

Hello middle school volunteers. These are the volunteer announcements for the week of Wednesday, November 20, 2024.

The theme for this Wednesday is pie night and we're going to hopefully get a bunch of pies provided for us by middle school parents so everybody will have the opportunity if they want to eat a slice of pie on this night.

This is the final week of our series on Philippians. We're going to be talking about the passage in Philippians where Paul talks about all of his accomplishments, but how they are worthless compared to knowing Jesus Christ. and we'll talk about the extreme, the highest value possible of knowing Jesus Christ and making that the focus of our lives and letting everything else fall into place underneath that.

Our intention, again this week, is to give you an extended small group time so you'll do social and spiritual time combined after the teaching.

After this Wednesday night, we are off on Wednesday, November 27 for Thanksgiving, and then we'll return in December for just a few Wednesday nights.

We'll have bingo night on December 4.

December 11 is our ugly sweater party.

December 18 is our talent show.

And then we're off for a handful of weeks over Christmas and New Year's.

So that's what's coming up over the next few weeks.

You may want to start to consider what you want to wear at the ugly sweater party. You can wear an ugly sweater or anything fun and festive on that night. That's on Wednesday, December 11.

If you haven't done so already, please also mark your calendars. The Winter Blast Weekend Retreat at Hidden Acres is coming up on January 24 through 26, 2025. and the registration form for that event will be available soon.

All the dates for our January through May programs and events will be up on the middle school events page soon.

In closing for today, I'm looking at the how to win as a middle school volunteer document, and I want to focus on the side that says before you show up.

So these are things that we want you to do in preparation for coming to serve on a Wednesday night.

Number one, invest in your own spiritual growth. It's going to overflow to students. If you want to have something spiritual to pour out to students, you need to be poured into yourself in a spiritual way. And there's lots of ways to do that.

One of them is to, number two, regularly attend weekend worship gatherings at Valley Church. It's good for your spiritual life and it sets a good example for students.

Number three, don't serve without asking for God's help. Pray regularly.

Number four, your character matters. You are going to reproduce in students who you are more than you're going to reproduce what you teach them. You reproduce who you are more than what you teach.

And number five, please read or listen to the materials provided by the middle school ministry staff. You're doing exactly that by taking in these announcements for this week. We want to do our best through these materials ahead of time to set you up to win as a volunteer.

I leave you with 1 Corinthians 15:58: Finally, my dear brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the Lord's work because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

We are trusting that God is taking our efforts and using them to grow the faith of these middle schoolers, even though we might not necessarily see the fruit or results of that until after they're out of our lives and they've moved on to high school or beyond.

Thank you for joining us in this labor of love and faith as we follow Jesus, trust him, and point middle schoolers to him.

We'll see you on Wednesday night!