

CONFIRMATION 2020.2021



first  rowlett
united methodist church

Confirmation at First Rowlett United Methodist Church for 2020/2021 year

CONFIRMATION INVITATION

First Rowlett UMC invites all students in the sixth grade to participate in Confirmation when they are ready and interested in being part of this deliberate time of faith preparation.

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."—John 14:6

WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?

Confirmation refers to the decision a person makes to respond to God's grace with intentional commitment, publicly reaffirming his or her baptismal vows before the congregation and becoming members of the church.

The confirmation ceremony for this year's class will be held in May of 2021. It is the first public affirmation of the grace of God in one's baptism and the acknowledgement of one's acceptance of that grace by faith. Confirmands are taking responsibility for living as members of the body of Christ and for fulfilling God's purposes in their lives.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

We recognize that the calendar and requirements for confirmation are rigorous. We believe this process is worthy of attention, effort and commitment. Each class is important and every effort possible should be made to attend each one.

FIRST STEPS

1. **Read the manual.** Let us know if you have any questions.
2. **Attend the Introduction and Information Meeting** on July 26th at 1:00 on Zoom (Meeting ID 638 839 9512). If you cannot attend that session, a makeup meeting will be held on Sunday, August 2nd on Zoom at the same time and meeting ID. Attending one of these meetings is mandatory.
3. **Registration & fees** Registration is \$25 covering Confirmation Bibles and supply costs for the year. If we are able to have retreats, there will be costs associated with them. Full or partial scholarships are available if necessary.
4. **Identify and ask a Mentor to join you for the confirmation process**
Following registration, students/parents must identify and ask a mentor to join them for the confirmation journey. Mentors must be identified by September 6th. Inform the Parent Involvement Coordinator with the mentor's name and contact information (email address and phone number).

Confirmation at First Rowlett United Methodist Church for 2020/2021 year

A word of encouragement about finding a mentor: Sometimes parents are hesitant to ask someone to serve as their child's mentor once they see how much time and effort is required of the mentor. Please take a leap of faith and ask someone anyway! Let the person know upfront how much is being asked of them, and then trust that he or she will be honest about whether or not he/she can follow through. Experience has proven that the mentors often get as much out of the experience as the confirmands, and it is an honor to be asked.

It is also tempting to pick a family member to serve as your child's mentor. We discourage this because it is important that your child establish meaningful Christian relationships outside his/her family. Our desire is for you to ask someone in the church whom you admire—whether you already have a relationship with that person or not.

If you have tried, but have been unsuccessful in selecting a mentor, please contact the Confirmation or Parent Involvement Coordinator.

SEVEN COMPONENTS OF THE CONFIRMATION PROCESS

1. Confirmation Classes

Students must participate in the Sunday morning classes as scheduled from August to April. Each class covers a specific theme and lesson-specific topics. Class teachers will be the Confirmation Coordinator and Youth Director.

2. Confirmation Retreats

Several may be scheduled as part of the Confirmation process, based on current conditions. We believe this extended time together not only allows space for relationships to develop at a deeper level, but also provide enough time and experience together to dig deep into big questions and big thoughts. Students are expected to attend all retreats in their entirety.

3. Weekly Small Group Meetings

Students participating in confirmation are invited to participate in the small group meeting on Sunday evenings led by Ryan Groothuis.

United Methodism essentially began with a few young college men who started the first small group. Commonly known as the Holy Club, the concept of personal holiness and social holiness caught fire. The holiness of life was attained through these small groups that were called class meetings. Small groups of people would gather for prayer, study and accountability. Small groups are an essential vehicle for discipleship—and participation in a small group begins a pattern that can be continued for a lifetime.

Confirmation at First Rowlett United Methodist Church for 2020/2021 year

4. Worship

As allowed by current conditions, students participating in confirmation should be attending worship weekly, either at the 10:00 online service or one of the regularly scheduled services and with the other youth on Wednesday nights.

Students should choose one aspect of worship leadership (usher, greeter or lay reader) to participate in between August and April.

John Wesley taught and practiced accountable discipleship. He knew what we deep down know today—we can't keep on the path with Christ without the help and support of other Christians. Without hearing the Word read and preached, without gathering with other Christians around the table to share and feast upon Christ who is host and sacrifice for us, and without becoming part of the fire of the Spirit, we are like embers of a fire separated from the community of grace. We grow cold, the fire and flame of love grows cold and we die spiritually. We may still believe, but we stand outside the covenant in our practice

—Rev. Dan Benedict, General Board of Discipleship

5. Faith Community Visits

We believe there is one universal church—and many ways God is worshiped across faith practices. The United Methodist church has always had a “catholic” (universal) spirit when it comes to the larger ecumenical church community. Exposing students to different faith practices helps us to witness together the varied and beautiful ways God is present throughout various denominations.

It also helps us to define distinctions in United Methodist doctrine and practices. Students participating in confirmation may visit three other faith communities. If attending, we ask that students dress appropriately as we respectfully engage our friends and neighbors in other places of worship. In prior years, these visits have included St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, Faith Family Baptist, Rowlett and St. Seraphim Greek Orthodox Church

6. Service

Confirmands are encouraged to participate in other service opportunities throughout the year. Check the weekly bulletin for service opportunities. We ask that parents and mentors participate with their confirmand.

United Methodist have believed, from the beginning, that each of us is called to participate in the outreaching ministry of Jesus Christ. John Wesley described this work in simple, practical terms: “Do all the good you can, in all the places you can, to all the people you can”. Putting our faith into action is at the very heart of our Christian calling.

Confirmation at First Rowlett United Methodist Church for 2020/2021 year

7. Meeting with Mentors

Participate in four guided conversations with an adult mentor (detailed description in Mentor Manual). It is the parent's responsibility to reach out and schedule the meeting with the mentor every other month.

At the conclusion of these seven steps, confirmands will meet with Pastor Pam before Confirmation Sunday. A schedule of timeslots will be made available. The meeting is an opportunity for the confirmand to discuss their thoughts about faith and church membership—and to communicate their desire to be (or not be) confirmed.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Assist confirmand in inviting a mentor to join them for this process. Please identify your mentor as soon as possible so they can plan to attend the September 7th mentor's meeting;
- Commit to pray for confirmand and mentor throughout process;
- Read all information in this packet—and stay informed as to what discussions your confirmand is having with their mentor and in the confirmation classes. (While their conversation with their mentor deserves appreciate response and privacy, you can follow-up with conversation starters that support the work that is happening in class and in conversation with mentors.);
- Communications regarding Confirmation are done via email and GroupMe. Respond promptly to email queries and requests from the Parent Involvement and Confirmation Coordinators;
- Assist your confirmand in ensuring all the program component requirements are being accomplished;
- Participate in family devotion. Invite all members of your family to a season of deliberate devotion using the prompts we have provided—or discover your own;
- Faith Community Visits are open to mentors and parents; please join us;
- Volunteer and support class, retreat and Faith Community visits as needed;
- First Rowlett UMC and the North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church require that all persons who work with youth complete an application, become certified in MinistrySafe policies and have a background check conducted every two years. Forms can be found on the church's website.

Confirmation at First Rowlett United Methodist Church for 2020/2021 year

PARENT/FAMILY PARTICIPATION

We know that you are the primary spiritual leaders in your child's life. Our goal is to come alongside you and equip both you and your child in the process of spiritual growth.

We encourage you during this confirmation time to sit down as a family and engage scripture together. The SOAP method of Bible study is a version of Lectio Divina (Divine Reading) where you move through a piece of scripture considering it different ways. We hope you will choose to sit down with your confirmand, or with your entire family, and engage this process several times in the course of the confirmation journey.

S: Scripture—write out the scripture verse. Read it aloud two times (perhaps have different people read) and read it to yourself.

O: Observation—what was interesting to you about this passage? Are there any words or phrases that stood out? Why?

A: Application—how can you apply this scripture to your life? How will you let it change you?

P: Prayer—respond to God in prayer using the scripture and your discussion as a guide. Ask God to help you meditate and apply the scripture to your life.

While you can use any scripture references, here is a list of recommended ideas:

- Joshua 1:9
- Psalm 103:2
- Jeremiah 29:11
- 1 Timothy 2:22
- 1 Corinthians 1:25

Parents are expected to act as sponsors for confirmation classes, Faith Family visits and retreats.

Confirmation at First Rowlett United Methodist Church for 2020/2021 year

CONFIRMATION LEADERSHIP TEAM

Parent Involvement Coordinator (Ginger Swanner)

Responsible for overseeing the administrative functions of the confirmation process. Schedules parents and volunteers to ensure that there are always two MinistrySafe certified adults in any class or function; Communicates upcoming events via email and GroupMe. Parents, please respond via email within 24 hours to ensure that the communication flow is good.

Confirmation Coordinator (Kenna Davidson)

Primary teacher of the CONFIRM curriculum on Sunday mornings and is a resource for confirmands and their parents. The Director of Youth Ministries also works with the Confirmation Coordinator to oversee the confirmation process.

Small Group Leader (Rylan Groothuis)

Leads the Confirmation small group on Sunday Evenings. Primary planner of retreats and fun activities.

Director of Youth Ministries (Brittany Martin)

Coordinates schedule of events and communicates with parents via email, electronic newsletter, Remind (text communications) and in person.

Associate Pastor (Rev. Dretha Burris)

Responsible for the spiritual growth of the Confirmands and serves as the liaison to the rest of the pastoral staff. Participates in the baptisms of confirmands who have not already been baptized before joining the church.

Senior Pastor (Rev. Pam White)

Overall leadership of the entire congregation. Meets individually with confirmands prior to being confirmed.