

Audio file

[Leader Announcements January 17 Bouncy Ball Night.mp3](#)

Transcript

00:00:01 Speaker 1

Hello Middle School Ministry volunteers. This is the volunteer announcements for the week of January 17, 2024. Thanks for tuning in this Wednesday night is bouncy ball night. We have purchased 2000 bouncy balls and we're going to do some fun activities that involve bouncy balls and yes, everyone will be able to walk out the door with at least one bouncy ball at the end of the night. We will not let students hold them throughout the night because that would be a ridiculous distraction. But we will pass those out to kids as they leave at the end of the night and we'll play some games that involve those things at the beginning of the night

we are going to kick off a three-week series called Jesus in the Old Testament. We're going to look at some Old Testament passages from Genesis and Exodus And look at how we see hints of Jesus and his gospel message right there at the beginning of the Bible.

Just so you know, there is a practical parenting session coming up this Sunday, January 21st, at 11:00 AM. It's in the 4th and 5th grade Room, which is West Central station. And the theme is sexual integrity. This is geared towards parents of elementary and middle school students. So if that's you or if you know anyone, you are welcome to come to a round table discussion where we'll talk about what's the best time, what's the best way And what are the best things to talk about when it comes to sharing with your kids about God's design for sex and sexuality?

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I know we did not get to use the ice Plaza. The ice was not quite ready this past week. Just so you know, we are hoping to reschedule broom ball for a future Wednesday night this winter. It will not be this Wednesday night, but hopefully sometime in the next few weeks we'll have a chance to play broomAll during our Wednesday night program, I just don't know exactly when or how that will fit into the program.

if you have not done so already, please register your child for Winter Blast. If you have a middle schooler and or if you want to come as a volunteer, you can also register. Please do that as soon as possible so that we know who all is planning to attend. It's January 26 through 28 at Hidden Acres, and it's a great opportunity to build connections with students.

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The last thing I'm going to share today is from a book I've been reading about youth ministry. It's called "**contemplative youth ministry, practicing the presence of Jesus.**" I'm always reading and trying to learn and grow my skills as a leader and figure out how those things can apply To strengthening the middle school ministry, so this is a book I'm currently reading and I thought this will be hopefully encouraging to you to. This applies to me as a paid youth pastor, and to you as a volunteer youth worker.

00:03:27 Speaker 1

"Youth ministry is about holding a young person's deepest identity until he or she is able to see it too. We hold on to the knowledge that these young people are the beloved of God, that they have gifts that enrich the world and that their presence is a cause for celebration.

We hold this understanding of young people until they can hold it for themselves. We seek to reveal their beauty back to them until they see it until they believe it until they can live from it, grounded in God's love.

What would it mean if the goal of our ministries was simply simply to be prayerfully present to young people, to allow them to be fully themselves?"

Hopefully that's encouraging and thought provoking as you think about what you can do and what you should be doing in your role as a volunteer youth leader. Thank you for investing in young people and helping students grow closer to Jesus. We'll see you this Wednesday night!