

What is Confirmation?

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

The confirmation ceremony this year occurs on May 5, 2019. 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. In other words, confirmands are taking responsibility for living as members of the body of Christ and for fulfilling God's purposes in their lives.

you can". Putting our faith into action is at the very heart of our Christian calling.

Mentor Responsibilities

A mentor is an adult who is a guide to a Confirmand:

- a. someone of mature faith who can serve as a guide and companion on this important part of their journey of faith;
- b. not "perfect"—but has a desire and a witness of living a life of faithful discipleship of Jesus Christ;
- c. interested in encouraging a young person to express his or her faith and questions openly;
- d. someone who can listen and recognize that he or she is still growing in faith, rather than an "I have all the answers" kind of adult;
- e. the same sex as the confirmand;
- f. preferably a member of First Rowlett UMC who is a dynamic Christian (mentors should be members because they will share in vows of commitment to watch over the student in the life of the church);
- g. an unrelated adult—we discourage family members as mentors because it is important that your child establish meaningful Christian relationships outside his/her family;
- h. Someone who can lead conversations with the confirmand, stand with the confirmand on Confirmation Sunday, and do their best to engage at other times in the course of the Confirmation process;
- i. Mentors are to attend the mentors group meeting on Sunday, September 9th at 11:00 a.m. in the Lighthouse;
- j. Mentors are encouraged to attend the Faith Community Visits;
- k. Volunteer and support classes, retreats and Faith Community visits as needed (approximately once per month).

As safety precautions, we ask mentors to agree to the following:

Never meet with confirmand alone behind closed doors;

Never drive the confirmand anywhere unless another adult is in the car.

Mentor Discussions

The goal of Mentor discussions is to get to know one another and share thoughts, experiences and stories—especially the story of how God has been at work in your life. We want you to meet 4 independent times over the course of the Confirmation season so you can hear what the Confirmand is learning, how they are growing and so your relationship has time to develop. The model for the time with the Confirmand (1 hour each session) is:

- Welcome/How was your week?
- Share with the confirmand as described in the grid below. Each session, this is your opportunity to share honestly about your faith story. Remember that this is not about you having all the answers or doing everything “right”—but instead sharing from a place that allows confirmands to learn how to tell their own stories, share their own doubts, ask questions, and grow in their journey of discipleship!

Please share in an age appropriate way. The “Share with confirmand” piece should take no longer than 10-minues, be honest—but also take into account that this is not a peer listening to you story, but a child who is considering their own relationship with God, the church and the larger community of believers.

- Ask questions and listen for answers. Don’t be afraid of silence. This is a chance for the confirmand to share bits of their story—or their questions. Allow this time to unfold—as guided by the questions and the Holy Spirit!
- Learn together by opening the Bible and considering what scripture has to say about this particular aspect of discipleship.
- Pray. Always close in prayer—sharing any joys & concerns and inviting the confirmand to share what they have coming up in their lives. As it becomes more comfortable, invite the confirmand to lead the prayer—or for you each to pray for the other.

DATE COMPLETED	<p>Share with Confirmand</p> <p><i>Answer the question below by sharing part of your faith story.</i></p> <p>Ask & Listen</p> <p><i>Now ask the same question you just answered to your confirmand</i></p>	<p>Learn Together</p> <p><i>Read the scripture together and discuss what, if anything, this has to do with our stories we have shared and the way God wants to grow us as disciples. A supplemental package for mentors will be provided</i></p>
OCT 2018	<p>Who has influenced you the most in your faith?</p> <p>What about them or their life inspired you?</p>	<p>Philippians 3:;17 & 4:9 Proverbs 9:9 2 Timothy 2:2</p>
DEC 2018	<p>Describe turning points in your life and relationship with God or seasons when you have especially grown in your faith.</p> <p>How did you know what to do?</p>	<p>Proverbs 2:6 & 3:5-6 James 1:5, 4:7 Isaiah 30:21</p>
FEB 2019	<p>What does it look like to be a faithful witness of Jesus Christ?</p> <p>How is your faith part of your daily activities, relationship & choices?</p>	<p>Matthew 5:13-16</p>
APR 2019	<p>Describe a moment or experience when you've felt God was present with you.</p> <p>How do you tend to encounter God?</p>	<p>Isaiah 41:10 Romans 8:38-39</p>

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

	Event	Time/Location	Morning Curriculum
AUG 2018	Parent's & Confirmand Meeting	8/5 12:15 Lighthouse	
	Makeup Parent's Meeting	8/12 12:15 Lighthouse	
	First Confirmation Class	8/19	OUR JOURNEY Traveling Together Living Together
SEP 2018	Faith Community Visit to Temple Shalom	TBD in September	OUR HISTORY & HERITAGE The Faith of Jesus The Early Church The Reformation Wesley & The Methodists The Growth of Methodism (KD out 9/30)
	Mentor Meeting Lighthouse	9/9/18: 12:15	
	Fall Overnight Retreat FRUMC Loving Together Belonging Together	TBD	
OCT 2018	Mentor visit #1	By appointment	OUR LIFE TOGETHER The Connection Simple Worship Music & Lyrics
	Relay for Life	10/13	
	Faith Community Visit to St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church	TBD	
NOV 2018	Faith Community Visit to Greek Orthodox?	TBD	Remembrance Accepting Grace A Loving Church 11.25 TGiving OFF
DEC 2018	Mentor visit #2	By appointment	So Now What? OUR BELIEFS Faith & Trust Experiencing God 12/23 off? 12/30 off?

JAN 2019	Faith Community Visit to Faith Family Baptist in Rowlett	TBD	The Bible – not just a History Book: A UM View The Holy Trinity Who is God? Prayer: Talking to God
	Winter Retreat Confirmation Option	1/11-13	
FEB 2019	Bridgeport Mid-Winter Option	2/8-10	Prayer: Listening to God OUR THEOLOGY The Imago Dei Sin and Grace
	Mentor visit #3	By appointment	
	Bishop's Rally: Christ UMC Plano	2/17	
MAR 2019	Faith Community Visit to East Plano Islamic Center	TBD	Two Natures, One Man: Who is Jesus What is Salvation? The Holy Spirit as a Guide What's next? Life After Death From Whence we came: The creeds
APR 2019	Spring Retreat: Mt. Lebanon Develop Creed A Faith to Decide; A Faith to Confirm; A Faith to Live	4/27-28 Mt. Lebanon	OUR FAITH AND CALLING: A Call to Follow A Spirit to Find A Story to Tell A journey to Continue
	Mentor Visit #4	By appointment	
	Home visits or meetings with Pam		
MAY 2019	Immersion Baptisms, if any Rehearsal for Confirmation Sunday	5/4	
	Confirmation Sunday with reception following	5/5	
	Kidnapping into youth	5/19	