

First United Methodist Church  
Bridgeport

**FAMILY MINISTRIES  
PHASE CARDS**



**fumcbridgeport.org**



NURSERY & PRESCHOOL

THE PHASE WHERE...



.....  
a child grows from a speck

.....  
INTO THE MOST  
SPECTACULAR

 **BABY**  
IN THE WORLD...

INTO A SPECTACULARLY  
CURIOUS PRESCHOOLER...

WHO JUST WANTS TO KNOW:

“WHY?”

# Nursery & Preschool

.....

## *The Phase Where Families...*

### **Pray the Lord's Prayer together at night.**

Parents, it'll just be you for a while! The kids will join in when ready!

### **Ask 3-5 adults to pray for your children daily.**

In time, these will be the same people that will help you raise them in the faith.

### **Make regular church attendance a habit.**

Routine is important for children and families, develop your church routine early!



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— ELEMENTARY —

THE PHASE WHERE...



SCHOOL BEGINS

the possibilities are

ENDLESS

**SATURDAY** SHOULD BE  
CALLED **SPORTS DAY**



...and every kid  
wants to know:

“WHAT AM I  
CAPABLE OF?”



# Children's Ministry Elementary



## *The Phase Where Families...*



### **Circle up for a weekly family devo time.**

Nothing fancy, just set a time each week to read a short scripture together and talk about it!



### **Invest in a few “family friends.”**

Find some families with similar aged children and values and prioritize time for the whole family to hang out.



### **Help your children establish a heart for the church.**

Show them your heart for the church by serving at the church and calling it “our church home.”



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— CONFIRMATION —

THE PHASE WHERE...



.....  
**FAITH BECOMES  
PERSONAL**

**AS NEW** .....

**FOUNDATIONS** are laid

**new FRIENDSHIPS  
♥ ARE FORMED**

...AND STUDENTS ARE  
**CHALLENGED TO ASK**

**“WHAT DO I  
BELIEVE?”**

# C- Confirmation - 6th Grade



## *The Phase Where Families...*

 **Create time to discuss the faith, including questions and doubts.**

Parents need not have all the answers, just the willingness to listen and to respond. This can happen casually over dinner or formally during a weekend parent/child getaway.

 **Foster your student's friendship with "church friends."**

Encourage your student to spend time with their small group and other friends during the week.

 **Serve inside of the church.**

Parents, consider serving as a small group leader, it helps other students love the church and helps your student see your heart for service.



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— MIDDLE SCHOOL —

THE PHASE WHERE...



popularity matters

is measured in



**LIKES &**  
**FOLLOWERS**

...and young teenagers  
DESPERATELY want to know

“WHO **REALLY**  
**LIKES ME?**”

United Youth  
Middle School



*The Phase Where Families...*



**Have a plan to serve together regularly.**

Discuss as a family how you would like to serve, make a plan, get to it!



**Make small group a priority.**

Few things impact the middle school experience more than a student's friend group. Prioritizing small groups helps both students and parents stay grounded during these turbulent years.



**Attend a mission trip.**

Youth and family mission trips are life changing experiences and a great way to bond with others at the church. Parents, consider serving as a worksite leader on a youth trip.



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HIGH SCHOOL

THE PHASE WHERE...



EVERYTHING IS  
GRADED

NEW  
FREEDOMS

COME EVERY YEAR



...and with the  
13TH GRADE



JUST AROUND THE CORNER  
young men & women begin to ask...

“WHO AM I, & WHY  
DO I MATTER?”

UNITED YOUTH  
HIGH SCHOOL



*The Phase Where Families...*

 **Rally around a common project.**

Identify a local organization for your family to “adopt.” Decide how much time and money you’d like to donate to the organization annually.

 **Recruit 3-5 adults to help prepare for the 13<sup>th</sup> grade.**

Launch is just around the corner, find a handful of adults who are helping your family prepare. Youth small group leaders are some of these adults for many families.

 **Encourage their high schoolers to lead others.**

High schoolers make great small group leaders for elementary and middle school students.



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COLLEGE

THE PHASE WHERE...



.....  
independence arrives

.....  
and brings with it a

WHOLE LOT OF



FUN

just as much  
responsibility



...and at some point

THE QUESTION

“WHAT NOW?”

# College Students

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## *The Phase Where Families...*

### **Keep the faith at the forefront.**

Parents, send notes, care packages, and texts to remind your student of their faith.

### **Know the local churches & campus ministries.**

Research the churches in your new community and attend a few campus ministries until you find a place you feel like you can continue to grow.

### **Remember that FUMC Bridgeport is still home.**

Connect with the us while on break and call, text, or email anytime.

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