



CONFIRMATION:

FOR PARENTS

WELCOMING YOUNG PEOPLE
INTO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PURPOSE

1. *Faith Ownership* - There is nothing more valuable to reach for than the hearts of our children. Make no mistake, our children must choose for themselves whom they will follow. Their faith in Jesus can surely be encouraged in a multitude of ways, but their hearts can only be changed by the spirit of God. Confirmation supplies an opportunity for our youth to proclaim their faith for their very own lives.
2. *Entry Into the Church* - Our youth have a place in this church. Their talents, time, and energy are meant to build up this congregation that we all might be the body of Jesus. Bringing alongside mentors of the faith, each student has the opportunity to become more connected within the church body and form a lasting connection with those who will support them as they pursue their goals and dreams.
3. *Understanding the Faith* - The foundation of our faith is built on the Scriptures, that Jesus gave his life on a cross, that our sin might be buried with him, that Jesus has risen to life offering every person new life and power to live in his spirit as members of his family. Confirmation gives us an opportunity to build up each student's confidence in what they believe that their hearts might be transformed by the gospel.

CHANGES IN CONFIRMATION

Starting in 2025, we will begin to integrate a three-year Confirmation experience for students. The reason for this change is to provide a deeper and more substantive experience for students and their families. The goal of Confirmation and student ministry in general is discipleship: we want our students to be equipped to grow in their faith into their young adult years. A three-year experience provides us with that opportunity.

So, what does this look like? Starting in 2025, all 6th grade students will enter into the new three-year journey. As part of the transition, current 7th and 8th grade students will proceed into a slightly truncated timeline.

- If you have a current **6th grade student**, they will begin Confirmation in January of 2025 and celebrate their Confirmation journey in May/early June of 2027.
 - If you have a current **7th grade student**, they will begin Confirmation in January of 2025 and celebrate their Confirmation journey in May/early June of 2026.
 - If you have a current **8th grade student**, they will begin Confirmation in January of 2025 and celebrate their Confirmation journey on June 8th, 2025.
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CURRICULUM

Students will receive their very own copy of a book in which they will be learning from. Both books are written to lead groups into discussion and give opportunities for those reading to learn and grow in their faith. Confirmation is the space in which we want to provide room for the Spirit to actively work in the hearts of our young people. Though the curriculum is beneficial in its ability to introduce the faith, it is not comprehensive of the entire Christian faith. These books provide a productive entry point into the lives of students.

1. The Absolute Basics of the Christian Faith - Phil Tallon (6th and 7th Grades)
2. The Absolute Basics of the Wesleyan Way - Phil Tallon and Justus Hunter (8th Grade)

Alongside the book each student will receive a notebook filled with lesson handouts corresponding to the book and teaching. Each lesson handout is designed to provide a place for students to share their thoughts before actively engaging in discussion. It is often helpful for each of us to gather what we truly are thinking and feeling before sharing with others. These lessons will be gathered together after each lesson and once completed (in the 8th grade year) presented to each student as a keepsake and remembrance of the commitment given to this church during the Confirmation process.

LESSONS FOR 6TH GRADE

These lessons will be derived from the first book, The Absolute Basics of the Christian Faith.

1. Doctrine of God - Who is God?
2. Doctrine of God - What is God like?
3. Doctrine of Creation - What did God make?
4. Doctrine of Creation - Why is there evil?
5. Doctrine of the Incarnation
 - a. Who is Jesus Christ
 - b. Why did the Son of God become human?
6. Doctrine of Salvation (Part 1)
 - a. What is salvation?
 - b. What is required for salvation?

LESSONS FOR 7TH GRADE*

These lessons will be derived from the first book, The Absolute Basics of the Christian Faith.

1. Doctrine of Salvation (Part 2)
 - a. What are the benefits of salvation?
 - b. What happens when we live out our salvation in Christ?
2. Doctrine of the Spirit - Who is the Holy Spirit?
3. Doctrine of the Spirit - What does the Holy Spirit do?
4. Doctrine of the Church - What is the church?
5. Doctrine of Last Things - What is the world's great hope?
6. Doctrine of Last Things - What is our future?

LESSONS FOR 8TH GRADE

These lessons will be derived from the other book, The Absolute Basics of the Wesleyan Way.

1. Who was John Wesley?
2. What is the Goal of the Christian Life?
3. What is Repentance?
4. What is Justification and New Birth?
5. What is Sanctification?
6. What are Sacraments?

MENTORS

During confirmation students will connect with a faith mentor. Faith mentors are adult members of Wesley Memorial who commit to consistently shepherd groups of 2-3 students during their Confirmation journey. They do so by their example, praying for their students, and facilitating discussions that are led by our staff teaching team. Faith mentors can have deeper relationships as families become more acclimated to Wesley Memorial. Our hope is not only to provide wisdom to our students, but truly make a meaningful connection with others in our church body.

If you are interested in becoming a Faith Mentor, contact us to find out more information. You will have an everlasting impact on these students!

IMPORTANT DATES AND TIMES

Students will meet in the **Youth Wing** located on the West side of the church. Each confirmation class will have a standard meeting time between **2pm and 4pm**. Please encourage your student to make the **commitment of attending at least 5 out of the 6 sessions** offered. (Materials will be provided for those who miss 1 session) If you are interested in continuing with confirmation, but unable to make 5 out of 6 sessions, please contact us.

January 9th - Online Registration Closes at 11:59pm
Register online at www.wesleymemorial.org/confirmation

January 12th - Confirmation Session 1 (All Students)

January 19th - Confirmation Session 2 (All Students)

January 26th - Confirmation Session 3 (All Students)

February 2nd - Confirmation Session 4 (All Students)

February 9th - Confirmation Session 5 (All Students)

February 16th - Confirmation Session 6 (All Students)

June 8th, 2025 - Confirmation Celebration (for graduating students**)

CONTACT US

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* The 7th grade curriculum may include additional introductions from the 6th grade lessons as this is the first year within this curriculum.

** Graduating students include any student in 8th grade or High School.