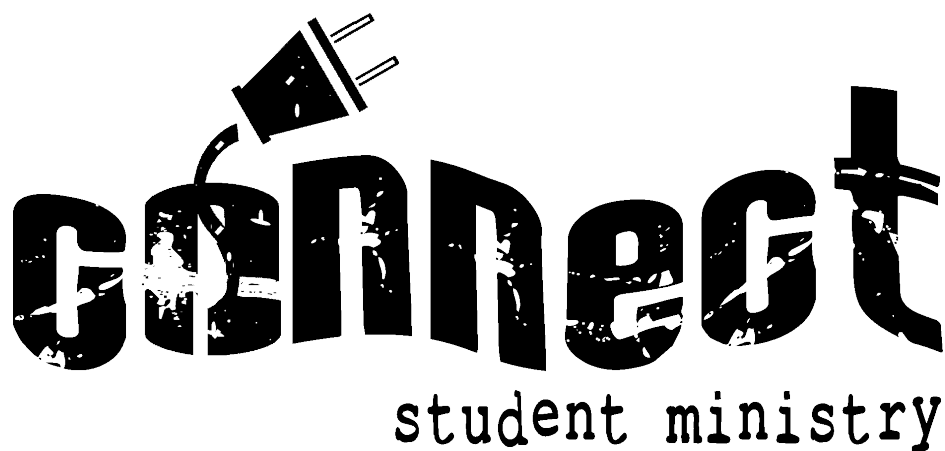


**NB Tween and Connect  
Student Ministry Handbook  
2018-2019**





## Our NB Tween and Connect Student Ministry Team

### Staff

Terri Hoye  
Children's Pastor  
terri@norcrossfirst.org

Sandra Hunter  
Student Ministry Director  
sandra@norcrossfirst.org

Juan Quintanilla  
Hispanic Ministry Pastor  
juan@norcrossfirst.org

Susan Farris  
Music Ministry Director  
susan@norcrossfirst.org

## NB Tween Ministry – 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

We launched our Tween Ministry 3 years ago and we look forward to continuing to build on the foundation that has been laid.

Our Tweens are “in between” childhood and their teenage years. A Tween will begin to have dramatic physical, mental and social changes throughout their tween years.

- They enter into puberty and begin to feel and experience changes to their physical bodies
- Brain development at this age is also dramatic for both genders.
- Socially, tweens are under pressure to fit in and it is during this period that they will likely face bullies as well as other social challenges.

*Matthew 7:24-27 is the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders.*

*“So, then everyone who hears my words and puts them into practice is like a wise man. He builds his house on the rock. The rain comes down. The water rises. The winds blow and beat against the house. But it does not fall. It is built on the rock. But everyone who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man. He builds his house on the sand. The rain comes down. The water rises. The winds blow and beat against the house. And it falls with a loud crash.”*

So, it is important that as they navigate these changes that we provide them with their own small group where they can continue to build their spiritual foundation so they can become more confident as they face challenges each day.

### Core Values

**GROW** – As our students navigate through the changes in their lives, they will continue to learn and grow in their love of God and others.

**WORSHIP** – Worship is vital because it reminds us of God's love and inspires us as we glorify God. Worship renews us and it points us into the world to serve. Every day is an act of worship as we respond to the grace of God

**SERVE** – As children of Christ, we are called to put our faith into action and go into the world to serve. Our students will have opportunities to serve others.

**CONNECT** – God reminds us that we were created to be in a relationship not only with Him but with others. We cannot do life alone.

## **Getting Your Student Involved with NB Tween and Connect Student Ministry**

During the Tween and teen years, it is natural for them to disengage from the church, their friends, and family. Your role as a parent is vital to set the boundaries for them, especially when it comes to being involved in the NB Tween and Student Ministry. During this season of their lives, they begin to say how “boring” church is and try to convince you not to “make them” go.

However, it is important that we partner together to help our students stay engaged in building their relationship with Christ and others, please be sure that your students attend growth group and other activities regularly. If you have any questions or concerns about your student becoming involved with the NB Tween or Connect Student Ministry at Norcross First UMC, please feel free to contact Terri Hoyer or Sandra Hunter at 770-448-4142.

### **Sunday Morning Growth Groups**

Come hear some of the coolest bible stories and how they relate to your life with some of the coolest teachers around every Sunday morning from 9:30 am to 10:30am in the NB Tween Room 221/223. There's plenty of time for discussion and hanging with your friends. Connect Students will meet in The Outlet on the lower level.

#### **Worship**

**11:00 am – 12:00 pm**

Worship – Sanctuary

Hispanic Worship – Chapel

## **Wednesday Night Connections**

We start at 6:15 pm, so you will need to eat dinner before you come on campus.

### **Wednesday Night Bible Club – Elementary Grades K-5th**

Our Wednesday Night event includes crazy games, videos, skits and a message you can understand. We have a fun and crazy time as we come to understand the various books of the Bible.

### **Carol Choir – 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Meets in the Choir Room on the Lower Level from 6:15 – 7:15 pm

### **Bell Choir – 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade - TBD**

Meets on Wednesday Night in the Bell Room on the Lower Level from 7:15 – 8:15 pm.

### ***Wednesday Night Bible Study – 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade- Led by Rayshaun DeVaughn and Sandra Hunter***

Meet on Wednesdays from 6:15 – 7:15 pm in The Outlet on the Lower Level

### ***Fusion Student Choir – 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade***

Student Choir meets on Wednesdays from 7:15 pm – 8:15 pm in the Choir Room. These students sing periodically at both 11:00 am worship services. This is a touring ensemble. We are considering participating in SonPower 2019 which will be in Nashville, TN. Tentative dates are June 15-21.

### ***Events & Retreats***

Every year NB Tween and Connect Student Ministries will plan many offsite events and retreats. Please stay informed with ministry leaders for information to all activities.

## Communication

We try our best to communicate to parents on a weekly basis, here are some of the ways you'll hear from us:

**Email** – Terri and Sandra will send out a weekly NB Tween and a separate Connect Student Ministry Newsletter with important reminders, and other good stuff in it.

**Weekly Updates via NFUMC Newsletter** - Every week our church staff sends out updates in the church's Newsletter. Updates include a calendar of upcoming events, conversation starters for you and your youth, a monthly devotional, and insights into what's current in youth culture. **Events and activities are advertised in advance and we need to firmly adhere to deadlines.**

**Weekly Church Bulletin** - The church's weekly bulletin will also list any major youth events that are occurring.

**Send Homes** - From time to time, we'll send home important information with your youth after a youth program. Don't worry! We'll also send out a .pdf in an email the next day, just in case your child forgot to actually bring it home!

If you ever need to contact us about any question you may have, feel free to email us or call the office 770-448-4142; our extensions are listed below:

Terri Hoye – Children's Pastor	terri@norcrossfirst.org	x105
Sandra Hunter – Student Ministry Director	sandra@norcrossfirst.org	x104
Juan Quintanilla – Hispanic Ministry Pastor	juan@norcrossfirst.org	x117
Susan Farris – Music Ministry Director	susan@norcrossfirst.org	x111

## What if my student is reluctant to get involved?

1. Pray for your teen. God loves your teen and wants to help.
2. Talk with your teen about getting involved. Discuss any fears or concerns.
3. Contact Sandra or Terri. We may be able to help you by contacting your teen ahead of time and welcoming them to their first event.

## Three questions every ministry should ask parents:

We want to be in ministry with you, the parents. Please look over the questions below, and let's find some time to talk about them and any other things that may be happening in the life of your youth. I'm available for personal meetings, email discussions, phone conversations, and psychic telepathy.

1. What's going on in your family and your kid's life right now that would help me and the youth staff know how to best work with your student?
2. How can the student ministry support you and your family better?
3. How are YOU doing spiritually right now?

## **NB Tween and Connect Student Ministry Code of Conduct**

To ensure that all youth have a safe, fun environment during gatherings the following code of conduct will be observed by all youth and adult participants:

- No roughhousing inside a building.
- Include all students as friends.
- Be respectful to adult leaders.
- Communicate in kind tones and friendly gestures.
- Use Christ-like language—words that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and admirable (see Philippians 4:8).

To enforce these rules we will:

- Use discrete words of warnings when individuals step outside the boundaries.
- Hold one on one conference with individuals when infractions persist.
- Consult parents or guardians when behavior seems chronically defiant.

If these simple rules are followed, then every youth gathering can be a Godly one.

## **Twelve Tips to Understanding Your Student**

1. When your student comes home from school today, smile when he or she walks through the door. Do that several days in a row and your kid will actually look forward to coming home!
2. Next time your student tries to be funny...laugh.
3. Make a list of all the things your student does that makes you mad. Now, go through the list and cross off all the stuff that doesn't really matter. Save your anger only for those things which have lasting moral consequences.
4. Take your student out for breakfast or lunch once a week. Promise yourself that you won't use that time to lecture or nag. Just listen and talk about good stuff.
5. Invite your student's friends to your house for pizza, soft drinks and a movie rental. Extra points if you can secure a big screen TV or video projector.
6. Ask your student to play his/her favorite music on your stereo. Listen and discuss the music with him or her. Find out why he/she likes it so much. Try to avoid criticism.
7. Think of something positive you can say to your teenager today...and say it.
8. Put a love note (from you) in your student's backpack or lunch sack.
9. Before you criticize your student's behavior, try remembering your own teenage years. Chances are it will help you communicate better.
10. Respect your student's privacy. Snooping without a legitimate reason is a no-no.
11. Communicate your plans to your student frequently. Let him/her know where you are, when you'll be home, what you're doing. This sets a good example that will encourage them to do the same thing for you.
12. Pray daily for your kids. Remember, God loves them even more than you do!

## **NB Tween and Connect Student Ministry Calendar \***

### **2018**

July 22, 2018	Parent Meeting-NB Tween and Connect
July 28, 2018	Kick Off – 6:00 – 8:30 pm NB Tween and Connect
July 29, 2018	Pizza Before Praise NB Tween and Connect
August 5, 2018	Move Up Sunday – All Students
September 5, 2018	Student Bible Study/Hang Out 6 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade
September 5, 2018	WNF Activities Begin (including Choir)
September 6, 2018	WyldLife at Summerour Begins
September 30, 2018	Pizza Before Praise NB Tween and Connect
October 5 & 6, 2018	Norcross ArtFest – Service Op Connect Students
October 13	Six Flags Fright Fest Connect Students

### **2019**

January TBD, 2019	Confirmation Begins – 7 <sup>th</sup> and up
January 2-4, 2019	PASSION – 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade and College
January 25-27, 2019	GIC
March 8-10, 2019	Confirmation Retreat – 7 <sup>th</sup> and up
March 15-16, 2019	Mid Hi Believe Tour – 5 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade
April 1-5, 2019	Spring Break
April 21, 2019	Easter
TBD	Last WNF Activities
May 12, 2019	Mother's Day
June 2-6	Vacation Bible School
SonPower 2019	June 15-21 (tentative)
July 10-14	TLC (Teens Love Christ) Current 7 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade

\* The extracurricular activities that are scheduled are to enhance building the relationships with your students. **Registration Deadlines are FIRM!**





**NORCROSS FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**EMERGENCY RESPONSE FORM AND PHOTO/VIDEO WAIVER (see back)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

Home address \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

D.O.B. \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Student Email \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies (write none if none apply) \_\_\_\_\_

Current medication taken daily \_\_\_\_\_

Can your student swim? \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Last Tetanus Shot \_\_\_\_\_

Past medical history (diabetic, seizures, high blood pressure, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

## Emergency Contact Information

Mother's name \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone number \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone number \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Father's name \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone number \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone number \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Other name \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone number \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone number \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Family physician \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

## Insurance Information

**Please provide a copy (front and back) of your insurance card.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Policy number \_\_\_\_\_

Policy holder's name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

All above information kept confidential and only viewed by NFUMC staff, or requested by certified medical personnel for obtaining information in case of an emergency.

**I am giving permission for trained emergency medical personnel to treat the above stated child in the event that either contact above could not be reached. I am the legal guardian of above stated child and have the authority to release such an order.**

Print name \_\_\_\_\_ Sign \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Notary \_\_\_\_\_ Sign \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**PHOTO/VIDEO WAIVER:** I, \_\_\_\_\_ understand that my student, \_\_\_\_\_ may be photographed or video recorded for church publications, advertisements and spotlights. I understand all photographs and video taken during student ministry organized and staff programs and special events may be used to help promote, advertise and highlight Student Ministry at Norcross First United Methodist Church.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of Parent/Guardian**

### **Student Ministries of Norcross First United Methodist Church**

Parents: Please discuss the following information with your student and sign below:

#### **Conduct Guidelines for Student Life:**

Respect for all persons is important for maintaining Christian Group Life. Therefore, I will honor the Covenant of Conduct as outlined below:

1. All students shall be in keeping with the highest Christian regard and respect for all persons.
2. Cooperation and respect for adult leaders and their decisions is expected.
3. Transportation to all youth events away from the church, unless specified by meeting at the alternate location, will be provided by adults between the ages of 25-65 who have been approved by church staff (youth will not be allowed to drive on church sponsored events).
4. The area used for the meeting, retreat or other event shall be left clean. Property and the use of the facilities shall be respected at all times. I understand that damage caused by me may be charged to my parents.
5. Dress should be appropriate for the event. Adult leaders may offer guidelines for specific events.
6. The use of or possession of weapons, drugs, alcohol or tobacco shall be prohibited. I understand that my property or room may be checked by church staff for such substances.
7. Sexual misconduct or physical violence will not be tolerated.

I understand the above guidelines and agree that if I do not follow these guidelines, I may be sent home at my parent's expense.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date