



SFUMC CONFIRMATION 2023 WELCOME!

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Confirmands:

We are so excited about Confirmation 2023! As you discuss this journey of faith and acceptance of Christ with your children, we want to walk alongside you with as much helpful information as possible. Confirmation is a vast word in context, but Confirmation is a journey of Christian faith in which your child can openly confirm and profess, "This is my faith." On this journey of Confirmation, students explore questions about their faith, which include: Who is Jesus Christ? Who is God? Who is the Holy Spirit? What is salvation? What is the Bible? How do we grow spiritually? What does it mean to be a Methodist? Who am I in Christ and within the church body?

In the Methodist Church, Confirmation is a sacred day of commitment and celebration in the life of the individual and the church. We define 'confirmation' as "the act by which persons who are baptized as infants or young children make their first public statement of their declaration or profession of faith." In simple language, Confirmation is a commitment that your child is publicly confessing to serve God, and the church, through the acknowledgment of their baptism.

As you engage with your children about their faith in Christ, we offer a few pointers to help navigate these conversations at home.

How Do I Talk to My Child About Confirmation?

1. Share your testimony. Share your faith journey of confirmation with your children. Trust me, they love hearing about the journey of faith mom and dad have taken.
2. Ask your children how they feel about Confirmation and baptism. Confirmation is a public profession of faith and the child's choice to make. It is a God filled choice, so we encourage you to pray with your child about this decision as a family.
3. Utilize the pastoral staff at your church. Your pastors would love to sit with you and your family to discuss Confirmation and baptism. Please reach out to Pastor Bill or Pastor Kitsy as soon as possible. We promise pastors don't bite, but they will pray with you.
4. Consider enrolling in a Parent Confirmand Class to go through the Confirmation process with your child. Spanish Fort UMC has a Parent Confirmand Class that Rev. Bill Price teaches, and registration will be open soon.
5. Educate your family. There are resources to help further explain the journey of Confirmation, and we invite you to take a few minutes to look through them:
 - Beyond Baptism: What Confirmation Means to Methodists
<https://www.umc.org/en/content/beyond-baptism-what-confirmation-means-to-united-methodists>
 - What Do I Need to Know About Confirmation in the UMC?
<https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-what-do-i-need-to-know-about-confirmation-in-the-united-methodist-church#>
 - United Methodist Beliefs: Baptism and Confirmation
<https://www.umc.org/en/content/united-methodist-beliefs-baptism-and-confirmation>

The journey of Confirmation is powerful in that we have joy in witnessing God's children respond to accepting God's grace. As a church family, we celebrate their commitment to serving God wholeheartedly. It is essential to understand that Confirmation is not a destination but an avenue where we renew our commitment to our faith journey and celebrate the divine grace of Christ.

If your child is in 6th grade (or beyond) and is exploring the journey of Confirmation, we invite your entire family to join Rev. Price, Pastor Dixon, and Mrs. Isbell for our Confirmation Interest Meeting on Sunday, January 8, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. on the West Campus. We will share further information with you and answer any questions that you may have about Confirmation and baptism.

In the meantime, please look through this packet and find the class meeting schedule, teacher/mentor information, and important planning dates. Please do not hesitate to contact our pastoral and children's staff if you need to speak directly with someone regarding Confirmation.

Confirmation Staff 2023

Rev. Bill Price | Senior Pastor
bill@spanishfortumc.org
251-626-1334

Dr. Kitsy Dixon | Associate Pastor
kitsy@spanishfortumc.org
251-626-1334

Children & Youth Staff

Mrs. Kellie Isbell | Children's & Nursery Director
children@spanishfortumc.org
251-626-1334

Mr. Zack McCraw | Youth Director
youth@spanishfortumc.org
251-626-1334



SFUMC CONFIRMATION 2023 MISSION STATEMENT & GOALS

SFUMC Mission Statement

- To make disciples who are deeply committed to: Christ, His Church, Our Community.

Goals for 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.



**SFUMC CONFIRMATION 2023
COVENANT**

I, _____, vow to prepare myself for Confirmation as a United Methodist Christian and a professing member of Spanish Fort United Methodist Church by:

- attending all scheduled Confirmation classes and making them a priority. If I am unable to attend because of an emergency, I will work with my Confirmation leaders to make up anything I missed.
- attending worship at least three Sundays per month.
- being active in a Christian education group or class. Throughout the duration of the Confirmation program, I will be active in opportunities to serve the church, or a Bible study group and/or will attend youth fellowship meetings.
- serving others and serving the church in a spirit of Christ’s love.
- participating in the Confirmation retreat.
- praying daily for my fellow Confirmands, my congregation, my family, my school and community, my Confirmation journey, and for all of the people and situations in the world in need of healing.

After being baptized and completing the Confirmation program I will have the opportunity to stand before the congregation and take the vows of Confirmation. I understand that I may choose to be confirmed or to not be confirmed and that this decision belongs to me.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

As _____'s parent(s)/ guardian(s), I/We vow to:

- support and nurture him/her throughout the Confirmation process and keep them accountable.
- assure that he/she is at Confirmation class and makes up any work that is missed.
- pray for him/her each day.
- do everything in my power to get him/her to Confirmation classes and events.
- discuss with him/her what he or she is learning in the Confirmation program and be ready and willing to listen to his/her questions and concerns.
- keep our family involved in the life and ministries of the church.
- see that prayer and devotion are daily habits in our household.
- model a faithful relationship to God by my own faithfulness to the church through my prayers, my presence, my gifts, my service, and my witness.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Print: _____ Date: _____

As Confirmation leaders, we vow to pray for and support this Confirmand throughout the Confirmation process.

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SFUMC CONFIRMATION 2023 SCHEDULE

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| January 8, 2023 | Confirmation Informational Meeting |
| January 15, 2023 | No Class - Martin Luther King Day |
| January 22, 2023 | Session One: Confirmation Class Understanding God's Covenant Parent Class Begins |
| January 29, 2023 | Session Two: Confirmation Class We Are the Church Body |
| February 5, 2023 | Session Three: Confirmation Class Reviewing the Books of the Bible |
| February 12, 2023 | Session Four: Confirmation Class The Trinity: Father, Son, Holy Spirit |
| February 19, 2023 | Session Five: Confirmation Class Early Church History |
| February 22, 2023 | Ash Wednesday Service |
| February 26, 2023 | Session Six: Confirmation Class The Meaning of Worship |
| March 5, 2023 | Session Seven: Confirmation Class The Meaning of Baptism |
| March 11, 2023 | Confirmation Retreat |
| March 19, 2023 | Session Eight: Confirmation Class The Meaning of Communion |
| March 26, 2023 | No Class - Spring Break |
| April 1, 2023 | Community Family Service Day |
| April 2, 2023 | Session Nine: Confirmation Class Deciding to Become a Christian |
| April 9, 2023 | No Class - Easter |
| April 16, 2023 | Confirmation Services @ 8:45 a.m. Dr. Deborah Bishop, District Superintendent Guest Speaker Brunch to follow in Fellowship Hall |



SFUMC CONFIRMATION 2023 MENTORS & PARENTS

Confirmation Mentors

Each Sunday, our confirmands will meet in small groups with confirmation mentors. The relationship between the confirmation mentors and the confirmands will help to build support in knowledge, mission, prayer, and service. Our mentors walk alongside our students as they explore their faith. If you are interested in becoming a confirmation mentor, please contact our offices at 251-626-1334 and speak with Pastor Kitsy Dixon.

Parent's Responsibilities

Parents are the number one faith influence in their children's lives. Parents are just as much Confirmation teachers as the teachers and the pastors. Parents are expected to get their Confirmand to class and events in a timely manner. We urge you to please make Confirmation a priority in your family's life this year. Confirmation is what you make it.

If it's important to you, it will be important to your child.



SFUMC CONFIRMATION 2023 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

The Confirmation Rehearsal: will be held in the Sanctuary on April 12th at 6:00 PM. *All Confirmands and parents (or a parent) are required to attend.

The Confirmation Service: will be held in the Sanctuary on April 16 at 8:45 AM. All Confirmands and parents should arrive in the Sanctuary no later than 8:10 AM.

The Confirmation Brunch: will follow the Confirmation Service on April 16th. We will need an RSVP with a head count of how many will be attending the luncheon. The meal is free for Confirmands and their mentors. The cost is \$8 for all other attendees. Please RSVP by April 10th. You can turn in the form below to the church office or email ministries@spanishfortumc.org. Monies can be turned in at the rehearsal, luncheon, or dropped off at the church office.

Attire for Confirmation Service: We request that both boys and girls wear "Sunday Best" attire. We would request boys wear long pants, but the shirt can be whatever the family feels appropriate (tie and jacket are optional). For girls, we would request that dresses be of a modest length and not be strapless (unless a sweater/jacket is worn over). Dresses can be of any color.

Confirmation Brunch RSVP

Confirmand Name: _____

_____ Our family **will** attend the Confirmation Brunch.

We have _____ total people attending (including the Confirmand).

Please specify any special seating needs (highchair/wheelchair accessible, etc.) or dietary restrictions:

_____ Our family **will not** attend the Confirmation Brunch.



SFUMC CONFIRMATION 2023 WAYS TO REGISTER

Ways to register for Confirmation 2023:

CONFIRMATION QR CODE: Click on the following QR code with your cell phone and it will take you directly to the link to register.



ON A COMPUTER BROWSER: Go to: <https://vbspro.events/p/2023confirmation>. This link will take you to the site to register online.

SFUMC CHURCH WEBSITE: Go to www.spanishfortumc.org/info. Then, locate the event and there will be a link there you can follow to the registration page.

PAPER COPY: Complete the registration form in your packet and return it to the church office.



**SFUMC CONFIRMATION 2023
CONFIRMAND INFORMATION SHEET**

Confirmand Information

Confirmand's Full (Given) Name: _____

Preferred Name: _____

Has the Confirmand been baptized? _____ If so, where, and when? _____

Date of Birth: _____ Current Grade: _____

Current School: _____

Parent information

Parent's Names: _____

Preferred Phone: _____ Email: _____

My preferred method of communication is: _____

Are the parents' members of SFUMC? _____

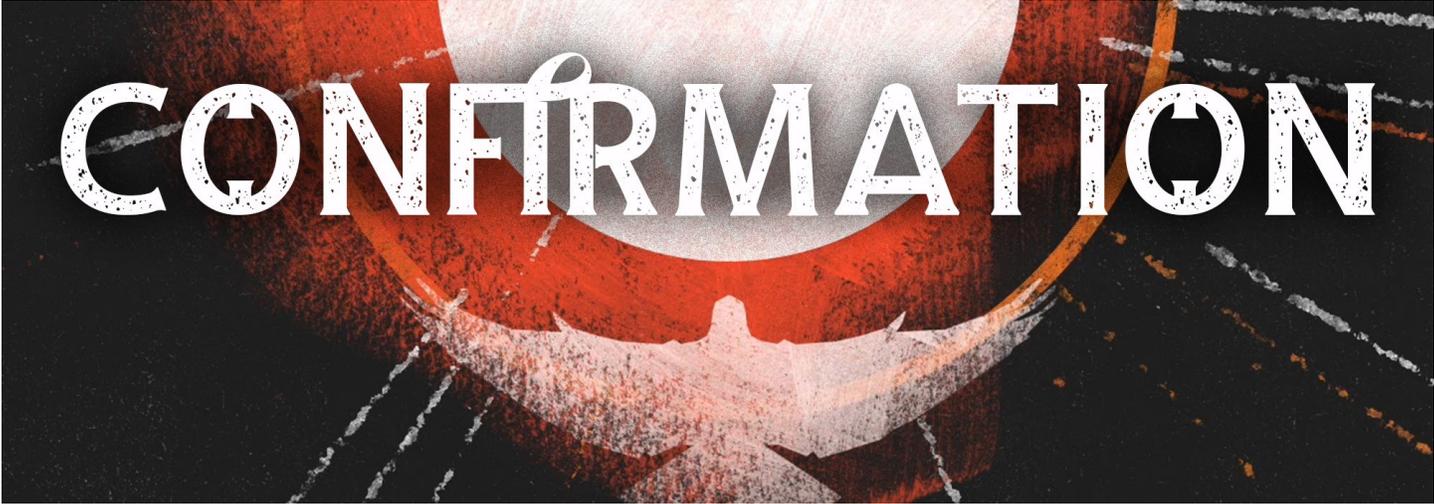
If not, are you members of another church? _____ (please give church name)

Are you interested in meeting with one of our pastors about membership at SFUMC? _____

Did either parent go through United Methodist confirmation as a youth? _____

As a parent, what are your hopes for your child as they participate in Confirmation? _____

CONFIRMATION



CONFIRMAND PARENT CLASSES
JANUARY 22 THROUGH APRIL 2

THE POWER OF A PRAYING FAMILY

Pastor Bill Price will teach a parent's course on Confirmation to help support and encourage parents whose children are preparing to be confirmed at Spanish Fort United Methodist Church. Please register by calling the church office at 251-626-1334.

WAYS TO REGISTER:

Email
Call Church Office
Show Up

CONTACT:

Email: kitsy@spanishfortumc.org
Phone: 251-626-1334

LOCATION: WEST CAMPUS

DAY: SUNDAYS

TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**HELP YOUR CHILDREN GROW IN FAITH
BY GROWING WITH THEM!**

Spanish Fort United Methodist Church
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251.626.1334; www.spanishfortumc.org