

## Audio file

[Leader Announcements February 21.mp3](#)

## Transcript

Hello Middle school volunteer leaders. Thanks for checking in to this week's volunteer announcements for the week of February 21.

The theme for this Wednesday night is stuffed animal night, so we'll serve animal crackers. We'll provide those for you to serve to your small group. And it's bring your own stuffed animal. So we're going to encourage the middle schoolers to do that. I would encourage you to get into the fun of it as well. You could bring a stuffed animal that's been meaningful to you, or maybe that's been meaningful to one of your Kids.

We will be very clear from the beginning of the night that we are not going to make fun of anybody or belittle anybody because, you know, a student who wants to act like they're mature and grown up might want to put down a student for saying ohh you have a stuffed animal that's just for little kids, That's for babies. We're going to create a secure, safe environment where everyone can just own the fact that stuffed animals are awesome and we're going to celebrate that.

This is also going to be week three of the heart to heart series, and this is actually the middle of the series. It's week three out of five and it's really the heart of the messages that we want to present to students. We're going to share about God's design For sex. And so we'll speak from biblical truth. We'll talk about how the only sexual relationship that the Bible affirms is between one man and one woman in the confines of a loving marriage. And anything outside of that, anything outside of that is outside of God's design, and it's that that's his creation.

He he did it that way because he loves us and he wants what's best for us and he wants to protect us and for us to experience the fullness of life As he intended it.

Baptism Sunday is coming up this Sunday, February 25. We've got about, I think, eleven 6th through 12th grade students who are getting baptized, about 24 people total. If one student in your small group is getting baptized We will reach out to let you know what service that's at in case you want to attend to support your students.

Also, a reminder that Saturday, March 2nd is pickleball night for volunteers only-middle school volunteers only-at the Community Center from 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

That's optional, just a fun night for us to connect as volunteers and our next middle school special event is Friday, March 22. The staff scavenger hunt is from 6:30 to 10:30 PM. Start thinking about a disguise for the staff scavenger hunt For you to hang out at the mall and the middle school students will come and try to try to locate you in your disguises. We did get confirmation to meet at the Jordan Creek Mall, so we're looking forward To that.

For the last part of this, I want to encourage you. Normally I look at the how to win at a middle school volunteer document, but I'm going off script today.

we have come through what I consider to be the busy half, The busy six month period, of the middle School Ministry year. So from mid August through mid February, which is a six month span, we do volunteer kick off, we do Wednesday night kick off with students. We had our fall retreat we had a we had a good for all gathering In there, which affects the entire church. We had the Great Pumpkin Party, we had the blitz all nighter. We had the ugly sweater party we had The talent show and then we kicked off in January and we had winter blast and we just completed night to shine.

That's a lot of stuff, a lot of great things within six months and we'll continue to have fun things. We'll continue to have events throughout this next six month period of the year.

But it's a different pace. It's a different rhythm and having different rhythms in life, having seasonality, I have come to believe is a good thing.

What I want to challenge you in that is, are you finding time to rest in your own life? God, I believe, designed the Sabbath as a way for us, not just to recharge, but to pause and to be reminded that we are not in control of our lives, that we are finite, Limited creatures and we rely on a God who never stops, who never sleeps, who is always working out everything for our good. By embracing rest and Sabbath and slowing down in your life, you can remind yourself of those thing.

If it's for one day a week or just a couple hours in a day, I think it's gonna be good for your soul because that's how God designed it. Thanks for checking in. We'll see you this Wednesday night and get some rest!