

What is Confirmation?

Confirmation classes are designed, in part, for learning about the Christian faith. This class is open to all 6th graders, regardless of their background or Christian upbringing. They are invited to bring their friends to class and share in what they're experiencing. *The United Methodist Book of Discipline* mandates that the content of confirmation classes include...

- The meaning of the Christian faith;
- The history, organization, and teaching of The United Methodist Church;
- An explanation of the baptismal and membership vows, and
- A call to commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

But confirmation isn't simply about gathering information and increasing knowledge. It is also about knowing and feeling. It is about standing before believers and saying, "I too believe." It's about standing with believers and practicing the faith in daily living.

Confirmation is one of the first significant moments in which our sons and daughters affirm the faith into which they were baptized. They stand before the congregation and state on their own their faith in Jesus Christ. The words are important. Our sons and daughters affirm the faith—but it is not something they have invented on their own. It is the faith of the church. The ritual begins with the renunciation of all that is evil and the profession of faith and loyalty to Jesus Christ.

If they were baptized as infants, these are the words you said for them during that service. They now say these words on their own behalf, stating before the congregation that they renounce evil, will resist evil, and accept Jesus Christ as their savior and promise to serve Christ. If your son or daughter was not baptized as an infant, he or she will be baptized during the confirmation service and take these vows, for the first time stating these beliefs for themselves.

The decision to be a part of confirmation means that you are encouraging your child to explore the Christian faith and decide what his or her response will be to the call to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. **It is very important that they attend class.** And it will be important as your child enters confirmation classes to have agreed as a family to allow your child to make his or her own decision about profession of faith and church membership and to support whatever decision your child makes.

Teachers: Greg and Courtney Boney (803-831-5948)

The following lessons will be taught by Rev. Carl Hunsucker throughout the year: Holy Communion; Baptism and Confirmation; How Methodists Approach Belief; The Bible: The Book for Christians and The Vows of Confirmation.

Curriculum: Claim the Name

Confirmation Retreat: March 18-20, 2011

Confirmation Sunday: May 1, 2011