

The CrossRoads Connection



A Youth and Young Adult Ministry of
St. Andrew United Methodist Church

New Life in Christ

As the CrossRoads school season comes to a close, I am reminded of the many kids we have been lucky enough to serve this year. Soon, we will be celebrating with our college and high school seniors on the completion of a journey. Many of these individuals have come through the ranks of St. Andrew's programming but many have not. In fact, we have quite a few youth that are very new in their faith.



Dana Kirkwood is the Program Director for the CrossRoads community.

CrossRoads Ministries was birthed in the mission of St. Andrew's belief that we are called to equip the next generation for new life in Christ. We take that task very seriously and we are trying to find different ways to create environments for youth to feel included and loved here in St. Andrew's fold. For the past few years, we've had some

great successes. One of the new programming groups for junior high is UnBROKEN. This group was born when our GOLDen Girls mentioned they had been given the format to make female friends where they could safely talk about any subjects. We listened to the young ladies—we let the junior high young ladies provide us with what they felt was important.

- ♦ **CONNECT:** The young ladies realized that they need to understand how Christ calls us to community. It is this spirit of gratitude that united our group. We realize that we need to connect with ourselves, with others in our church, and to reach out to our community.
- ♦ **RESPECT:** In order to truly

connect, the young ladies understand that we must find a way to respect ourselves and create a safe place where trust and mutual concern can foster an open heart. It is important to realize that by listening to each other's stories and by being heard; we can create a place where we can celebrate our unique potential and our God given gifts.

- ♦ **PROTECT:** In a group that is based on Christ's love, the young ladies realized that God has given us a vessel in our bodies. The young ladies learn to protect their bodies physically, emotional, relationally, intellectually, and spiritually. As a group, they care for one another with compassion and bold forgiveness.

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Our VISION: The CrossRoads Youth Ministry of St. Andrew United Methodist Church embraces and supports the youth and young adults of our community and their families, seeks to inspire and guide their spiritual growth as Disciples of Jesus Christ, and then, empowers/challenges them to serve each other, the church and the whole world.



BroZone/ GOLDen Girls

UnBROKEN is finishing its second year. This year, we had eight young ladies that regularly participated in this program. This year, the girls worked with United Methodist Women and CareNotes to create different service projects. They learned the importance of staying safe digitally, worked on self esteem, and learned the importance of education. We've learned that Christ loves us at every turn. Most importantly, we learned how to grow as Christian young ladies.

Next year, UnBROKEN will be lead by Gretchen Bollhoefer and Angela Johnson. Gretchen works within the human resources department of the Purdue Research Park. Angela Johnson is a math instructor at Jefferson High School. Both of these women bring to the group understanding of the importance of using Christ's principals to show our 6th, 7th, and 8th grade young ladies how to find and use God's gifts. Thank you very much for your support over the year and continued support in the years to come.



Input Wanted

Are you a 6th, 7th, or 8th grader? If you are, we would love your help.

We are interested in ideas for topics YOU would like to discuss and activities YOU would like to do as a group.

So spend some time thinking about some of the challenges and opportunities you see in your everyday lives. **And bring your ideas to the Junior High youth group meeting next Sunday at 6 p.m.**



Just a reminder that this year's mission students are more than willing to work for you!

The mission trip costs families \$460 per student. This cost includes travel to camp, additional tools on the mission site, all meals, and accommodations at the camp.

One way to teach our youth the value of work is to allow them to earn monies towards their own trip.

If you are interested in having someone come help you, you

can call any of the adults on the team. Our numbers are in the directory:

- * John Baldwin
- * Angela Johnson
- * Dana Kirkwood
- * Jeff Norris
- * Kim Weston
- * Todd Weston

We will work to create an appropriate team for your needs. However, please keep in mind, the youth need some advance notice to work with their families to coordinate permission and transportation.

Please help support our youth and get to know them.



2014 Graduates

Do you know an upcoming college or high school graduate?

Please help us celebrate these students that have worked so hard! The office has a clipboard where you can place the names, degree, and school from which your student is graduating. Or, you can email Dana Kirkwood at dana@andrew-umc.org.

Remember, you can always access the CR calendar on the Web at thecrossroads-umc.org





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FAITHFULNESS: Throughout it all, the girls realized that to call themselves Christians was not enough. We need to practice our faith, seeking God's purpose by spending time in God's word, collectively and individually, working to understand God's word and to allow Christ's light to shine through them.

These junior high young ladies, after spending time with UnBROKEN, will graduate and enter GOLDen Girls, where they will take a deeper understanding and study of where God is leading them. These groups, ideally, will be the United Methodist Women of the future, the VBS directors, and youth leaders of the following generations! It is because of the time spent investing in these young ladies and the other Cross-Roads youth that St. Andrew is ensuring generations to come will also be successfully

equipped for new life in Christ.

Dana

Direct Questions:
Dana Kirkwood [765-412-6858](tel:765-412-6858)

Watch your thoughts, they become your words. Watch your words, they become your actions. Watch your actions, they become your habits. Watch your habits, they become your character. Watch your character, it becomes your destiny.



HELP WANTED ~ Junior High Sunday School Coordinator

We need someone that can relate to the kids with fun energy while being serious about their faith. This is an important age. They are testing their limits for the first time while still trusting those around them to guide them.

The key pieces of this position would be making sure the team is communicating and help coordinate teachers' availability. Additionally, the coordinator will evaluate curriculum and work with the team to find appropriate materials.

CrossRoads would appreciate you taking the time to prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve our youth. The more role models and adults in these students' lives, the stronger their connection to their faith will be in the future. We are molding the future VBS directors of the world.

The junior high team is working its way through the Bible through a bible story book. Students will have worked through the entire bible within the three years they are in this Sunday school class.

Currently, each member of the team takes a week or two and teaches. CrossRoads needs someone that would be willing to communicate with the team regarding scheduling and be willing to teach two weeks a month.

Let me tell you about the team:

Dorothy Taylor would like to remain teaching one Sunday a month.

John and Leah Garner teach one Sunday a month.

Direct Questions to
Dana Kirkwood
[765-412-6858](tel:765-412-6858)



See YOU at the CrossRoads