



# CONFIRMATION

D O N E   I N   L O V E



2023-2024  
PARENT HANDBOOK

# WELCOME SIXTH-GRADE FAMILIES 2023-2024 CLASS

Hello Parents,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 Confirmation program! We could not be more excited that your child is a part of our class this year, and we look forward to this journey with them and with you.

Your child's Confirmation year has the potential to be one of the most significant events in his or her life—and in the life of your family. That's why we want to better explain what our program is and what to expect this year.

## THE MEANING OF CONFIRMATION IN THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Both Confirmation and Baptism are part of an ongoing, lifelong process of sanctification, whereby we are shaped into the image of Christ. The word “**Confirmation**” literally means “**to make firm one's faith.**”

Through the Holy Spirit, God is at work in the life of the person—preparing, justifying, sanctifying, and empowering. The Confirmation program is one piece of the lifelong process of discipleship. Confirmation is closely tied to Baptism, but it is neither the completion of Baptism nor the second half of Baptism. Instead, it is the individual's first public affirmation of their baptismal covenant and their personal response to divine grace.

The response of faith in Confirmation involves the entire person, including:

- 1. REPENTANCE:** Turning from sin and toward faith in God.
- 2. CONVERSION:** The lifelong process of transforming more fully into the image of God.
- 3. DECISION:** Receiving God's grace and committing one's life to God.

A child who has been baptized as an infant or a young child needs an opportunity to **personally affirm** the faith into which he or she was baptized and raised and **to claim** the faith for him or herself. In Confirmation, we acknowledge that a child has reached the age when he or she can begin to assume responsibility for his or her own faith. Wesleyan tradition is clear in insisting that every person must come to accept for him or herself the salvation offered by Christ and that this commitment is to be made publicly.



## SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAMMING

Confirmation gives the child a **systematic overview of the faith from a United Methodist perspective**—our identity, history and heritage, practices, and beliefs. In addition, the student will learn what it means to live the Christian life and be involved in the mission of the church in the world.

Confirmation focuses on **spiritual formation**. Our faith is not just about information. It's about being molded, shaped, or formed into the image of Christ, and this takes time and experience.

Confirmation provides **a setting** where children can be prepared to understand the faith and what it means to make the decision to follow Jesus.

Confirmation provides a **safe environment of love and acceptance** where students are seen, known, and encouraged to explore the faith by asking hard questions.

## THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION SERVICE

▶ **APRIL 2024** ◀

As a ritual, the Rite of Confirmation Service in April 2024 provides the setting and opportunity for the child to acknowledge and profess the faith into which he or she has been baptized. To accommodate our large class, families can choose the service that best meets their schedules: Friday, April 26 or Monday, April 29. During the service, the individual stands before the community, is asked the historical questions of Christian discipleship and to affirm the faith for him or herself, receives the power of the Holy Spirit, and is commissioned for a life of Christian discipleship and service.

This results in the person becoming a “professing member” of the church, committed to the journey we call discipleship.

## THE PILLARS OF OUR HPUMC CONFIRMATION MODEL

In our model, Confirmation is done in the sixth grade. This is not the only year it could be done, and the curriculum we have developed would also be appropriate for older youth.

During the middle school years, our goals do include instruction and a basic understanding of faith, but this is not our primary goal. At the sixth-grade level, **our priority** is for students to experience the faith community and have an opportunity to identify with, be shaped by, and affiliate with that community. As the child grows, the intellectual aspect of faith becomes more important, especially during the high school years.

## SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES

Confirmation runs concurrently with the academic school year. **We begin on Sunday, August 20, 2023, and conclude in late April 2024.** At HPUMC, the sixth-grade class meets 9:30-10:30 am in the President George W. and Laura Bush Confirmation Center on the third floor of HPUMC's Mockingbird campus. These class sessions are based on a mixture of large group and small group experiences. If we have visitors who are sixth-graders, they attend the Confirmation class as their Sunday school. If sixth-grade youth join the church during the middle of the year, they become a part of the Confirmation class.



## SPECIAL EVENTS AND SERVICES

Confirmation is much more than just a Sunday morning class. It is a comprehensive program that includes faith visits (Jewish Synagogue and another local UMC Church), local mission projects, and the Rite of Confirmation Service in April 2024.

## PARENT VOLUNTEER TEAM

At HPUMC, we have a beautiful tradition of leading Confirmation with a team of parent volunteers who will pour into the students over the course of the year. Parents serve as part of our hospitality team, lead our small groups, and help the staff execute special events throughout the year. Our parent volunteers are vital to our ministry—not just logistically, but also spiritually—as they invest in the next generation of Jesus followers.

## RELATIONAL

One of the most important things we do in Confirmation is build relationships—with God, each other, and the adults who help throughout our Confirmation year. The great commandment that Jesus gave us is to love God and each other. In all we do during the year, we try to fulfill this commandment. We intentionally spend a lot of time and effort building trust, relationships, and community.

## SMALL GROUP-BASED

Small groups are essential for our Confirmation program. Our sessions are divided into a large group “community” lesson and small groups—each with ten students and two adult leaders.

## JOURNEYING TOGETHER

We are excited to partner with you and your family! Please do not hesitate to contact the Confirmation team at [confirmation@hpumc.org](mailto:confirmation@hpumc.org) with any questions you may have.



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# 2023-2024 CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

Confirmation meets weekly in The President George W. and Laura Bush Confirmation Center (third floor of the Mockingbird Campus) from 9:30-10:30 am, unless otherwise noted.

*Dates and times are subject to change.*

## FALL SEMESTER

Sunday, August 13 – Mandatory Parent Meeting  
Sunday, August 20 – Confirmation Kick-Off  
Sunday, August 27 – What is Confirmation?  
Sunday, September 3 – Small Group Launch  
Sunday, September 10 – Covenants (Trust)  
Sunday, September 17 – Bible: The Story of God (Part 1)  
Sunday, September 24 – Bible: The Story of God (Part 2)  
Sunday, October 1 – Worship in Cornerstone  
Sunday, October 8 – Who is God?  
Sunday, October 15 – What is Sin?  
Sunday, October 22 – Who is Jesus? Part 1  
Sunday, October 29 – Worship in Sanctuary  
Sunday, November 5 – Who is Jesus? Part 2  
Sunday, November 12 – Who is the Holy Spirit?  
Sunday, November 19 – What is a Christian?  
Sunday, November 26 – No Class, Thanksgiving  
Sunday, December 3 – What is Worship?  
Sunday, December 10 – Christmas Party  
Sunday, December 17 – No Class, Christmas  
Sunday, December 24 – No Class, Christmas  
Sunday, December 31 – No Class, New Years Eve

## SPRING SEMESTER

Sunday, January 7 – What is Church?  
Sunday, January 14 – A Servant's Heart  
Sunday, January 21 – What is Prayer?  
Sunday, January 28 – Faith Heritage  
Sunday, February 4 – Faith Visit to St. Luke  
Sunday, February 11 – UMC + HPUMC Heritage  
Sunday, February 18 – Jewish Heritage  
Sunday, February 25 – What is Salvation?  
Friday, March 3 – Student Visit to Youth Ministry  
Friday, March 8 – Faith Visit to Temple Shalom  
Sunday, March 10 – No Class, Spring Break  
Sunday, March 17 – What is Baptism?  
Sunday, March 24 – What is Communion?  
Sunday March 31 – No Class, Easter  
Sunday, April 7 – Rite of Confirmation Rehearsal  
(parents welcome to attend)  
Sunday, April 14 – End of Year Recap  
Sunday, April 21 – What is Faith?  
Friday, April 26 – Rite of Confirmation Service 1  
Monday, April 29 – Rite of Confirmation Service 2  
Monday, May 6 – Rite of Confirmation Service 3



## NOTES

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**CONFIRMATION**

D O N E I N L O V E

