



Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church  
Monument, CO

## Confirmation Overview

### What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is more than just a rite of passage. This group explores the Christian faith and how we both personalize and take ownership of 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 as a member of the church. 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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

- Tri-Lakes UMC members will be praying for you throughout Confirmation
- Students will experience and learn Tri-Lakes UMC's Discipleship model/practices
- Exit Interview with Sam (15-20 minutes/student. Scheduled in the final weeks of Confirmation)

#### 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 in advance)
- Confirmation Retreat (conflicts to be arranged with Sam)
- Reflection Assignment (Spiritual Autobiography)

### Contact:

**Sam Hastings**

Director of Faith Formation & Communications

Email: [sam@tlumc.org](mailto:sam@tlumc.org)

Phone: 719.213.9883

### What To Bring

The following materials are expected each week:

- Journal
- Bible (Provided by TLUMC)

### Important Dates:

#### PARENT MEETING:

**January 29<sup>th</sup> @ 12:15 – 1:00 PM**

Let's get started by getting to know each other and learn about Confirmation, and enjoy a light catered meal after our second session! 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:

January - 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>

February - 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>

March - 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>

April - 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>

#### Off-Site Visits:

February 11<sup>th</sup>, March 4<sup>th</sup>, and April 19<sup>th</sup>.

#### Retreat @ John Wesley Ranch

**April 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>**

We will head to John Wesley Ranch, a more contemplative environment to continue our learning and faith formation. We will also have a BLAST! Packing list and schedule will be sent out ahead of time.

#### Confirmation Rehearsal:

**Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 – 10:00 AM**

Join us for breakfast and a quick rehearsal. This is a special time for families and students to celebrate and share our experience of confirmation and prepare for the next day.

#### Confirmation Sunday:

**Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30 AM**

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

## Where/When do we meet?

Regular sessions meet in **the Lower Level Youth Room from 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM**

### Regular Sessions:

Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> (11:00 AM – 12:15 PM)

Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> (11:00 AM – 12:15 PM)

Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> (11:00 AM – 12:15 PM)

Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> (11:00 AM – 12:15 PM)

Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> (11:00 AM – 12:15 PM)

Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup> (11:00 AM – 12:15 PM)

Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> (11:00 AM – 12:15 PM)

Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup> (11:00 AM – 12:15 PM)

Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> (11:00 AM – 12:15 PM)

Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> (11:00 AM – 12:15 PM)

Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup> (11:00 AM – 12:15 PM)

### Off-Site Visits:

St. Peter's Catholic Church (Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> – Meet @ 4:45 PM. Service starts at 5:00. Pickup at 6:00 – **55 Jefferson St, 80132**)

Woodmen Valley Chapel (Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> – Meet @ 5:45 PM. Service starts at 6:00. Pickup at 7:00 - **Monument Campus, 1330 Creekside Dr, 80132**)

Temple Beit Torah – Jewish Temple (TBD - **522 E Madison St, 80907**)

Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church (Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> – Service starts at 6:00. Finishes around 8:00. Watch for carpool information - **2215 Paseo Rd, 80907**)

## Why is Confirmation important?

Confirmation is important because we will unpack some of the superficial aspects of Christianity we've experienced in the past and work intentionally on being authentic and genuine during our time together. This experience is all about taking ownership of your faith and confirming it, not feeling forced to conform. This experience invites us to become part of something bigger than ourselves! While we will get into facts and information, this is ultimately about learning our faith story and understanding how it applies to our daily life. Confirmation is a truly special opportunity!

## Does it *really* matter if I show up?

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 2 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 communicated **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 any sessions you might miss. 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.