



Oak Grove UMC's Confirmation Class

Welcome to Oak Grove United Methodist Church and to our Confirmation process. If you are an 8th grader or older, we invite you to join us from January through April, journeying in our faith together, asking tough questions, seeking answers that God will reveal to us individually, and discovering deep and meaningful relationships with ourselves, our friends, our Friends in Faith and our God.

What is Confirmation?

<p>The word <i>confirmation</i>, literally means “with firm-ness.” Confirmation means to make firm or solid that which has gone before or what was done earlier.</p>
<p>The “before” refers to our baptism and, in a broader sense, to all our faith journey up to this point. Many of us were baptized as babies, although some of us were not. If we were baptized, we didn’t choose it. It was done for us lovingly by parents and sponsors. It was God’s gift to us. Baptism reminds us that God accepts us and loves us even before we can respond. Our parents pledged to raise us in the faith. And the church pledged to help them. We just received baptism as a gift.</p>
<p>That brings us back to “the gift.” In The United Methodist Church, we believe that baptism is a sacrament, showing God’s love for us, God’s grace. The New Testament word for grace is <i>charis</i> (literally “gift”). Baptism is a gift from god.</p>
<p>Confirmation is about the gift God has given us in Jesus Christ. It is about how God has loved us. It is about what we do to receive the gift and make it our own. It is a time of claiming the name of Jesus Christ - of Christian - for ourselves.</p>
<p>Baptism is a gift. Our parents may have accepted the gift for us, either by having us baptized or by bringing us to church. Now it is our turn. It is our turn to decide if we want to accept the gift for ourselves. It’s our turn to decide if we want to “make firm” what our God and our parents have done for us, if we want to claim the name.</p>
<p>We are no longer children. We are youth. We are making a passage toward being adults.</p>
<p>We no longer have to depend solely on our parents’ decision in matters of faith. we are old enough to make some decisions for ourselves. We have reached “the age of accountability.” Sure, our parents and sponsors still help us. But more responsibility passes to us. It’s now our journey.</p>
<p>We are ready to know about what it means to be Christian, what we believe as a church, how we are to live our lives, our history and heritage.</p>
<p>We are old enough to profess our own faith, to say what we believe. It doesn’t mean that we know all the answers (who does?), but we can learn enough to begin the journey for ourselves.</p>
<p align="right">Claim the Name: Confirmation Teaching Plans</p>

Friends in Faith & Parent Roles

Friends in Faith (FIF):

Each Confirmand will have a Friend in Faith who is an adult member of Oak Grove UMC. Friends in Faith walk through the Confirmation process along beside the Confirmand, attending the Sunday morning teaching sessions, outside socials, a Church Council meeting, and serve together in a mission project. The FIF will be a huge support and a valuable resource for supporting his/her Confirmand. Our prayer is that the FIF will be a life-long mentor and friend, enjoying life time successes and challenges together. The FIF may not be a parent, a parent of another confirmand, or church staff member.

Parents:

Even though Confirmation is designed to help teenagers take more of an adult role in the practice of their faith, parents are an essential part of the Confirmation process. Your help is needed in getting your Confirmand to ALL sessions on time, and your positive encouragement will make all the difference in the attitude of your teenager. We also encourage you to talk about your own faith with your teenager during the weeks of confirmation and beyond. In addition, there are occasions when we need parent participation and ask that you are ready and willing to help.

Your teenager may need your help in thinking through a list of names of adult church members from which the Confirmand can choose three nominees for his/her Friend in Faith. Please do not recruit your Confirmand's FIF since the Confirmation Leadership Team reserves the right to pull together a balanced team of Friend in Faiths. We will work very hard on the recruitment of Friend in Faiths and we will work with the Confirmand and parents on other names if none of the three nominees are able serve.

It is of utmost importance that you honor your teenager's final decision to be or not be confirmed at the end of the Confirmation process. We will covenant with you to follow up with each Confirmand who decides not to be confirmed so that we may continue the conversations of faith begun in Confirmation. If the Confirmand's answer is "no", we hope he/she will still be present for the final event to support the other Confirmands and to enjoy the day. Confirmands who complete the classes and events will not have to repeat the entire process in order to be confirmed at a future date.

You are asked to pray daily for your teenager and for the Confirmation Leaders that this experience will be a significant and positive event in the life of each Confirmand. Please pray that God will draw them near allowing them to feel His presence, His love, His grace and His mercy in meaningful ways.

Baptism:

Confirmands will be invited into discussions of baptism with the pastors and FIF. Baptism will be an important topic for discussion at home as well. Those who have not been baptized will be asked to decide if they are ready to be baptized. This is the first step, followed by Confirmation (making a public affirmation of faith, and joining the church). Because baptism initiates us into Christ's whole Church and not only into a denomination, United Methodists recognize all Christian baptisms and look upon baptism as something that should unite, rather than divide, Christians.

Decision Time:

On Thursday night, March 29th from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., each Confirmand will be asked to make a decision about whether he/she is ready to join the church. This is a decision for the Confirmand to make - the role of the adults is to support the Confirmand, and to honor the Confirmand's decision in every way. Decision time is one of the most important events of the entire process when the Confirmand will articulate his/her decision to the Friend in Faith and minister.

Confirmation Details

Meeting Times & Calendar of Events:

A Confirmation Calendar with all events, times and locations is provided. We will meet primarily on Sunday mornings from 9:20 - 10:50 a.m. in the Youth Ministry Building's Gym. We also ask that each Confirmand and their FIF go to one Church Council meeting (4th Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.) and that they participate in one mission project together (ideas: C4C Food & Clothing Pantry, Hagar's House, etc.)

Attendance and Make-Up Work:

By signing the covenant that will be presented at the January Confirmation Kick-Off Luncheon, Confirmands are expected to attend ALL sessions and events on the calendar unless there is an unforeseen family emergency. Sessions missed can not actually be made up. However, the student who misses a Sunday morning session is required to get with his/her Friend in Faith and read the available handout and discuss the session together. On-line audio recordings of each session can be found on the youth website at www.therevolutioncommunity.org. Confirmands MUST participate in the Confirmation Retreat on March 23, 24, & 25 in order to be adequately prepared for being confirmed. In other words, this retreat is non-negotiable, due to the inability to reproduce the experience.

Costs: *(We want ALL teenagers to experience Confirmation, if the costs below are a concern, please let us know because scholarships are available.)*

- A fee of \$100 is needed to help cover the costs of the Confirmation Retreat.
- Bowling Night Social for Confirmands & Friends in Faith is \$30 per person. (Includes 2 rounds of bowling, shoes, pizza, drinks and transportation.)
- Confirmation Luncheon on Confirmation Sunday is \$5 for children ages 10 and under and \$8 for adults. The church will pay for the Confirmand and Friend in Faith's lunch.

Confirmation Leadership Team:

Please feel free to contact any member of the Confirmation Leadership Team.

- Rev. Rick Marson, Associate Pastor (rmarson@ogumc.org or 404-636-7558 x 212)
- Robin Merrill, Youth Minister (rmerrill@ogumc.org) or 404-626-7702 cell)
- Robyn Giles, Youth Administrative Assistant (rgiles@ogumc.org or 404-636-7558 x 202)
- Mia Northington, Student Impact Leader (mia.northington@gmail.com)
- Lucas Pruett, Community Life Director (lpruett@ogumc.org)
- Angela McDaniel, Youth Volunteer; angemcd@comcast.net

Bible Verses for Meditation

Psalm 27:1 The Lord is my light and my salvation--whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life-- of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalm 37:5-6 Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.

Matthew 28:19-20 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 8:12: When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

2012 Confirmation Calendar

Confirmation Parent Orientation Luncheon:

Sunday, September 18, 2011 @ 12:15 in the Youth Cafe'
Sandwich Bar

Friend in Faith Orientation - Dessert & Coffee:

Tuesday, November 15, 2011 @ 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the Youth Cafe'

Confirmation Kickoff/Covenant Potluck Luncheon:

Invited: Confirmands, Parents & Friends in Faith
Sunday, January 8th @ 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
Conversation # 1 – Covenanting: Letting Our Yes be Yes

Confirmand/Friend in Faith Bowling Social:

Friday, January 13st @ 6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. / Meet @ Youth Cafe'

Conversations: 9:20 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.

#2 - Sunday, January 22nd in Gym:

Scripture: Our Book – God's Unfolding Drama

#3 Sunday, January 29th in Gym:

Character: Christ-likeness @ the Marks of Authentic Discipleship

#4 Sunday, February 5th in Gym:

Creation & Crisis: The Good Gift/What Have We Gotten Ourselves Into?

#5 Sunday, February 12th in Youth Café:

Calling: Hearing the Voice of God

#6 Sunday, February 26th in Gym:

The Means of Grace: United Methodist Sacramental Theology

#7 Sunday, March 4th in Sanctuary:

Church & Worship: Liturgy; Symbol & Theological Meaning

#8 Sunday, March 11th in Gym:

Discipline: Training for a Marathon

#9 Sunday, March 18th in Gym:

Christ: God with Skin On

Retreat:

Friday, March 23rd - Sunday, March 25th @ Camp Evergreen in Clarkesville, GA

Decision Night:

Thursday, March 29th @ 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. in Youth Café

Confirmation Rehearsal:

Saturday, April 14th @ 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. in Sanctuary

Confirmation Sunday:

Sunday, April 15th @ the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

10:15 a.m. meet in Sanctuary for Group Pictures

Celebration Luncheon immediately following service in the Fellowship Hall

Invited: Confirmands, Confirmands Family, Friends in Faith & Family