



EXPLORE

CONFIRMATION

Dear 8th Grade Parents,

Confirmation is a beloved part of our church calendar here at First Presbyterian. Year after year, it is always amazing to watch God work in and through students' lives during the Confirmation process. The purpose of this discipleship program is to help students learn the basics of Christianity, the tenets of the Presbyterian tradition, and what it means to become a Covenant Partner of First Presbyterian Church. Bo Brookby, Beth Hilliard, and Allysen Waters are the facilitators of the course. Our intention is for the confirmation process to be an experience of both the HEART and the HEAD. The two questions that each student will be seeking to answer are, "Who is Jesus to me?" and "Do I want to join First Presbyterian Church?" When the study portion of the class is completed in 8th grade, each student will have the opportunity to affirm his/her faith and become a Covenant Partner of First Presbyterian Church as they transition into High School.

The design of this class includes weekly teaching times, mentor relationships, two retreats, two class parties, a service project, a mid-course gathering for parents, and a mid-course gathering for mentors. At the end of the semester, students and families will gather together and celebrate the student's completion of the Exploration phase of Confirmation. A public recognition of their completing the class will be made during worship on Celebration Sunday.

Mentors

As some of you may know, mentors are a vital element to this process. Over and over, we have seen students benefit immensely from spending time with a loving, listening, and caring adult who is passionate about their walk with Christ. It is a powerful thing for them to have firsthand knowledge of lives transformed by Christ, and a trusted adult friend in whom they can confide. We encourage you to choose a Confirmation Mentor who is a person your confirmand admires and respects. We think that it is advantageous for this person to be someone other than a family member, so that your son or daughter is increasing the number of trusted adult voices in their lives. Take some time to discuss possible mentors with your son or daughter. Our mentor expectations list, which you will receive as well, shares guidelines for choosing mentors so that when recruiting your mentor, you can provide them with a realistic idea of what the process will entail.

Registration

1. We will need to know who is participating in the class and who mentors are by December 15th. Once you have secured a mentor, please share the Mentor Expectations with him/her. It is likely they will be honored and delighted that you have asked them to take on such an important role in your child's life! We encourage students to ask their mentors themselves because it is much more meaningful when the request comes directly from him/her. This also reinforces to your son or daughter that this is THEIR journey of faith, not just another program they do because it is expected of them.

2. The total fee for confirmation is \$150. The only item this fee does not cover is the cost of the Celebration Dinner on Saturday. Payment may be made online at the time of registration. If you are unable to pay the entire class fee up front, we are happy to set up a payment plan. We never want the cost of anything to prohibit students from participating in any event at First Presbyterian. We feel especially strong about that regarding the Confirmation Class so please contact Allysen about payment arrangements or adjustment if needed. We are blessed to have a church that supports our youth with a scholarship fund if there is need for support in this way.
3. Please take a moment to visit the Students and Young Adults Ministry page on the First Pres website. There you will find the link to register.

The following is additional information you may need for scheduling

- The class will start with a retreat at the Church on January 5th with Mentors. This is MANDATORY for all students because it truly sets the tone for the life and community of the class. Even if your Mentor is unable to come, we ask that students attend this retreat. Details about the retreat will be coming soon.
- The class will meet weekly beginning January 7th, 9:15 – 10:30 am. While we highly encourage consistent attendance, we know that life happens so students may miss up to 3 classes throughout the semester, but we strongly suggest not missing more than ONE in a row. Students are also expected to get notes on the class they missed once they are back in class.
- The course concludes with a Class Celebration Dinner with Mentors and Families on Saturday, April 27, and a Family/Mentor Celebration during the Worship Service on Sunday, April 28th. Specific information about the dinner will be communicated in April.
- We rely on your family to communicate a large amount of information to your Mentor. Please respect Mentors' schedules by notifying and reminding them as early as possible about any upcoming events.
- You will receive email announcements about all Confirmation happenings throughout the semester.

We look forward to seeing the Lord's work in your children along the way this spring!

In Christ,

Allysen Waters

Bo Brookby

Beth Hilliard