

Confirmation 2018-2019

“Confirmation is an opportunity to respond to the grace of God available to us, as acknowledged in baptism, and to promise to live as a person of faith.”

-From, *Beyond Baptism: What Confirmation Means to United Methodists*

The goal of Confirmation class is to help students learn about Christian faith, the love of God, and what membership in the United Methodist Church means. This is a time for students to begin to make their faith as their own, and to take on for themselves the promises made for them at their baptism.

Important information for Students and Families

Attendance Policy

Class meets on Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 in room 202. Class will begin on time, so please be prompt. We pack a lot into this hour and missing the beginning will be detrimental to the experience of both the students arriving late and the students whose class time is disrupted by those arriving late.

This class will meet 32 times. Each student is allowed 5 absences.

Field Trips

Included in the 32 meetings are our three field trips. Weeks that we have field trips we will not have a class meeting.

The field trips will begin at different times depending on where we are going, therefore these trips will most likely not begin at the same time that our class usually meets. Due to this, if students have scheduling conflicts with the field trips please contact Ahnna Lise Stevens-Jennings as early as possible. She will assess on a case by case basis if missing a field trip counts as one of the student's five absences.

The field trips are a very important part of the students' confirmation experience. Attending all three of them is important and should be the goal, but we understand that this may put a burden onto a family with a tight Sunday schedule. Please place the trips on your calendar early and plan accordingly.

Worship Attendance Requirements

Each student is required to attend worship 15 times between August 26th and June 2nd.

There are two ways to provide evidence of the students' worship attendance. At least one of the two is required for each time a student attends worship.

Option one: A Worship Summary and a Bulletin. Worship Summary worksheets consist of a series of questions that the students must answer about the worship service. They can turn them in with a bulletin from the service (if applicable) throughout the year or all together at the end of the year. Worship Summaries do not have to be exclusively filled out about services held here at Aldersgate. Any church service of any Christian denomination can count towards the total as long as a worship summary and bulletin are provided. If the service does not provide a bulletin, then the students may just turn in a worship summary.

Option two: Acolyting: Students may choose to acolyte instead of filling out worship summaries. If they choose this option instead of turning in a worship summary, they will simply turn in the bulletin from the service with a note from a parent or guardian letting us know that the student was an acolyte in the service. This option is only available for students who are acolyting here at Aldersgate for the 8:30 or 11:00 o'clock services on Sunday mornings.

If a student is interested in acolyting, please contact Elaine Woods at elaine@aldersgate.net. Acolyte training for new acolytes or returning acolytes who want a refresher will be on September 16th following the 11:00 o'clock service in the Sanctuary.

An acolyte recognition and commissioning ceremony will be held on October 14th at the 11:00 o'clock service for returning and new acolytes to prepare and thank them for their service to Aldersgate.

Option three: Ushering or Scripture Reading: Students may choose to serve as an usher or a lay reader instead of filling out worship summaries. If they choose this option instead of turning in a worship summary, they will simply turn in the bulletin from the service with a note from a parent or guardian letting us know that the student was an usher or reader in that service. This option is available for students ushering or reading scripture here at Aldersgate at any of our worship services, except the 9:30 service when we will be in class.

If a student is interested in ushering, please contact Paul Amos at pamos703@gmail.com. If they are interested in being a lay reader, please contact Deborah Jones at djones@aldersgate.net.

Retreat Attendance is Mandatory

One of the most important aspects of our year of confirmation is the retreat. It is the place where all of the studying, learning, preparing and decision making come together. Therefore, attendance is mandatory for all students. The retreat will be held May 4-5, 2019 and has historically been held at Camp Highroad.

The Lock-In

September 14-15 we will have a Lock-In here at Aldersgate. This will be an opportunity for the students to get to know one another and their leaders. This event falls outside of our regularly scheduled classes, but it is no less important than all of our other meetings. We know that scheduling may be an issue for an event like this, so please let us know as soon as possible if your student will not be able to attend.

Class will not meet on Sunday, September 16th following the Lock-In, but Acolyte training will be that day following the 11:00 o'clock service.

Class Behavior

We have worked hard to create a class that is fun, interactive and transformative. We need the help of parents to convey to students that this is not an experience to be taken lightly. This is a class and we ask that students respect each other, volunteer leaders, and teachers by acting accordingly. We will strive to create the best environment and learning opportunities for the students, and we need parents and students to help us to maintain that environment with respectful behavior.

Parent Participation

In order to transport all of the students, and to have a safe and fun experience at the Lock-in, Retreat, and on Field trips, we will need parents to volunteer as chaperones and driver's. For each of these events we will need at least one adult to every 5 students with a minimum of 2 adult leaders

who are not related in the room with students at all times, including class times as well as the field trips, lock-in and retreat in order to be within the bounds of Aldersgate's child protection policy.

Parents are also invited (but not required) to sponsor the class for a Sunday or two (or three) and provide a morning treat and an extra set of helping hands for that class meeting.

Writing a Creed

Towards the end of this class, starting at the end of April, students will write a personal creed, also known as a credo. This will be a document stating what they believe about their faith. Students will be invited to share their credo with the class during our last two class sessions.

It is our goal to give them mentors to help in the writing of this creed. Mentors for confirmation students is an old church tradition, and it is one that Aldersgate used to participate in. It has not been done for a few years for various reasons. Resurrecting this tradition may prove not to be a viable option, but we will try to have mentors available for students throughout the credo writing process.

Whether we are able to give the students mentors, or not, parents and families will be important sources of guidance for students in the process. A guidebook will be provided to students, families and mentors to help with this process.

Cost of the Class

Participation in Confirmation class costs \$150.00. This covers supplies for the class, the retreat, the lock-in, and field trips.

Permission Form

Permission forms must be filled out by parents/guardians and returned to Ahnna Lise Stevens-Jennings by September 9th.

How to contact us

Deborah Jones, Molly Johnson and Ahnna Lise Stevens-Jennings will be teaching this class this year.

Ahnna Lise is the Director of Youth Ministries and can be reached at Aldersgate by phone at 703-765-6555 extension 615, by email at ahnna@aldersgate.net or youth@aldersgate.net and in her office in room 140 Monday- Thursday from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm.

What we will Cover:

- +The Bible
- +Church History
- +Methodist History
- +Methodist Doctrine
- +Methodist Polity
- +The Church year and liturgy
- +The Vows of membership (Prayers, presence, gifts, service, witness)

+The Creeds

Daily Class Schedule:

Check-in: Signs of God's presence
Prayer Practice
Verse of the Day
Liturgical Calendar
Person of Interest
Charles Wesley Hymn
Lesson
Benediction

Calendar:

August

26: Introduction

September

2- Bible 1
9- A Sanctuary Study
14-15 Lock-In
16- Acolyte Training
23- Field trip- the Basilica
30- Bible 2

October

7- Bible 3
14- Bible 4
21- Bible 5
28- Early Church

November

4- No Class
11- Middle Ages
18- Reformation
25- No Class

December

2- Great Awakening
9- Methodist History Part 1
16- Methodist History Part 2
23- No Class
30- No Class

January

6- Methodist Doctrine Part 1
13- Methodist Doctrine Part 2
20- Methodist Polity
27- Calendar and Liturgy

February

3- Sacraments
10- Field Trip- The National Cathedral
17- Vows of Membership
24- Creed- God

March

3- Creed- Jesus
10- Creed- Holy Spirit
17- Creed-Church
24- Field Trip -?
31- Creed- Kingdom of God

April

7- Why Does all of this Matter?- Sin, Salvation, and You
14- No Class
21- No Class
28- How to Write your Creed

May

4-5- Retreat
12- Love Feast
19- Sharing Creeds
26- No Class

June

2- Sharing Creeds and Final Thoughts
9- Confirmation Sunday