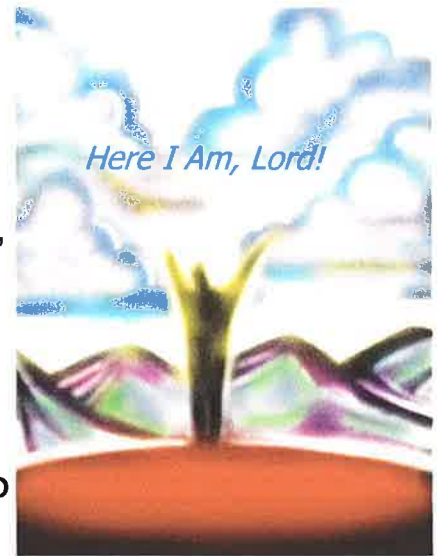


Confirmation

is a year-long class designed specifically for our 6th graders to help them claim the name Christian for themselves. Through studying scripture, Christianity, our United Methodist history and missions, the Confirmands (students) will be led on this portion of their faith journey so that they may understand what it means to be a Christian, a member of God's Church and of Aldersgate United Methodist Church. It is our prayer that the Confirmands begin to develop their own personal beliefs, saying "Here I Am, Lord" as they claim Jesus as their own personal Savior.



Our time together includes:

Classroom time – Sunday Mornings from 9:40-10:40

Lock-ins – usually on a Friday or Saturday evening, includes lots of fun and games, all designed to deliver a message of love, acceptance and community

Overnight Retreats – One in the Fall and two in the Spring; allows deeper study as well as a deeper connection to each other

Church Visits – to several area churches of other denominations, as well to our "sister" church Hartzell Mt. Zion; these visits are made in order to help understand that although each church is a little different in style and/or beliefs, we all worship and serve the same God.

Prayer Walks – twice (at the beginning of the year and again at the end), we will take a prayer journey using our labyrinth; parents are invited to join their child for the 2nd walk the night of our Family Dinner.

We believe Confirmation is a very important step on a child's faith journey. Therefore, we have developed attendance and participation requirements. It takes commitment from both the student and his/her parents. We also have a Covenant Statement that all students, parents and class leaders are asked to sign at the beginning of each year, showing their commitment to this step of the journey.

CONFIRMATION COVENANT

"The journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step." (author unknown)

Confirmation is about making a **choice** and taking responsibility for one's faith.

Confirmation Class is about leading the students to that **choice** through the teachings of the church and exploration of their own beliefs.

Pledging individual commitments should underscore this serious purpose that brings us together every Sunday morning and for special spiritual retreats.

With this Covenant, the students, the parents and the class leaders, individually and together, dedicate this year to the faith journey of the student through this Confirmation Class.

REQUIREMENTS and COMMITMENT

CONFIRMANDS:

Attend and Participate in Sunday School/Confirmation Class regularly. We meet from 9:30-10:40 in John Wesley Rm. 109 EVERY WEEK. We ask that everyone set a minimum attendance goal 80%. (This would mean missing no more than 6 classes.) We believe that intentional study and discussion enhances our understanding and strengthens our beliefs.

Attend and Participate in the Confirmation Class Lock-ins and Overnight Retreats. We strongly encourage you to attend these events, due to the importance of the lessons being covered, as well as the relationships being built. We believe that being accountable to each other strengthens our desire to be accountable to our God.

Attend and Participate in Worship Services regularly, with a goal of at least twice per month. We believe that worshipping together as a family of faith is vital to spiritual formation.

Attend and Participate in the Class Church Visits. We have planned visits to other churches, including those of other denominations, in order to learn more about our own heritage and beliefs. We believe that in order to truly commit to this journey of faith, we must understand where we come from and where we are going. We also believe that we learn more about our own church by studying that of our neighbors.

PARENTS:

Parents are invited to **Attend and Participate** in our Confirmation Class at least twice each semester. We believe that the Confirmation journey is important to your child and to you. Your direct participation will help emphasize to your student that YOU believe it is important also. You joining us will also help you to understand exactly what we are doing and learning and where this journey is leading us.

