



**ELEMENT STUDENT MINISTRY**  
**2021-2022**



# OUR MISSION

Element Student Ministry's vision is to partner with families in supporting the growth of student relationships with Christ. We realize that this partnership requires effort on both sides and at Element, we do our very best to provide a variety of creative ministry opportunities that help students fall more in love with Jesus Christ each time they walk through our doors. We offer many different ways to get plugged in because we know that each individual student is in a unique place on their spiritual journey. We aim to meet students where they are and then help them grow deeper in their faith.

Our hope is that you will take this guide (both students and parents), look through it and find a ministry that you can get involved with this year. We don't expect anyone to participate in everything, but we DO encourage you to find at least one weekly ministry to participate in and fully commit to being a part of. If you have any questions about our ministry, please get in touch with us. We love to share about our vision & goals.

Thanks for letting us here at Trinity United Methodist Church walk alongside your family on this faith journey. We look forward to supporting, guiding, and challenging you to grow into a fully committed disciple of Christ.

Element exists to **REACH** everyone for Christ, **CONNECT** with other Christians, **GROW** in our faith, **SERVE** those in need, and **HONOR** God with our lives.





# THE FUNNEL

To effectively help students become deeply committed Christians, we must first identify where they are in their spiritual journey. Then, we encourage them to grow and move deeper down the ministry funnel of discipleship.





# MEET THE STAFF!





# COMMUNITY

The goal of a **COMMUNITY** event is to **REACH** as many students as possible, involve them in the event's activities & bring them into a welcoming and open community of students following Jesus. These nights also give our current students the opportunity to easily invite a friend or two!

**ELEMENT CAFE** is open to all Middle School students on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 3:00-5:30 PM. Element Cafe **DOES NOT** cost anything to enter, though we always appreciate a \$1 donation at the door. Drinks & snacks are only 50 cents! Element Cafe takes place in the youth area of Trinity UMC & is a great and safe space for students to relax, do homework, play in our gym & game room, eat snacks & hang out with friends & our youth staff.

**REACH NIGHT** is the **BEST** night of the month, typically on the last Sunday of each month, to **REACH OUT** and invite a friend to Element. **REACH** Nights are fun-filled nights to become comfortable with the youth ministry environment. These nights include the Annual Tailgate Party, Pumpkinfest, The Element Dodgeball Tournament, Spotlight and more! 6-8PM.





# CROWD

**CROWD** programs are designed to encourage students to invite their friends and to interact with others. These events are laid back and accessible for any students! Students involved in crowd programs are given a great chance to better connect with friends and staff alike, allowing for them to feel more a part of our ministry.

**SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE!** SNL is typically held on the first three Sundays of each month from 6:00-7:00 PM. These nights are filled with worship, dinner, videos, skits & a message from our staff or a guest speaker. Many of our students participate in leading SNL, making this a great opportunity to bring a friend to church for this incredible one hour service.

Following SNL, we will have a **PLUS** portion of the night that will allow students to hangout with & connect to other students, our youth team & volunteers from 7:00-8:00 PM. These events can include activities on or off campus. Times & locations will be updated at the start of each month in our weekly email, our social media & website.

## **FAN CLUB**

Fan Club is an 'at random' program, led by Rhys Ferguson our community director, in which "ELEMENT" will come to a local middle or high school school event to celebrate and cheer on our students in style (we're talking highlighter yellow shirts)! To sign up for Fan Club and receive announcements and emails for how you can join fan club, contact Rhys at [rferguson@trinitybirmingham.com](mailto:rferguson@trinitybirmingham.com).



# CONGREGATION

CONGREGATION programs are aimed towards those students who are already comfortable at church. These students range from those who attend church with their families to those who come on their own, all seeking to begin studying the Bible.

ELEMENT AM is an environment of fun, fellowship and growth. Classes are divided into 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th/10th and 11th/12th grade groups. We have a seven-year cycle curriculum, so students experience a well-rounded study of the Bible and theology. Each class has discussion, games and a time to study scripture. Classes are on Sunday mornings from 9:45–10:30 AM. Good News! There are donuts, juice and coffee too.





# COMMITTED

**COMMITTED** programs are for students who are seeking a deeper relationship with Christ, want to give back to the church and develop their leadership skills. These programs will help students in all of these areas, with individual support and encouragement in their growth from our staff.

**FUSION** Groups are offered for each grade and broken out by guys and girls. Groups have the freedom to meet whenever and wherever! Each group is led by trained, caring adult leaders who aim to lead their groups throughout all their years at Element. We have a seven-year rotation of what the students study, based on interests, struggles and questions they may have about faith and the Bible.

Our hope is that students will grow in their faith just as they grow in stature. Students may join a **FUSION** group any time throughout the year and they are open to everyone (it's not a 'Members Only' club).

Group times are subject to change and new groups are always forming! Check online at [www.elementstudentministry.com/fusion](http://www.elementstudentministry.com/fusion).

**ELEMENTOR** is a mentoring ministry where older students will help mentor younger students. We challenge our mentors to support their mentee through weekly prayer, presence, gifts, service and witness. **ELEMENTOR** will be launching October of 2021.



# CORE

**CORE** programs are aimed towards students who are actively seeking to grow deeper in their faith and be leaders in the ministry. Many of the core programs are organized and led by students with little, if any, direction or follow-up from adult leadership.

**THE JOURNEY** is a program designed for students who are ready to take their spiritual journey to a deeper level. The program is customized for each student to study five Biblical principles: worship, service, evangelism, fellowship and discipleship. Students are challenged to complete a task associated with each principle. They are given guidelines but are encouraged to come up with their own task based on their talents or passion. Also, The Journey challenges students to read a book and complete a devotional during the year. The ultimate goal of The Journey is to prepare students to be servants of Christ once they graduate from high school and leave the spiritual support of their families and youth minister. The Journey will be launching in October of 2021.

**STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM** is for students who are ready and willing to give back to the student ministry, specifically on Sunday nights. Students are not nominated or elected to the leadership team. Anyone is welcome to join. Roles include our Welcome Team, Tech Team and Community/Follow Up Team. Students will meet once a month with Robert and other staff both to learn, give feedback and be equipped to serve. To join, contact Robert and become a student leader!





# WEEKLY EVENTS!

## SUNDAY

Element AM: 9:45-10:30 AM

Youth Handbells: 4:15-5:00 PM

Cross & Flame Youth Choir: 5-5:50 PM

Element Sunday Nights: 6-8 PM

## TUESDAY & THURSDAY

Element Cafe: 3:00-5:30 PM

## THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

FUSION Bible Study Small Groups

Check out your grade/group times online at  
[elementstudentministry.com/fusion](http://elementstudentministry.com/fusion)



# SUNDAY NIGHT THEMES

### AUGUST: What's Next?

Four Stories of Fresh Starts From Scripture.

### SEPTEMBER: How To Ruin Your Life

A series on wisdom that gives "reverse advice" to show students what not to do to live a better life.

### OCTOBER: TopicsTober

Tackling some of the hardest questions in the Bible we often avoid.

### NOVEMBER: What We Believe

A two week 'review' on the foundations of our faith in the United Methodist Church.

### DECEMBER: Christmas Vacation

In partnership with the church-wide theme this Advent and Christmas season!

### JANUARY: Reset

Learning and Relearning  
Who Jesus Says We Are.

### FEBRUARY: The GOAT

Putting Into Practice Jesus's Greatest  
Commandment of All Time.

### MARCH: AMA - Ask Me Anything

A 2-week panel & discussion time, post discovery weekend, where students will submit theological questions to staff, pastors, and adult leaders of ESM.

### APRIL: IRL - In Real Life

Stress and anxiety are normal, everyday parts of life. Learning practical, Christ-centered ways of navigating these feelings should be too.

### MAY: Game Over.?

We're coming to the close of the school year and it's time to say farewell to our seniors, so now what?



# SAVE THE DATES!

These events are key programs, events and retreats in this upcoming school year. Some of these fall within our 'Weekly Events' timeline and others are special events. Be sure to subscribe to our Weekly Newsletter to learn the specifics about what's coming up each week and month at Element. Scan the QR code to subscribe!

## FALL 2021

August 8: Grow Sunday, 10 AM in the Haven  
August 14-15: [highschooldiscovery.com](https://highschooldiscovery.com)  
Week of 16th - FUSION Groups Start  
August 22: First SNL of the School Year!  
August 29: The Tailgate Party, 6-8 PM  
September 26: Dodgeball Tournament, 6-8 PM  
October 24: PUMPKINFEST, 6-8 PM  
November 21: Turkey Bowl, 2-4 PM (Weygand Field)  
November 28: Hanging of the Green (Church-wide)  
December 12 - SNeLf 6-8 PM

## SPRING 2022

January 9 - First SNL of the Spring Semester!  
Week of January 10th - FUSION Groups Start  
January 30th - Spotlight Search Night, 6-8 PM  
February 13 - Super Bowl Party, 5-8 PM  
February 20 - Serve Night  
February 27 - High School Only (Discovery Prep Night)  
March 4-6 - DISCOVERY WEEKEND  
April 24 - Element Family Night, 6-8 PM  
May 15 - Senior SNL, 6-8 PM









# TME 2022

ELEMENTDISCOVERYWEEKEND.COM



**“Middle School Discovery Weekend is a life-changing weekend that you simply cannot miss. This year, Discovery is March 4-6, 2022, and our theme is TIME. Go ahead and mark your calendars to ensure that you are here for the CANNOT MISS EVENT OF THE YEAR!”**







SAVE THE DATE!  
**FOURTH**  
SIXTH 2022





# ADULT LEADERS

At Element we are convinced that the more parents & adult volunteers that are involved, the more students we can effectively REACH for Jesus.

By volunteering, you get to:

- Hang out with awesome students
- Develop lasting and meaningful relationships
- Be part of a community that is impacting the next generation!

No experience needed! Only a love for Jesus! Whether you serve at Element Café, drive a vehicle, pray for Element, or mentor a group of students, you can play a role in helping your student and others develop an authentic faith. Our commitment to you, is that we, through the leading and empowerment of the Holy Spirit, will provide our volunteers with the following: practical ministries, opportunities for development as deeply committed Christians, and training for Christian leadership for those who have a desire to serve. What a great calling we have to be part of a team who will help students be known, loved and connected to God! To learn more about Element and how you can be part of this team, email Robert at [rsturdivant@trinitybirmingham.com](mailto:rsturdivant@trinitybirmingham.com)





# HOW YOU CAN SERVE

## ONCE A MONTH COMMITMENT:

- Element AM Teacher, Sundays 9:30-10:30 AM

10 per-grade level teachers willing to commit to a monthly rotation during the school year. A co-teacher and/or staff member is partnered with you, as well as supplies and curriculum.

- A Journey Guide

14 adults that are willing to check in with students on "the Journey" (our personal discipleship toolkit) roughly once a month to see about their progress and offer words of encouragement. Commitment time is two hours a month.

## WEEKLY (with flexibility):

-FUSION GROUP BIBLE STUDY SMALL GROUP LEADER

Adult Leaders for by grade/by gender small groups that meet weekly throughout the school year. The commitment is roughly one hour a week. At least one co-teacher and/or staff member is partnered with you, as well as supplies and curriculum.

ELEMENT SUNDAY NIGHTS Adult Volunteer,

Sundays 5:45-8:00 PM.

30+ adult volunteers to hang out, serve meals to, encourage and talk with students on Sunday nights during the school year.

ELEMENT CAFE MENTOR,

Tuesdays and/or Thursdays. Various Roles & Shifts.

Element Cafe is one of the most important ministries at Element, that seeks to provide students with a safe haven through a Christian environment after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We have a lot of different roles and shifts available. Shift 1 - 3:00-4:15 and Shift 2 - 4:15-5:30. In these shifts you'll have the opportunity to work at the front desk, serve at the concession stand, play games in the gym, or be a front desk monitor.





## MADDIE TANNER

Element is where I can be with my friends, share my faith, and learn more about who God is. It means I can grow in my friendships that are connected to Jesus in places in Fusion groups. Element is where I can be myself. I have really missed my Fusion group this summer and can't wait to get back when school starts. Also Element Cafe has been a great way after school to connect with my friends and learn more about God.

## WILL ANDRESS

To me, Element means a time to hang out with my friends and a great staff also while growing my relationship with God. I come to Element to hang out, have fun, and move closer to God. I grow my faith at Element in multiple ways. I come to church for starters. Then, I do other stuff at Element like service-learning trips and Discovery Weekend. This summer, I participated in Element Serve Week. There, I helped paint somebody's house in my own city. Serving the community is a great way to feel God's presence. Then, there's Discovery Weekend. At Discovery, you get to spend a weekend with hundreds of other kids at church. You get to listen to others speak about God, then you learn how to feel closer. In general, Element is a great way to have fun while also getting close to God. I look forward to coming back each week.





## GRAHAM JOURDAN

To me Element is a safe, fun, and spiritual place. I say this because I always love how at Element, they take the old way of teaching the bible and make it easier to understand and relate to. It is great because it can be taught in a way that makes it easily understood by a middle school or High schoolers mind. I feel safe here due to the fact that it's a home and a church, and I know none of the people who work there will hurt me or lead me away from God. The people and the place here make me feel like I'm comfortable and at home whenever I come to Element, no matter how long it's been since I was there last. These are just a few things I love about Element.

I have grown in my faith with Element in many ways. One is just that as I am growing up here with Element, I have always been around God. One thing that they have helped me take further though, is that I feel like I can actually read my Bible comfortably. I feel when I go to Element, it makes me understand how life isn't all about me and that how well I serve others is what matters. My goal in life is to be my best self, and God is the path that can help. I would encourage anyone to come here, because God can help you with anything and this church has helped me realize that.





# RESOURCES

The Element Staff are available to meet any time with parents and students for all small, big and anything in between! Find our contact details and more information on [elementstudentministry.com](http://elementstudentministry.com)

To Stay In The Loop,  
text "ELEMENT" to  
**39970**

standard text message rates may apply

Need information on adolescent counseling services?  
Contact United Counseling at [unitedcounseling.org](http://unitedcounseling.org), a ministry of the United Methodist Church, who holds a satellite office next to Element's Youth Ministry Space.

## ParentCue

An Orange Group resource for reminding parents why what you do is so important.  
[theparentcue.org](http://theparentcue.org) / On The App & Google Play Store

Interested In Youth Choir at Trinity?  
Go to [elementstudentministry.com/choir](http://elementstudentministry.com/choir) or contact Josh Voiles at [jvoiles@trinitybirmingham.com](mailto:jvoiles@trinitybirmingham.com)



# FOLLOW US!

## YouTube

[youtube.com/c/ElementStudentMinistry](https://www.youtube.com/c/ElementStudentMinistry)

## Instagram

[@elementstudentministry](https://www.instagram.com/elementstudentministry)

## FACEBOOK

[facebook.com/elementsm](https://www.facebook.com/elementsm)

## ON THE WEB

[elementstudentministry.com](https://www.elementstudentministry.com)

[trinitybirmingham.com](https://www.trinitybirmingham.com)

## SPOTIFY

[@elementsm](https://www.spotify.com/artist/elementsm)





