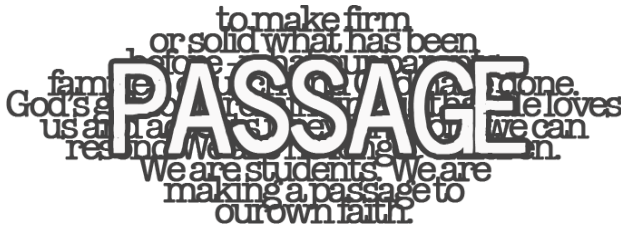
**Must Attend BOTH retreats.

***Must Attend 4 out of 6 Passage Gatherings



2017/18 PASSAGE PARENT CHECK LIST

- Turn in Passage Registration Form (No Later than July 24, 2017)
- Find a Faith Friend for Your Student
- Attend the PASSAGE Parent Meeting July 16, 2017 (12:15pm in the Garage)
- Turn in Faith Friend Fact Sheet (No Later than July 24, 2017)
- Pay First Payment of \$75.00 (No Later than August 6, 2017)
- Student & Faith Friend at Passage Gathering (August 27, 2017)
- Come to Covenant Service on September 15th (7pm in Logan Hall)
- Make sure student is ready for Fall Retreat (September 15 - 16)
- Mark your calendar for Confirmation Sunday (April 22, 2017)



2017/18 CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION FORM

New Hope United Methodist Church
Brandon, FL 33510
813.689.4161

Confirmand's Full Name: _____
First Middle Last

Prefers to be called: _____

Mailing Address: _____
Street City Zip

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____

School: _____ Grade: _____

Student's Cell Phone: _____ Student Email: _____

What is the best way to contact student? _____ Cell Provider _____

PARENT INFORMATION

Father's Name: _____ Father's Cell: _____

Is he a church member? _____ If yes, what church? _____

Mother's Name: _____ Mother's Cell: _____

Is she a church member? _____ If yes, what church? _____

Family Email: _____

What is the best way to contact parent? _____ Text? _____

ABOUT YOUR CONFIRMAND

Has the Confirmand been baptized (yes or no)? _____

If YES, name of church: _____

Please tell us about your son/daughter...hobbies or things they enjoy doing: _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO CHURCH OFFICE BY JULY 24, 2017

Parental Consent and Medical Authorization Form

New Hope United Methodist Church
120 N. Knights Avenue, Brandon, FL 33511 (813) 689-4161

CHECK THIS BOX TO ALLOW THIS FORM TO BE USED FOR ANY AND ALL TRIPS FOR THIS STUDENT FOR ALL OF 2017

Personal Information

Student's Full Name _____

Age _____ Birth Date _____ (MM/DD/YYYY) Gender _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email: _____ School: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Text? Yes No

If Yes, Cell Phone Provider: _____

Emergency Contact Information

Parent/Guardian: _____ Relationship _____

Cell Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Parent email: _____

Would you like Passion Student Ministries Texts? Yes No If Yes, Cell Phone Provider: _____

Insurance Information

Insurance Company _____ Insured _____

Insurance Address _____

Policy # _____ Group # _____

Personal Medical Information

Physician's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Physical Limitations (Asthma, diabetes, allergies, etc.), and/or Special Instructions (Allergic to certain meds, rare blood type, wears contact lenses, etc.):

List **ALL** medications currently taking:

(Continued on back)

List all operations/serious injuries and dates within past five (5) years:

I, _____, authorize an adult, in whose care the above mentioned minor has been entrusted, to consent to any X-ray, examination, anesthetic, medical, surgical or dental diagnosis and/or treatment, including hospital care, to be rendered to said minor.

The undersigned shall be liable and agrees to pay all expenses incurred in connection with such medical and/or dental services rendered to the aforementioned minor pursuant to this authorization.

I hereby release **NEW HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, its staff and volunteers from any and all liability in the case of accident or injury to my (our) minor child listed above.

Should it be necessary for my (our) child to return home due to medical reasons or otherwise, the undersigned shall assume all transportation cost. The undersigned does also hereby give permission for my (our) child to ride in any vehicle designated by the adult whose care the undersigned has been entrusted while attending this event sponsored by **NEW HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**.

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian _____

Notary Information

The following is to be completed by the notary witnessing parent/guardian's signature. The State of _____ the County of _____

Before me, a Notary Public, on this day personally appeared _____ known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purpose and consideration therein expressed.

Given under my hand and the seal of the office this _____ day of _____, A.D. _____.

My commission expires the _____ day of _____, A.D. _____.

Notary Stamp/Seal, Date and Signature

_____ Date: _____

