

Confirmation classes have been an important part of the life of Lakewood UMC for decades. They provide a unique opportunity for students and parents to go through a next-level time of learning and discipleship that gives students the opportunity to confirm their faith in Christ for themselves.

This opportunity has typically been given to students during the spring of their 7th grade year at Lakewood UMC. After thought, prayer, and discussion, it has been decided that we will move Confirmation classes to begin in the fall of a student's 8th grade year. There are some specific benefits to this:

1. It allows for more time for maturation which is only beneficial when a student is making such an important decision for their lives.
2. It allows for more regular and concrete next-steps for students after Confirmation class ends. Classes will start in September and likely end in January which leaves an entire half of the school year to get students plugged into small groups, Wednesday night activities, and more. Ending just before summer does not allow students to plug into regular gatherings for discipleship as not as many are offered during the summer due to schedules changing, Student Ministry trips, and the need for volunteers to rest.

This means that Confirmation of Faith classes will begin in September of 2019 when the current 7th graders will be beginning their 8th grade year. Parents will receive a letter in the mail in June 2019 with more information and how to sign up.

This decision was not made hastily, and I understand that programmatic changes can often be challenging. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

I greatly look forward to beginning Confirmation classes again with our 8th graders in the fall of 2019.

Blessings,

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