

December 21, 2011

It's time to think about Confirmation!

Confirmation refers to the decision a person makes to respond to God's grace with intentional commitment, publicly reaffirming his or her baptismal vows before the congregation. During the Confirmation preparation journey, Confirmands learn about the meaning of Christian faith; the history and teachings and The United Methodist Church; and an explanation of the baptismal and membership vows they will be professing. They also witness acts of discipleship through the members of our congregation.

Because faith is something experienced and not simply taught, our Confirmation preparation involves an emphasis on mentoring relationships. It's our belief that Jesus mentored his disciples in a way of life... And it's our wish to see our young people nurtured and disciple through a strong, ongoing mentoring relationship.

Attached you will find vision for Confirmation 2011, a schedule of lessons and events, and a registration form. Registrations are due by January 21.

If you have questions or concerns about the Confirmation preparation process, please contact Ryan Dunn, Youth Director, at 252-752-6154.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

According to the grace given to you, will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?

RECEPTION INTO THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

As members of Christ's universal church, will you be loyal to The United Methodist Church, and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?

RECEPTION INTO THE LOCAL CONGREGATION

As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness?

Steps to Confirmation

- Determine who will be the Confirmation Mentor: the best mentors are adults close to the Confirmand. A mentor could be a parent, grandparent, aunt or uncle, or family friend—as long as it is someone with a desire to see the Confirmand follow Christ and will continue to be involved in the Confirmand’s life and faith journey.
- Fill in the attached registration form and return it by January 29, 2011.
- Attend the Confirmation Group Gatherings. Community is a key element in the faith journey. By attending the Gatherings, Confirmands will experience how vital community is to our faith. The Gatherings also provide activities that are central to the mentoring sessions. Missed Gatherings will need to be completed individually. Confirmands who miss more than 2 Gatherings will be asked to take Confirmation at another time.
- Complete weekly mentoring assignments. Each Confirmand and mentor will receive a mentoring journal providing outlines for weekly discussions. Mentoring sessions should be completed according to the attached schedule.
- Attend worship regularly. Don’t forget to sign the attendance pads.
- Participate in 6 St James Student Ministries events. Confirmands may choose to attend at least 6 Living Waters sessions (Sunday School), or 6 Friday night events, or a student day trip and 3 Friday nights and 2 Living Waters, etc...
- Complete a Faith Statement and turn it in by May 15. These statements will be read by the church pastors. They will not be graded nor checked for specific content—we only ask that they be honest in expressing what the Confirmand actually believes. Materials will be given to mentors to assist their Confirmands in writing a faith statement.

Confirmation Schedule

***January 29, 4pm→Confirmation gathering/welcome**

Week of Feb 5→ Complete mentoring session 1

Week of Feb 12→Session 2

***Feb 18→Attend Mass at St Peter's, meet at St Peter's at 4:45pm, optional dinner afterwards**

Week of Feb. 19→Session 3

***Feb 26→Saints Dinner, 5pm at St James**

Week of Feb. 26→Session 4

Week of March 4→Session 5

Week of March 11→Session 6

***March 17→Community service project, 9am**

Week of March 18→Session 7

Week of March 25→Session 8

Week of April 1→Session 9

***April 15→Funeral Home visit, 2pm, optional worship at Resonate**

Week of April 15→Session 10

***Week of April 22→Spring Fling, mentoring session 11**

Week of April 29→Session 12

Week of May 6→Session 13

***May 20→Confirmation Celebration, 3pm**

*** Confirmation Gathering event**

St James United Methodist Church

CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION 2012

CONFIRMAND NAME: _____
(Please PRINT your FULL name, the same as you would like it on your confirmation certificate.)

NICKNAME: _____ SCHOOL: _____

BIRTHDATE: _____ AGE: _____ GRADE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: _____
Street City Zip

PARENT'S NAME(S) _____

WORK PHONE(s): Father: _____ Mother: _____

PARENT EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

This is the email address at which we will contact you. Very important.

Has youth been baptized? ____ yes ____ no

If yes, when? _____ Where? _____

CHURCH BACKGROUND

Please mark the most appropriate answer.

Attendance at church has been:

___ Regular ___ Sporadic ___ Seldom ___ Never

Attendance at Sunday School/Youth Group:

___ Regular ___ Sporadic ___ Seldom ___ Never

MENTOR INFORMATION

Name of student's mentor: _____ Relation _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

Address (if different from student) _____

Mail or bring to the church:
St James UMC
2000 E 6th St
Greenville, NC 27858
Attn: Ryan Dunn
Registration Deadline:
Sunday, January 29, 2011

PLEASE ATTACH A RECENT PHOTO OF YOUR STUDENT – IT WILL NOT BE RETURNED