



Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church

Monument, CO

Confirmation Overview

Winter/Spring 2018

Sam Hastings
Director of Youth Ministry
sam@tlumc.org
719.213.9883

Nancy Fritzsche
Director of Christian Education
ce@tlumc.org

What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is more than just a rite of passage. This group explores the Christian faith and how we both personalize and own our beliefs. During confirmation sessions, students will learn about the meaning of the Christian faith; the history and teachings of The United Methodist Church; and an explanation of the baptismal and membership vows they will be professing should they choose to embrace the Christian faith. More than anything, we provide a Confirmation experience because we believe it is important for our students to learn both the content of their faith tradition AND its value in their daily lives. **Confirmation is open to all students in or above 8th grade.**

What's the point?

There are three primary goals for this course:

- To equip students with the knowledge and relationships they need to make an informed decision and lasting commitment to their faith.
- To explore questions of religion, theology, and philosophy in regards to the Christian faith and the Methodist tradition.
- To establish a sense of community where students feel safe and respected, and have fun along the way!

What do we do?

Baptism

- Baptism (Only if not previously baptized)

Relationships

- Select 2 people to pray for you throughout Confirmation (Not family members)
- Exit Interview with Sam (Scheduled 1-2 weeks prior to Confirmation Sunday)

Worship

- Attend TLUMC Worship Services (Once a month, complete observation sheet each time)
- Special off-site visits (At least 2 of the 4)

Study

- Confirmation Sessions (Please communicate absences)
- Confirmation Retreat (April 6th – 8th, conflicts to be arranged with Sam)
- Reflection Assignments (5 Total)

What To Bring

The following materials are expected each week:

- Journal
- Bible (Everyone will be given a study bible at our kickoff dinner)

Important Dates:

Kickoff Dinner:

February 11th @ 3:00 – 5:00 PM

Let's get started by having some fun! For our kickoff we will have time to get to know each other, play games, learn about Confirmation, and conclude with a tasty dinner! This is a great way to get plugged in and see what Confirmation is all about. This is a time for students and parents.

Regular Sessions:

February 11th, 18th, 25th
March 4th, 11th, 18th
April 15th, 22nd

Off-Site Visits:

March 3rd, April 6th, April 8th, April 11th

Confirmation Retreat:

April 6th – 8th

We will head to John Wesley Ranch to continue our exploration and questioning in a more contemplative environment. We will also have a BLAST! Packing list and schedule available online or by request.

Confirmation Rehearsal:

May 5th @ 5:00 PM

This is a special time for families and students. Following a brief rehearsal in the sanctuary, we will gather for a time to celebrate and share our experience of confirmation. We will also have ice cream and refreshments in the Great Room afterwards!

Confirmation Sunday: May 6th

This is the big one. During the 9:30 worship service on Sunday morning we will bring the confirmands, their families, and their prayer partners forward to welcome them into our church community.

Where/When do we meet?

Regular sessions meet in the **Lower Level from 3:00 – 5:00 PM**

Regular Sessions:

Special Kickoff Dinner: Sunday February 11th (3:00 PM – 5:00 PM)

Sunday February 18th (3:00 – 5:00 PM)

Sunday March 18th (3:00 – 5:00 PM)

Sunday February 25th (3:00 – 5:00 PM)

Sunday April 15th (3:00 – 5:00 PM)

Sunday March 4th (3:00 – 5:00 PM)

Sunday April 22nd (3:00 – 5:00 PM)

Sunday March 11th (3:00 – 5:00 PM)

Off-Site Visits:

Saturday March 3rd – St. Peter Catholic Church (Meet there at 4:30 PM. Pickup at 6:15 PM)

Friday April 6th – Temple Beit Torah – Jewish Synagogue (Attend service as part of our Confirmation Retreat)

Sunday April 8th – Woodmen Valley Chapel (Attend service as part of our Confirmation Retreat)

Wednesday April 11th – Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church (Meet there at 4:45 PM. Pickup at 6:30 PM)

Retreat:

Friday April 6th – Session 1

Saturday April 7th – Sessions 2, 3, and 4

Sunday April 8th – Session 5

Why is Confirmation important?

Confirmation is important because it isn't superficial in any way. This is all about owning *your* faith and confirming it, not conforming to it. This experience invites us to become part of something bigger than ourselves as part of a larger community. While we will get into facts and information, this is ultimately about learning our faith story and understanding how it relates to daily life. Confirmation is a truly special opportunity because it is all about personal choice.

Does it *really* matter if I show up?

To be blunt, YES. Every year we hear stories of regret from those who couldn't commit to the whole program. Students who fully engage walk away with great new friends, a strong understanding of their faith, and a meaningful and lasting experience. If you're not here, you will be missed and you will miss out. In short, we want to see you! That being said, attendance will still be monitored. Up to 3 excused absences are accepted, but make up work must be completed.

What if I *need* to miss a session?

There are times when you may need to miss a session. We understand that. However, only 3 absences are allowed and must be excused by a parent **prior** to that week's session. If you are sick, please communicate with Sam within a day of the missed session. There will not be grades, but you are expected to engage with the group and do your best. This means contacting Sam to arrange make up work if you miss a session.

What if I can't make Off-Site Visits or the Retreat?

You are strongly encouraged to attend all off-site visits and the Retreat. These are HUGE opportunities to make up for sessions you've missed. Take advantage of this! If you miss an off-site visit, take initiative and go on your own or with friends/family to experience these other locations. As for the Retreat, special arrangements can be made if you've got a conflict. If you know now that you will miss the Retreat altogether, please let Sam know immediately so we can work out a plan.