

St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Madrid, IA

CONFIRMATION GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND MENTORS

CONFIRMATION IS NOT AN EVENT, IT'S A PROCESS...

CHURCH PHONE
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Confirmation and
Youth Group
Leaders: 2009-2010

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LEADING YOUNG PEOPLE TO EMBRACE
A LIFE OF CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

CONFIRMATION GOALS

TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE TO:

- ▶ Come to an understanding of his or her own faith
- ▶ Develop an awareness of how a strong faith in God is applicable to much of what they are facing today as teens
- ▶ Become knowledgeable about basic biblical stories and the elements of the worship service
- ▶ Know more about church history, the UCC and the congregation
- ▶ Feel a part of the life of this church by connecting with other members and by sharing his or her own gifts
- ▶ Become prepared to make ethical decisions informed by his or her own faith

What is Confirmation?

WHY DO WE DO THIS, WHAT DO WE HOPE FOR, WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Participation in the Confirmation program usually takes place during a young person's 8th grade year, but it is offered to any student in grades 8 and above who wish to be confirmed in the church.

The tradition of Confirmation has a long history in the church. In the earliest history of the church, the Bishop would say "I confirm..." during the baptismal

liturgy to symbolize the presence of the Holy Spirit at the Baptism. Newly baptized Christians were "confirmed" by the Bishop (the laying on of hands and anointing with oil) and immediately (adults or children) took their first communion. Over time and through the course of church history the rite of confirmation became a rite of passage, a coming of age and an affirming

of one's faith.

In the UCC, Confirmation is not considered a sacrament like Communion or Baptism, but it is the important process through which the church recognizes a young person's ability to make mature decisions about their faith and in which they indicate their desire to participate fully in the life of the church.

Expectations

WHAT DO WE EXPECT THE CONFIRMANDS TO DO?

- Participate faithfully in ALL Confirmation, Sunday School and Youth Group events. If they know they need to miss a class or event, please contact Pastor Linda in advance at 515.520.2583 or pastorlinda.hanson@gmail.com
- Be respectful of the other students, the teachers and the church.
- Work with their mentor to write their own Statement of Faith.
- Participate in at least three service projects.

AND THE PARENTS?

- Set expectations for your children about church participation, participation in confirmation projects and activities, and Sunday School and youth group attendance.
- Assure that your young person is meeting with their mentor at least monthly
- Set an example by your own participation in the church.
- Coordinate and organize all fund-raising activities for the Youth Group and Confirmation class including the Easter Breakfast.
- Help with driving and chaperoning.
- Stay in close communication with Pastor Linda if there are any questions or concerns.

The Role of Mentors

Mentors will meet with the students to discuss questions they may have about their faith, provide a positive adult, Christian role model, assist them with their service projects and lead them through developing their statements of faith. The hope is that young people will develop a relationship with someone in the church who demonstrates that they genuinely care about them and their walk of faith and can assist the students in understanding what it means to live a life of faith.

Mentors are not expected to have “all the answers” and are encouraged to dialogue with students rather than provide “correct responses” to the young person’s questions. No question is too outlandish, and at this age young people may briefly explore seemingly outrageous beliefs. Allow this, ask questions, accept them where they are in their journeys and share your own thoughts. Have fun!

We encourage parents to make an effort to assist the mentors in getting to know your child.



Youth Group

Engaging youth of St. Paul’s UCC and in the community of Madrid with opportunities to serve God and God’s people, to search for God’s purpose in their life, to form a community with others who desire to grow in faith in a supportive, fun and accepting environment.

Confirmation students are encouraged to also participate in youth group activities. Friends are welcome to attend all youth group activities, as are any student in 7th through 12th grade.

Youth group allows confirmands to participate in activities with a more social focus, or educational

activities that are less academic in nature.

Youth are very social and having relationships with other youth and adults in the church is essential to assuring their continued participation in church when the formal confirmation process is complete.

“The size of the congregation’s youth group is the greatest predictor of its overall climate.”

Why take the students to visit other churches?

In today's global society, we should be educated and understand other faiths and what they believe.

coexistence, the same love and peace that Jesus spoke of often in his ministry.

In recent years we have seen the criminalizing of the Islamic faith due to things like Sept. 11th and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. By educating our students on what some of these faiths really believe, we can help to stop the spread of misinformation, overcome stereotypes and encourage peaceful

In addition, it is important for youth to know how their church differs from other and to make sure that it is if they are being asked to make a decision to join the UCC.



Hindu Temple near Madrid

Service Projects

Doing justice, seeking peace and building community are central to the identity of the United Church of Christ. Service projects that engage young people in work for justice and peace, or in improving their community are an important part of developing their understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

Students will participate in one service project that benefits the church, one that benefits their community and one that benefits

someone or something in the world beyond their church and community. Students need to develop both a view of local and wider mission.

Part of the Confirmation process will be to provide an opportunity for a mission beyond St. Paul's UCC and Madrid. At this point the plan is to provide service as part of the ongoing flood and tornado relief in Butler County.

I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me to drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your home, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me.

Mt. 25:35-36

Schedule

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CONFIRMATION CLASSES ARE 9:00 - 10:15 AM SUNDAY MORNINGS

January

- 3- SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 10- CONFIRMATION CLASS: THE BIBLE, PART I
- 17- SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 24- CONFIRMATION CLASS: WORSHIP PLANNING
- YOUTH GROUP: WINTER JAM CHRISTIAN ROCK CONCERT LEAVE MADRID 4 PM, RETURN 10 PM \$10
- 31- CONFIRMATION CLASS: THE BIBLE, PART II

February

- 6-7- TRIP TO TRINITY UCC, CHICAGO. OVERNIGHT AT OTTAWA UCC. NO SUNDAY SCHOOL. PARENTS NEEDED TO DRIVE. MENTORS AND ALL YOUTH INVITED. LEAVE 1 PM MADRID, RETURN 10 PM. \$50 FOR MEALS
- 14- CONFIRMATION CLASS: MISSION/SERVICE
- 17- ASH WEDNESDAY: PARTICIPATE WITH MENTORS AND PARENTS IN ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
- 21- SUNDAY SCHOOL
- YOUTH SUNDAY!!!: CONFIRMATION CLASS LEADS WORSHIP
- YOUTH GROUP: KIING AT SEVEN OAKS LEAVE MADRID 12:30 RETURN 8:00
- 28- CONFIRMATION: WHO OR WHAT IS GOD?

March

- 7- SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 14- CONFIRMATION CLASS: BAPTISM/COMMUNION
- 19-20- LOCK-IN AT THE CHURCH: PRAYER, MANDELAS, LECTIO DIVINA, JOURNALING AND MEDITATION. FRIDAY 5:00 - SATURDAY 4:00. YOUTH GROUP INVITED. MENTORS INVITED SATURDAY MORNING 10:00-12:00.
- 21- SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 27- VISIT AMES JEWISH SYNAGOGUE. MEET MADRID 6:00 PM. SERVICE 8:00 PM. RETURN 10:00 PM
- 28- CONFIRMATION: WHO IS JESUS? WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO CALL HIM THE CHRIST?

April

- 1- MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP: ATTEND WITH YOUR MENTORS
- 4- EASTER. SUNRISE SERVICE, YOUTH BREAKFAST, EASTER WORSHIP. NO SUNDAY SCHOOL. ATTEND WITH YOUR PARENTS AND MENTORS.
- 11- CONFIRMATION CLASS: MUSIC AND ITS MESSAGES
- 18- SUNDAY SCHOOL
- YOUTH GROUP: POVERTY SIMULATION EVENT. 12:30 - 4:30
- 25- CONFIRMATION: PEACEMAKING

May

- 2- SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 9- CONFIRMATION CLASS: DRUGS, SEX, ALCOHOL AND PEER PRESSURE
- 15- VISIT TO HINDU TEMPLE 1:00 - 4:00
- 16- SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 23- CONFIRMATION: WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?
- YOUTH GROUP: PIZZA, POPCORN, GAMES AND MOVIE NIGHT AT PASTOR LINDA'S HOUSE. 5:00 - 8:00
- CLASS DISMISSED FOR THE SUMMER!

Schedule

SUMMER ACTIVITIES!!!

June

10-12- YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AND IOWA CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING IN GRINNELL. ALL YOUTH ARE INVITED. COST ??? CHAPERONES AND DRIVERS NEEDED.

July

14-16- "AGAPE: GOD'S LOVE FOR US ALL" REGIONAL YOUTH EVENT IN PARKVILLE, MO. ALL YOUTH ARE INVITED. COST IS \$200. CHAPERONES AND DRIVERS NEEDED.

August

TBA- WORK TRIP TO BUTLER COUNTY FOR FLOOD/TORNADO RELIEF. ALL YOUTH ARE INVITED. COST ??? CHAPERONES AND DRIVERS NEEDED.

FALL

Classes

SALVATION, HEAVEN AND HELL
DISCIPLESHIP
HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY AND THE UCC
HISTORY OF ST. PAUL'S UCC
THE STATEMENT OF FAITH OF THE UCC
YOUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

Youth Group

HALLOWEEN PARTY/HAUNTED HOUSE
BOWLING
BONFIRE/HAYRIDE/WEINER ROAST
MOVIE NIGHT/POPCORN AND PIZZA
CAMPOUT
FALL LOCK-IN AT THE CHURCH

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY: NOVEMBER 21 DURING MORNING WORSHIP, 10:30 AM