



St. Paul's United Methodist Church
Confirmation 2022-2023

Confirmation is a great responsibility, and it can be challenging. It is such an important time in the faith development of young people.

Too often, confirmation has been downgraded to the role of a checkpoint along the faith journey. We want to provide students with an experience to help them on a journey toward a mature faith.

At your child's baptism, we recognized God's grace at work in your child, you promised to raise your child in the way that leads to life everlasting, and the faith community agreed to stand beside you and your child in faith development.

Confirmation is a continuation of what God started in baptism; for that matter, confirmation is a continuation of what God started in the community of faith in your child's baptism. While confirmation is the moment your teenager confirms the vows taken on his or her behalf in the baptism, it remains a communal experience, whereby the church sees the faithfulness of God at work in and through your teenager. At confirmation, your teen publicly professes personal faith in Christ and commits to faithful stewardship of time, talent, treasure, witness, and service in the body of Christ and the world. In baptism, we are initiated into the family of God, and in confirmation we publicly declare our allegiance to Christ and Christ's church.

If your child was not baptized as infants. That's OK! Baptism is still a part of the confirmation continuum. If teenagers have not been baptized, they will have that opportunity before being confirmed in the church. If young people elect to be baptized and confirmed, they will take the baptismal vows for themselves, instead of parents taking vows on their behalf.

Confirmation is traditionally taught during the middle school years, however, we invite those who are in 9th -12th grade, to join in as well. Our first meeting during the 2022-2023 year will be a parent ,student and mentor orientation on **August 28th , 2022 from 4:30-6:30 pm.**

This year our confirmation class will be for those in 7th grade and beyond, Sunday's from 4:30-6:00pm. We will kick off our confirmation journey together for a day retreat in town on **September 10th**. First regular class will be **September 18th**.

One of the expectations of confirmation is to meet with a mentor 8 times apart from our regular class meeting time. These meeting times can be in person or virtual based on your family's preference. When registering please name up to three trusted members of St. Paul's with contact information if you have it (preferably non-related) you would like as a potential mentor. The confirmation leadership team will contact potential mentors. Your list will not be in order of preference to the confirmation team.

To register please visit <https://www.stpaulsumc.org/confirmation-registration>

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Conformation Expectations for Students Point System

There are at least 5 key areas of faith connection that can benefit our youth as they grow in their faith. **These are WORSHIP, CHURCH LIFE, SERVICE, MENTORSHIP and Education.** We understand that youth all learn and grow via different means. To allow each student to customize their learning and growing process, we are using a points system throughout the confirmation year. You also will receive one point for each confirmation class time you attend.

A minimum of **58 points** are needed during the confirmation year (September through May). When coming up with this total we looked at the number of opportunities available in the categories September through May.

WORSHIP (12 points)

- A. Attend Sunday morning worship service at St. Paul's (1 point each) **Minimum 6 points (3 times a semester)**
 - a. This is in addition to the Sundays you serve.
- B. Attend a special/ seasonal worship service (1 point each) **Minimum 2 point**
 - a. Example: Longest night service, Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Easter, Christmas
 - b. If you attend worship at a place other than St. Paul's please include a bulletin (if possible) from that service with your sermon notes.
- C. Help Lead Sunday Morning Worship (Such as read Scripture, Usher, Door Greeter, helping with technology, acolyte) (1 point each) **Minimum 4 points (2 times a semester)**

Church Life (17 Points minimum)

- A. Attend weekly youth groups, Sunday school, St. Paul's Music Opportunities and/or other special youth events outside of confirmation class (1 point each) **Minimum 12 (6 times each semester)**
- B. Send a "Thinking of You" or "Get Well" card to someone on the prayer concerns list in the bulletin: (1 point each) **Minimum 3 points**
- C. Retreats (1 point each) **2 points** - There will be 1 fall and 1 spring retreat during the confirmation year.

SERVICE- (2 points minimum)

Volunteer to work at an event or place that helps the community. This can be done at the church, with the church, or on your own. You should not get paid for the work you do (earning volunteer hours for school is okay) and it should be in service to others. Fill out and turn in a summary sheet for the event. **1 point each -2 points minimum.**

MENTORSHIP- (8 points Minimum)

Confirmands meet with a trusted adult member of St. Paul's 8 times from September –April.

You will have a voice in letting us know who you would like to meet with and you get to pick your schedule with your mentor.

Mentors will be required to follow our safe sanctuary policy which includes meeting in a public place and/or having a second adult in the vicinity. All mentors will also be required to complete a background check. If mentors are communicating directly with students through text messaging, the parent/guardian must also be included on the messages.

Mentors are also requested not to be one on one in a vehicle (exceptions can be made, when communicated with Youth Director and Parents/Guardians).

Education- Confirmation Class (19 points minimum)

Attending class Sunday evenings. We understand that things come up, please do your best to be in attendance of **70% of classes (19 out of 27 classes)**. If you are able to attend a class session, please reach out to the confirmation team as soon as you know you will be missing a class. An at home activity/discussion will be provided as make up.

Each point is considered completed when the summary form is complete and turned in to your mentor

St. Paul's UMC
Confirmation
Tentative Schedule
2022-2023
Sunday's 4:30-6:00pm

August

28th - Orientation

September

10th- Retreat: Our Life Together - 9:00am-5:30pm

18th- The Faith of Jesus

25th- The Early Church

October

2nd- The Reformation

9th-Wesley and The Methodist

16th- The Growth of Methodism

23th-The Local Church

30th- The Connection

November

6th - Simple Worship

13th-Music and Lyrics

20th - Remembrance

27th- No Class - Thanksgiving Week

December

4th -Accepting Grace

11th- A Loving Church

18th - So Now What?

25th- No Class Merry Christmas

January

1st- No Class Happy New Year

8th -The Bible - Not Just a History Book

15th - The Bible: A United Methodist View

22nd-Experiencing God- Field Trip Prairie Woods

**4:00-7:00pm - Dinner Provided.*

29th- Faith and Trust

February

5th -The Holy Trinity

12th- Who is God

19th - Prayer: Talking to God

26th-Prayer: Listening to God

March

5th -Looking Like God

12th- No Class Spring Break

19th - No Class Spring Break

26th - Hitting the Mark: Sin and Grace

April

2nd-Divine Helper: The Holy Spirit as a Guide

9th- No Class- Happy Easter

16th -Two Natures, One Man, Who is Jesus

23rd- What is Salvation

30th - From Whence We Came- Creeds

May

7th- What's Next? Life After Death- Field Trip to Murdoch Funeral Home

12th-14th Spring Retreat

21st- Confirmation Sunday

How Families Can Help Their Student in Confirmation

Your child needs your help by supporting them in their faith development. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Help your youth meet their confirmation expectations
- Talk with your youth about your faith and theirs
- Complete the "Try this week" at home exercises together
- Pray with your youth
- Be an active part of the life of St. Paul's alongside your student

What Church Membership Means

The vows we take when we become a member of a United Methodist Church are grouped into three categories:

1. Profession of faith in Jesus Christ to become part of Christ's universal church.
2. Declaration of loyalty to The United Methodist Church in particular.
3. A pledge to participate faithfully in this local congregation through prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

The vows we make to participate in the ministries of the church are not multiple choice. Just as Jesus calls us to love God and neighbor through heart, soul, mind, and strength, so being a disciple involves the whole self, and we strive to commit our entire lives to God through our

Prayers: *Prayer and Scripture Meditation*

Spending time in prayer each day, and studying and reflecting on the Bible to experience the living Word of hope in the written word of Scripture.

Presence: *Corporate Worship and Small-group Community*

Celebrating God's presence in worship with a faith community, and experiencing Christian community in a small group to pray, learn, and grow together.

Gifts: *Financial Generosity*

Practicing Christian stewardship through the biblical discipline of tithing.

Service: *Spiritual Gifts and Gifts-based Service*

Discovering our spiritual gifts and participating in God's work through the ministry of the church.

Witness:

Inviting others to experience God's love and become disciples of Jesus Christ.

The Vows We Take

Vows of Membership in the United Methodist Church

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

I Do.

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

I Do.

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 all people of all ages, nations, and races?

I Do.

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.....

[Apostle's Creed]

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?

I Will.

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

I Will.

Questions? Contact

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Sign up for Remind for text updates (We promise not to blow up your phone with lots of notifications)

