

The logo features the word "confirmation" in a black, cursive script font. The text is centered within a white, horizontally-oriented oval. This oval is set against a solid red rectangular background.

Confirmation is the process by which we teach the beliefs of the Christian faith, and especially those that are distinctive to the United Methodist Church. Through this experience, with the help of parents, we hope to equip students to make important decisions about their faith and prepare them for membership in the church. This process involves a series of eight classes that will be held on Sunday mornings weekly from 10:00-11:00 AM between January and April.

Students will have small table discussion groups with an adult leader. Each week, a topic will be presented by one of the church staff members. There are activities and time for discussion and questions. We will also be assisting in worship during the Ash Wednesday service on March 2nd at 6:30 PM. There will be a tentative Confirmation Retreat Family Day on March 26<sup>th</sup>.

It is particularly important that students attend ALL classes. If there are special circumstances where a student must be absent, please let us know. If a student misses any session, they will need to do makeup work. Accommodations may be made to attend class on Sunday via Zoom if necessary. ***If two or more sessions are missed, the confirmand and their parent will need to meet with one of the pastors and it is possible that they may not be able to be confirmed.*** Please save the class and retreat dates on your calendar to make sure that your child will be able to attend.

At the first Confirmation class meeting, we will be providing all confirmands a Bible as a gift to keep and to use throughout the Confirmation process. Our hope is that the students will develop their skills in Bible study through our class meetings and begin to develop habits of personal study at home.

We believe that parents should be very involved in the Confirmation process with their child. To assist parents with having important discussions about their faith and the Confirmation process, we will have parents join us for some meetings to share what the confirmands have been learning and talk through any questions or concerns. Note the dates with "\*\*\*" on the schedule. There will also be scheduled opportunities for parents to speak with pastors, one on one, through the process.

We will have a **rehearsal** for the Confirmation service in the Sanctuary on **April 10th** and **Confirmation Sunday will be April 24th**, with a luncheon for confirmands and their families following. This is a day that students, if they choose, will make their commitment, and join the church. Please note that parents do not have to be members for their child to be confirmed; however, if you do wish to join the church, you may speak with one of our pastors to discuss this.

The following are the goals of **Confirmation**:

- Teach confirmands the story of their faith, as contained in the Old and New Testaments and in the history and traditions of Christianity and The United Methodist Church.
- Give confirmands a basic understanding of Christian theology, including the doctrine of the Trinity, creation, sin, and grace.
- Teach confirmands the traditions and doctrinal emphases that make United Methodism unique.
- Foster relationships between confirmands and Christian adults in the congregation who can set an example of how to live as a mature Christian.
- Give confirmands an understanding of the importance of Christian education as a lifelong endeavor; and help confirmands develop a habit of participating in Christian education.
- Give confirmands an understanding of Christian worship as practiced in The United Methodist Church and why worship is an essential part of Christian discipleship.
- Challenge confirmands to serve God and others through the life and ministry of the congregation.
- Give confirmands an opportunity to go on retreats, withdrawing from their normal routine and drawing closer to God and their fellow Christians.
- Teach confirmands about the vows they will have an opportunity to take and the commitments that one makes when one says yes to those vows.