



Breakout Interest Key

(E) = Everyone (C) = Children (S) = Students

Breakout 1 | 10:45 - 11:30am

How To Never Stop Growing Up: Faith That Gets Better With Age (E)

Rev. Clay Farrington, Minister - Irondale UMC & former Youth Pastor

What if Church is stunting our spiritual growth? In 2016, researcher Charles Schwarz published a poll showing the longer someone follows Christ, the less spiritually mature they become. In this breakout, Clay will discuss the theology of discipleship, psychology of human development and some practical ways you can instill a faith in your youth and adults (and yourself) that never stops growing.

Kids & Youth, Blessing Kids & Youth (E)

Ramsey Lawrence, Development Director of Embrace Alabama/Florida Kids

Description: The Alabama-West Florida Conference has a rich history of supporting Embrace Alabama/Florida Kids, a ministry of the United Methodist Children's Home. Come learn how to introduce our ministry to the youth and children in your church. We will discuss a five-lesson mission outreach that can be used during Lent, Vacation Bible School, the White Christmas Campaign or any other time of the year when you are looking for a mission-based lesson for your children's and student ministries. You will leave this breakout session with fun, promotional items, practical ideas to use in your church, and a better understanding of our ministry.

Safer Sanctuaries: Nurturing Trust within Faith Communities (E)

Rev. Paula Roane, Minister to Children & Families - Gulf Breeze UMC

In our changing world, new and updated approaches to the work of abuse prevention are needed. In our time together, we will share the strong foundation of past efforts while preparing churches for the work of the future as we make our spaces safe for children, youth, and vulnerable adults.

Breakout 1 continued on the next page...

Puppets, Props, and Purpose (E)

Beth Allen, former Director of Children's Ministry

Looking for creative ways to engage kids and youth? Come learn how to incorporate creative ministries into your church.

You and Your Senior Minister (E)

Rev. Dr. Darren McClellan, Senior Minister - Fairhope UMC

What do you wish your supervising pastor understood about your ministry? What do you need from them to flourish in your context?

Let's Do This! (C)

Lisa Bond, Director of Children's Ministries and Mission/Outreach - FUMC Pensacola

Ways to get started, restarted, or motivated. We will look at simple ways to determine your focus and direction, to break down your goals into smaller bites, to do Sunday School with ease, to streamline your lessons, to ease your VBS work, and to find people support.

Beyond Sunday (S)

Denise Van Atta, Director of Student Ministries - FUMC Pensacola

Students are pulled in many directions with a lot of things vying for their time on Sundays. How do we reach those students who aren't attending Sunday youth events? We will look at equipping the family and encouraging ministry in the home, meeting students throughout the week, and finding places for students to serve in the church family.

Breakout 2 | 11:35am - 12:20pm

Telling God's Story (E)

Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Lentz, Senior Minister - FUMC Pensacola

Using Peter Enns approach to empower leaders and parents in teaching the Bible to children and youth.

Teacher Recruitment and Appreciation (E)

Glenda Argo, Director of Children's Ministries - FUMC Montgomery

Are you exhausted from excuses people give? Are you in recruitment burnout mode? This breakout will offer tips and ideas to encourage you during the recruitment of Sunday School and Children's Church teachers. Once recruited, teacher appreciation is vitally important. Come share and hear ideas on how to express gratitude to these faithful volunteers.

Being Connected (E)

Rev. Ashley Davis, Assistant to the Bishop and Conference Secretary - AWF Conference

Celeste Eubanks, Director of Connectional Ministries, AWF Conference

Being United Methodist means we are connectional. Discover best practices for working together in children's and youth ministries throughout the conference.

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Building Retreats, Building Fellowship (E)

Jessie Spangler, Program Director of Blue Lake Camp

Is your church looking for a way to escape from your usual weekly schedule and enjoy God's creation? Maybe a family camp, women's retreat, or youth retreat? Spend some time with us talking about what goes into building retreats that make a lasting impression on your congregation and how Blue Lake might help you accomplish those goals!

Spiritual Formation (C)

Sarah Hicks, Director of Children's Ministries - Shalimar UMC

In an effort to accompany children on their lifelong process of transforming into Christlikeness, we can offer ways for them to experience a life with God. We will explore various spiritual practices to introduce to children for their faith journey.

Traditional Worship with Children (C)

Kathy Minor, Director of Children's Ministries - Cokesbury UMC, Pensacola

Children's Church doesn't have to be a repeat of Sunday School. Kids can worship, too! We'll explore ways to teach kids the Lord's Prayer, Doxology, and other elements that will help them become active participants in a traditional worship setting.

Breakout 3 | 1:40 - 2:25pm

Planning and Budgeting: A Year at a Time (S)

Philip Brooks, Youth Minister - St Luke UMC, Pensacola

Do you have trouble planning in advance in an organized fashion? Do your student's parents complain that they don't know what's going on? Join us as we talk about how to schedule for a year, plan and budget for trips, and submit a yearly budget to your finance committee.

Celebrating Special Days with Children (C)

Glenda Argo, Director of Children's Ministries - FUMC Montgomery

The church year is crowned with special days which add depth and meaning to our Christian experiences. Discover ways to celebrate these joyful times with children and families. Join this breakout to hear creative ideas you may use or adapt for your church. Included in the discussion: Baby Recognition Sunday, Pentecost, Bible Sunday, Blessing of the Backpacks, and more!

How People Learn and Work (E)

Rev Emily Kincaid, Associate Minister - FUMC Pensacola

Have you ever noticed we all have different ways of understanding, learning, communicating, and being in the world? Come think with us about what those differences mean in light of the Great Commission and how we might lead so that all people can learn about God and grow in our love for God and neighbor!

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Confirmation (E)

Paula Roane, Minister to Children & Families - Gulf Breeze UMC

Confirmation is a time for students to explore their faith, experience what it means to follow Jesus inside and outside of the church. Join us as we explore formats and curriculum for this milestone event.

Better Together (E)

Denise Van Atta, Director of Student Ministries - FUMC Pensacola

Lisa Bond, Director of Children's Ministries and Mission/Outreach, FUMC Pensacola

How to connect with other ministries - to work together hand in hand. In this session, we will discuss how to provide an environment that encourages, loves and supports each other's ministries. Join us as we learn to bridge the gap between my ministry and yours, changing the philosophy from "my" ministry to "our" ministry.

Equipping your Special Needs Ministry (E)

Peggy Woy, Board Certified Behavior Specialist with a focus on Exceptional Student Education & Autism Spectrum Disorder

Arranging your special needs ministry space to suit the needs of your students. Working with families to design a Spiritual IEP based on the student's individual strengths.

Get Your Serve On (E)

Rev. Ashley Wilkinson Meyer, Executive Director of United Ministries

Come hear some innovative ways to engage your children and students in meaningful service to our local and global communities.

Schedule

9:30 - 10:00am | Check in

10:00 - 10:40am | Opening Worship & Speaker 1

10:45 - 11:30am | Breakout 1

11:35am - 12:20pm | Breakout 2

12:20 - 1:35pm | Lunch, Connection Time, & Resource Share

1:40 - 2:25pm | Breakout 3

2:30 - 3:00pm | Closing Worship & Speaker 2