

StudentServe Application

2018-2019



StudentServe Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

I am overjoyed that your young person has taken an interest in StudentServe this year! StudentServe provides a wonderful opportunity for youth to dig deeper into their faith, learn valuable leadership skills, and gain organizational leadership experience. I appreciate your willingness to support your young person as they take on the special roles and responsibilities that accompany membership in StudentServe.

All high schoolers are invited to apply for this program. StudentServe members commit to attend Sunday morning Youth Gathering & Connection Groups, Worship Together Sundays, StudentServe on Wednesday nights, and at least one youth special event. No one will be turned away because they are unable to make it to *every* Youth Gathering, Wednesday night meeting, or special event. Nevertheless, we ask that applicants think seriously about their level of commitment to the Youth Ministry at BMPC before signing up for the program.

The central mission of the youth ministry is to connect, engage and equip youth to discover and live out the gospel of Jesus Christ. StudentServe accomplishes this mission in ways that have a lasting impact on those who participate in the program. It provides youth with an opportunity to shape the long-term direction of our ministry area. I'm looking forward to watching your young person grow in their understanding of God's call upon their life and role in our community this year!

In Christ,

Rev. David B. Smith

Interim Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry
Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

What's StudentServe all about?

StudentServe has three primary purposes:

1. *Forming* the faith of BMPC youth
2. *Exploring* leadership principles
3. *Creating* space for youth to gain leadership experience

Forming

- ✦ There will be weekly check-ins on life and faith.
- ✦ Youth will explore leadership principles through a theological lens each week.
- ✦ Youth will participate in leadership teams that help to focus the work of the larger group.
- ✦ Youth are invited to attend Wednesday Night Dinners between 5:30 and 7:00 p.m. in Congregational Hall for a time of fellowship before StudentServe takes place between 7 and 8 p.m. in the Loft.

Exploring

- ✦ This year's StudentServe curriculum will be divided into monthly segments. Each segment will provide a focus for the group's exploration of key leadership principals, theological concepts and Christian practices.
- ✦ The ultimate goal of this curriculum is to empower youth to explore a life of active leadership in the church and society.
- ✦ *See the following page for a monthly break-down of topics to be covered.*

Creating

- ✦ StudentServe is not just another class, it is an interactive opportunity that seeks to create space for youth to get involved with the inner-workings of the youth ministry.
- ✦ As a group, StudentServe will be empowered to set measurable goals for Youth Gathering on Sunday mornings, and will evaluate their progress toward these goals on a weekly basis.
- ✦ Each student will have weekly ministry responsibilities.
- ✦ Students will work in leadership teams and will have the responsibility to dream, plan, develop and carry out ministry programs.

Food for thought: In addition to being an enriching faith experience, StudentServe will also look great on your college application or resume!

When/where do we meet?

Youth are invited to attend Wednesday Night Dinners between 5:30 and 7:00 p.m. in Congregational Hall for a time of fellowship before StudentServe, which takes place between 7 and 8 p.m.

What will we Discuss?

Weekly discussions will be framed by monthly themes, which empower youth to think theologically about key leadership principals.

September | Laying the Groundwork

Weekly Schedule (subject to alteration):

- September 12th: Introductions/Reconnections & Reflections on the Summer
- September 19th: Casting a vision for the 2018-2019 church season
- September 26th: Youth Mental Health First Aid Training

Description: The first StudentServe gathering of the year will give participants an opportunity to connect and reconnect after a long summer apart. On September 19th, we will cast a vision and set measurable goals for the program year. Laurel Roe, MS CHR, MFT (a Therapist with the Middleton Center) will join us on September 26th for an interactive introduction to adolescent mental health first aid. Youth will learn how to provide empathetic support, explore self-care best-practices, and glean practical knowledge about how/when to inform a BMPC pastor or adult volunteer about a disclosure.

October | Casting Light or Shadow

Weekly Schedule (subject to alteration):

- October 3rd: Looking Inward: The Shadow Side of Leadership
- October 10th: Shaping Your Context
- October 17th: Leader & Follower Ethics
- October 24th: Leading vs. Reacting/Navigating Triangles in a System
- October 31st: Preparing for Pastor's Book Group Discussion, Review of "The Hate You Give"

Description: Our conversations in the month of October will place biblical conceptions of leadership alongside Craig E. Johnson's classic text: *"Meeting the Ethical Challenges of Leadership: Casting Light or Shadow"* and Edwin H. Friedman's formative work: *"Generation to Generation: Family Process in Church and Synagogue."* Youth will be introduced to key principals of leadership ethics and Organizational Systems Theory. They will have an opportunity to think systemically about the ethical issues that face leaders in organizations.

November | Called to Lead, Called to Serve

Weekly Schedule (subject to alteration):

- November 7th: Pastor's Book Group Discussion of "The Hate You Give" by Angie Thomas.
- November 14th: Call & Callings: Luther on Vocation
- November 21st: *No StudentServe (Thanksgiving Break)*
- November 28th: Becoming a Servant Leader

Description: Last year, StudentServe read and discussed "The Hate You Give" by Angie Thomas. This young adult novel tells the story of an African American teenager who attends a private school in a primarily white community. Along with Pastor David, StudentServe will lead adult members of the congregation through a discussion of the book in the Witherspoon Parlor on November 7th. Then, on 14th and 28th we will reflect on biblical conceptions of calling through the lens of Martin Luther's work on Vocation. This segment will conclude with an in-depth reflection on how each youth understands God's call upon their lives.

December | Leadership Genograms

Weekly Schedule (subject to alteration):

- December 5th: How to do a Leadership Genogram
- December 12th: Reflecting on our Leadership Genograms
- December 19th: *No StudentServe (Christmas Break)*
- December 26th: *No StudentServe (Christmas Break)*

Description: A genogram is a pictorial display of a person's family relationships. Genograms are often used in medical and psychotherapeutic fields to chart the development of traits across generations. Youth are likely to encounter a genogram for the first time in an Intro to Psychology course. A leadership genogram charts the leadership models exhibited in an individual's family history in an effort to shed light on their own leadership/follower styles. Genograms of this type can be a helpful resource for anyone who fulfills a leadership role in an organization.

January | Developing your own Theology of Worship

Weekly Schedule (subject to alteration):

- January 2nd: *No Student Serve*
- January 10th: Exploring key Elements of the Presbyterian Worship Service
- January 16th: Creating a Liturgy for Youth Sunday
- January 23rd: Creating a Liturgy for Youth Sunday
- January 30th: Creating a Liturgy for Youth Sunday

Description: There are reasons behind the things we do in church! This segment will provide youth with an opportunity to explore our congregation's theology of worship. The foundational explorations of the first week will empower youth to create their own liturgy for Youth Sunday.

February | Is “Evangelism” a Dirty Word?

Weekly Schedule (subject to alteration):

- February 6th: Youth Sunday Debrief
- February 13th: Can you be committed to Interfaith work & Evangelism at the same time?
- February 20th: What is Spiritual Friendship?
- February 27th: The Power of Story

Description: Youth who participate in StudentServe are responsible for communicating our mission and values to youth in the community around them. Participants will be invited to place their own interfaith experiences on the Mainline in conversation with the experience of the early church. We will also critically examine selections from Michael Green’s “*Evangelism in the Early Church*” and Rick Richardson’s “*Reimagining Evangelism: Inviting Friends on a Spiritual Journey.*”

March | Conversion Talk

Weekly Schedule (subject to alteration):

- March 6th: *Ash Wednesday Service in the Chapel*
- March 13th: Presbyterians & “Conversion Talk”
- March 20st: When were you saved?
- March 27th: *Prepare for Good Friday Service*

Description: Whether they are sharing their faith with Christian friends from other traditions or taking part in a Christian fellowship at school, BMPC youth leaders frequently report being asked questions like; when were you saved? Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus? Can you tell me about your conversion experience? These questions are valid, but they are not commonly asked in our tradition. Youth will be invited to think creatively about the way they understand and articulate their own faith story as a member of the Reformed tradition.

April | Good Friday Service Prep & Debrief

Weekly Schedule (subject to alteration):

- April 3rd: *Prepare for Good Friday Service*
- April 10th: *Prepare for Good Friday Service*
- April 17th: *No StudentServe (Holy Week)*
- April 24th: *Debrief of Good Friday Service*

Description: Youth lead BMPC’s noon Good Friday Service every year. Members of StudentServe take primary responsibility for planning and implementing the service.

May | Year in Review & Celebration

Weekly Schedule (subject to alteration):

- May 1st: Reflecting on the year & Assessing Outcomes
- May 8th: Reflecting on the year & Assessing Outcomes
- May 16th: Last StudentServe & Celebratory Field Trip

Description: The final month of student serve will provide participants with an opportunity to assess the ways their efforts have helped to create and nurture a community of faith that embodies the goals we established at the beginning of the year. We will also take an exciting field trip; location TBA!

StudentServe Leadership Teams Descriptions

All StudentServe members will participate weekly in various ministry teams.

Hospitality Team

The goal of this team is to provide hospitality leadership on Sunday morning by greeting and hosting other students.

Prayer Team

The goal of this team is to participate in regular prayer for the concerns of students and families in the Youth Ministry.

Worship Team/Band

The goal of this team is to provide the worship music for our Youth Gathering. Students will come early on Sunday morning to rehearse and prepare the stage.

Special Event Team

The goal of this team is to provide support for special events by helping to plan and committing to attend as many as possible throughout the program year.

StudentServe Expectations

Leadership demands expectations. Leaders will be held to a high standard. As a result, the youth ministry insists that student leaders meet certain requirements. Fortunately, our students are more than ready to be challenged.

A student leader will strive to:

- ✦ Be humble
- ✦ Practice self-care
- ✦ Remain open to exploring their faith in challenging and thought-provoking ways
- ✦ Be Genuine and transparent
- ✦ Publicly support the efforts of the youth ministry
- ✦ Make visitors feel welcome at events and programs
- ✦ Participate in major events
- ✦ Look for opportunities to share their faith with others
- ✦ Create life-giving relationships with their peers

Leaders are present! Those participating in StudentServe are expected to be the most faithful and consistent participants in the youth ministry. While noting that there are times when one cannot be present, StudentServe leaders are expected to faithfully attend the following:

- ✦ Sunday Morning Youth Gathering/Connection Groups
- ✦ StudentServe weekly meetings on Wednesday nights.
- ✦ Key special events throughout the 2018-2019 church season

StudentServe How to Join

1. Prayerfully consider this decision. Discuss it with several friends as well as your parents. We require your parents or guardian to sign the application stating they believe you are committed to this program.
2. Attend introductory StudentServe Gatherings in September to get a feel for what the year will be like.
3. Complete this application. Please type or write clearly with blue or black ink and return your completed application to AmyBauer@bmpe.org by **Sunday, October 14th, 2018**.

StudentServe
Youth Application

Instructions

1. Please answer the following questions clearly using blue or black ink
2. Return this application to the Youth Ministry office **by October 14th, 2018**

Name of Student:

Name of Parent (s):

Mailing Address:

Email Address:

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Do You Text? Yes or No

Do you have access to the "GroupMe" App? Yes or No

School: _____

Age: _____

Grade:

How long have you attended BMPC? _____

Are you a member of BMPC? (membership is not required) Yes or No

Please answer the following questions (You may attach an extra sheet of paper)

- 1) Tell us about your faith? What has your relationship with God been like for the past few months?
- 2) Explain your leadership style to the best of your ability.
- 3) Define the following terms: Servant, Humility. Name someone you believe exemplifies these qualities.

- 4) What does it mean to you to be a “follower of Jesus?”

- 5) List any extracurricular activities in which you participate, including clubs, sports, church, etc.

- 8) In your opinion, how does integrity effect one’s reputation with others?

- 6) Do you currently have a job? If so, where?

- 7) Is there anything that would hinder you from consistently attending our Sunday morning Youth Gathering/Connection Groups and weekly StudentServe meetings?

Youth Covenant:

By signing below, I signify that the answers I gave above are true to the best of my recollection. I also commit to faithfully and consistently attend the programs and ministries listed in this packet.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Release:

I acknowledge that my student is applying for the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church Youth Ministry StudentServe Team and give my permission and full support to them doing so. I will support my student in their leadership role within the Youth Ministry at BMPC.

Parent Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____