

Leader Announcements

January 7, 2026

Hello, middle school volunteers. These are the volunteer announcements for Wednesday, January 7, 2026. Here we go with a new year. Thanks for checking in. I hope that you had a wonderful break with your friends and your family. And I also hope that you feel energized and excited to re-engage in middle school ministry.

New Series: Armor of God

This Wednesday, it probably comes as no surprise that we are going to call it New Year's Night. And we're going to kick off a new series for the month of January. It's the Armor of God. And so we're going to talk about spiritual warfare and the different forms of equipment that the Lord provides for us to engage in spiritual battle. And for this first week, I do want you to know that I am going to talk to the kids about the fact that spiritual battles are a real thing. I do think it's important for followers of Christ to be aware of that. But I'm going to try to walk a fine line because I don't want to emphasize this too much to the point where the kids think that the devil's around the corner or every hard thing that we do is because of the devil. I'm also going to try to not scare kids. You know, we're not going to talk about exorcisms and demon possession and things like that. I'm going to focus more on the fact that there is a spiritual realm and it is real and we are called to engage in that battle. And ultimately, we have victory in Christ because of who he is and because of what he has done. So that is going to be the emphasis throughout this series. And that will be throughout the month of January.

February Series

And then just a heads up, the month of February is going to be our heart to heart series. We do it every year in the month of February. And that series in February is about God's design for love, sex, dating, and relationships. And we will talk more about that series as we approach the month of February.

Winter Blast: January 23-25

The main thing I want to put onto your radar is that we've got the Winter Blast retreat coming up on January 23 through 25. And I would love for as many of you to attend as possible. Winter Blast is a weekend retreat at Hidden Acres. And it's another great opportunity to connect with students and build relationships and help disciple them in their faith. It is not required for you to come to Winter Blast, but it will enhance your experience on Wednesday nights if you're able to come to something like Winter Blast. So you can click on the link and register yourself. I value your participation in Winter Blast so much that I will pay for you to go. So there is no cost for you to attend. Again, that's January 23 through 25 at Hidden Acres. Winter Blast is different from Fall Retreat because for Winter Blast, we combine with other churches. So there will be about 15 churches total, 300 to 400 people total. We usually bring about 100 people as Valley Church. And hopefully there will be snow so we can do some outdoor winter activities like sledding and broomball and other things like that.

Leader Tip

For the leader tip this week, I want to point you to Proverbs 16:9 as we embark on a new year. This is commonly a time of year where people may make some New Year's resolutions. If so, I applaud you and want to encourage you in that. And Proverbs 16:9 tells us that a person's heart plans his way, but the Lord determines his steps. I think wanting to make changes, making New Year's resolutions is a good thing. And I think it's an even better thing when we take those plans or hopes, dreams, or expectations, and we lay them before the Lord. Because ultimately, he is in charge and he will direct our steps. So yes, make plans, make resolutions, and surrender them to the Lord. And may he work powerfully in you and through you to do all that he has put in your heart to accomplish this year in 2026.

Thanks, everybody. I'm looking forward to seeing you back this Wednesday!