

**Youth & Young Adult Report**  
**December 2022 Charge Conference**  
Submitted by Emma Bushong

**Youth**

This has been a wonderful fall for our youth program. We've returned to all normal in person programming, which has been met by fantastic attendance and consistency from our families. We spent the fall learning about how we *belong* in this Christian family and community by having people from local non-profits share about their missions and how we can be involved, as well as doing a series to increase our Bible literacy called "Bible Crash Course," where we had a Belmont professor come teach our students! We have been focused on rebuilding our connections with each other as we've returned to seeing each other regularly, and our year's theme of *Belonging* feels successfully tackled. From Wednesday night midweek fellowship time to Sunday evening programming to our high schoolers serving the church during Sunday School hour, this has been a great year for our students and their connections with each other and this church. We have 6 Partners in Ministry who have faithfully given us their Sunday evenings, as well as 6 parents who lead our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders in their Confirmation journey. There are also countless parents who support us by feeding our youth and giving their time, and an amazing youth leadership team that helps steer our ministry. In the new year our guiding theme will be *Identity*, which we're excited to explore together through stories, experiences, and scripture. I'm so grateful for all those who have helped with and prayed for our ministry through the transitions of this year; we're in a great spot to start the new year and continue to grow in love of God and neighbor.

**Young Adults**

This has been a really exciting year for our young adult ministry. Our YAMS (Young Adults in Ministry and Service) class continues to meet faithfully and be a great community. We've also begun having a bigger presence on Belmont University's campus and have been investing time and resources into that community, which has resulted in a steady group of college students who attend worship and are finding their places in our church family. We have college students joining choir, interested in ways to serve, and our girls' small group led by Rachel Parker kicked off with 7 students last week. We have had a great partnership with Belmont Wesley Foundation, and we've enjoyed working together on ways to serve these students. We've hosted tables at 2 of Belmont University's events and are looking forward to doing more in the future as we continue to grow our presence and partnership there.