

## Confirmation 2022

### What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is a small group program for students to study the beliefs of the United Methodist Church as well as what it means to be a Christian. Confirmation classes are offered each year for students who are ready to take personal responsibility for the vows made on their behalf at their baptism and also for those who have not yet been baptized. Upon completion of Confirmation, students are given the opportunity to proclaim their personal commitment to follow Christ and join the community of Virginia Beach UMC.

### Confirmation Calendar

Our eight-week preparation process is specifically designed to help students gain a deeper understanding of their faith. Classes will be offered in-person on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am and 7:00 pm on Zoom. Students may choose which class option is best for them. One essential in-person retreat will be held Friday, March 25 (5-9 pm) and Saturday, March 26 (9 am-3 pm).

<b>February 20</b>	Confirmation Informational Meeting @ 7:00 pm ZOOM
<b>March 20</b>	Confirmation Class 1
<b>March 25 &amp; 26</b>	Confirmation Retreat @ VBUMC (in-person)
<b>March 27</b>	Confirmation Class 2
<b>April 3</b>	Confirmation Class 3
<b>April 10</b>	No Confirmation Class – Independent Study for Holy Week
<b>April 17</b>	No Confirmation Class due to Easter Sunday
<b>April 24</b>	Confirmation Class 4
<b>May 1</b>	Confirmation Class 5
<b>May 8</b>	Confirmation Sunday – Recognition @ 9:30 am Worship

### First Steps

- 1. Attend the Introduction and Information Meeting** on February 13 at 7:00 pm on Zoom. Students and parents are invited to attend this meeting together.
- 2. Registration**  
 Confirmation is free for all students. Students in grades 6-12 who would like to participate in Confirmation should complete the Confirmation registration survey here:  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScqWG1EoCxTf3mtpa\\_3yxqtFihY6tLLRZIJGiEqVRzv9CaEaA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScqWG1EoCxTf3mtpa_3yxqtFihY6tLLRZIJGiEqVRzv9CaEaA/viewform?usp=sf_link)
- 3. Identify and ask a Mentor to join you.**  
 Students are encouraged to identify and ask a mentor to join them for the Confirmation process. Our desire is for students to ask someone whom they admire as a faith role model. This person may be a family member, friend, coach, scout leader, neighbor, or otherwise and does not need to be a member of the United Methodist Church. Mentors are asked to meet with their student at least once during the Confirmation schedule and join us on Confirmation Sunday to celebrate. *Once you have identified a mentor, please share your mentor's name and contact information with Pam Bentley.*

## **Seven Components of the Confirmation Process**

### **1. Confirmation Classes – March 20 through May 1**

Students will gather for five Confirmation classes beginning March 20. Students may choose to meet in-person from 9:30 am in the Youth Space OR virtually on Zoom from 7:00 -8:00 pm. No class will be held on Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday, but Independent Study will be assigned for Holy Week. Each class covers a specific theme and topic.

### **2. Confirmation Retreat - Friday, March 25 @ 5-9 pm & Saturday, March 26 @ 10 am – 3 pm**

Our Confirmation retreat is an extended time together to build deeper relationships with each other and dig further into faith topics. The retreat will include service projects and other fun activities. Attendance at this retreat is essential to the Confirmation process.

### **3. Youth Group**

Participation is a key part of being in a community of faith. Confirmation students are asked to participate in at least one Youth Group event during the Confirmation season.

### **4. Exploring Other Denominations**

In order to confirm belief and faith in the United Methodist Church, it is helpful to look at what others believe. As an Independent Study assignment, students will explore other denominations on-line and attend a worship service outside of the United Methodist Church. Attendance may be done virtually by watching a service on-line, or attend in-person with a family member or mentor.

### **5. Service Project**

Service to others is an important part of faithful life. Service projects will be built into the Confirmation retreat.

### **6. Meeting with Mentor**

Participate in at least one guided conversation with your adult mentor using interview questions provided. More meetings with your mentor are encouraged.

### **7. Interview with Pastor Mark**

Each Confirmand will meet with Pastor Mark for a casual interview prior to Confirmation Sunday. A schedule of interview timeslots will be made available. This interview is an opportunity for the student to discuss their thoughts about faith and church membership, and to communicate their desire to be (or not to be) confirmed.

## **Parent Participation**

- Attend the February 20 meeting with your student.
- Assist your student in identifying and inviting a mentor to join them for this process. Remain aware of when and where your student and mentor are meeting.
- Commit to pray for your student and their mentor throughout the Confirmation process.
- Assist your student in ensuring that all of the program components are being accomplished using the checklist provided.
- Volunteer and support our Confirmation class as needed. Volunteer opportunities will be shared throughout the Confirmation season.

Questions or concerns? Please contact Pam Bentley, Director of Youth Ministry at [pbentley@vbumc.org](mailto:pbentley@vbumc.org)