
Highland Park

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE FAITH



MY FAITH

OUR FAITH

CONFIRMATION

2018-2019

FOR STUDENTS & PARENTS



CONFIRMATION MATTERS

The vision of Highland Park Presbyterian Church is to lead all generations into a transforming relationship with Jesus. Often, this commitment begins even before a child can ever grasp who Jesus is and the amazing relationship with God he freely offers to them. Whenever we baptize an infant, the parents therefore promise to teach the child the promises of the Gospel until the day their child can trust in Jesus for him/herself. The congregation also promises to help provide the family with the tools and resources to encourage these children to trust Jesus as the Savior for their sins and the Leader of their lives.

The primary way our congregation encourages students to take that next step of trusting in Jesus is through a program called **Confirmation**. During the seventh grade year, we provide our students with the opportunity to **confirm** their understanding of the Christian faith, their personal trust in Jesus Christ, and their commitment to follow Jesus in this particular church family.

A helpful way to capture these three confirmation goals is through the headings: **The Faith, My Faith, and Our Faith** (see page 3). These three goals will be lived out all year through the Confirmation program (Confirmation gatherings, mentor meetings, Confirmation retreat, etc.), through the Middle School Ministry (small groups, Sunday school, fun events, our summer mission trip and so much more), and through corporate worship with the wider church.

At the end of the Confirmation program, our hope and prayer is that by the grace of God, if ready, your child would publicly declare his/her trust in Jesus and commitment to this church family. In so doing, many students will be affirming the vows you made on their behalf in their baptism. Those who have not yet been baptized will have the opportunity to do so on Confirmation Sunday.

We consider it an absolute privilege to walk with you and your child through this journey. We believe that the decision to trust Jesus as Savior and Lord is more important than any other decision your child will ever make. We therefore want to thoughtfully and sincerely help your child to reflect upon what it means to receive the grace of Jesus and to entrust their life to him. At the same time, we believe that following Jesus brings incredible joy into our lives, and we expect that your child will have an absolute blast along the way!

- The HP Pres Student Ministry Team



CONFIRMATION HAS THREE MAIN PURPOSES

- 1) **The Faith:** We will teach students the faith “once and for all handed down to the saints” (Jude 1:3). Through the Confirmation Gatherings, our students will gain an understanding of the great story of God’s redemption that spans from creation until the recreation.
- 2) **My Faith:** We will give students the opportunity to own and verbalize their personal faith in Christ through meeting regularly with their mentor and writing a brief statement of faith. Additionally, each student will also have a 30-minute interview in August 2019 with an HP Pres staff member to discuss their faith statement and their confirmation vows.
- 3) **Our Faith:** We will give students the opportunity to experience Christ-centered community in the larger picture of being an active participant in the body of Highland Park Presbyterian Church. This will be lived out especially through small group weekly Bible studies along with Sunday morning Bible studies, serving opportunities, fun events, and retreats.



CONFIRMATION EXPECTATIONS

EXPECTATIONS***

Because we believe Confirmation is a pivotal time in a student's faith journey, we expect that everyone who participates in Confirmation will engage in the Confirmation specific requirements.

- **Attend Confirmation gatherings** on First or Second Sundays
- Participate in a **weekly small group** Bible study
- **Meet 2x with mentor** during the year
- **Attend the Confirmation Retreat** to Sky Ranch Ute Trail Colorado, **July 29-August 3, 2019**
- **Complete an Interview** with an HP Pres student staff member in July-Aug 2019
- **Attend Confirmation Sunday** on Sunday, September 8, 2019

We also encourage all Confirmation students to be actively involved in the life of our church and our Middle School ministry. This could include attending Sunday morning corporate worship or Sunday school and participating in opportunities for fellowship (retreats, events, etc.) and service (Transform Dallas Day, the mission trip, etc.).

****We hope and expect that every Confirmation student will attend the Confirmation Retreat, Monday, July 29-Saturday, August 3, and the church ensures that cost is not a barrier to any student's participation. Please make every effort to plan your summer to enable your student to participate in this life changing retreat! In the rare case that your student cannot attend, we can suggest some form of alternative spiritual formation experience.**

CONFIRMATION GATHERINGS

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First or Second Sunday of each month October-May | 6:00-8:00 PM | Bell Center

After dinner and an icebreaker, we will gather for a teaching session in the Bell Center large room. Charlie Dunn, Teaching Pastor, will be the primary communicator. Students will sit with their mentors during this time. During this teaching/discussion time students will have a chance to experience God in new ways as we study the Gospel message, the story of God's redemption, what it means to be part of the church, and so much more.

***Maximum of two excused absences-** missing more than two gatherings will result in an incomplete Confirmation year.



STATEMENT OF FAITH

The final assignment for the students is to write their own Statement of Faith. This statement will give them an opportunity to express their beliefs about Jesus and his salvation at their current understanding and stage of life. It will give them an opportunity to reflect on what the disciplines of prayer and Bible study mean for their faith journey. It will also give them a chance to identify how they would like to make commitments of their time and resources to participate within the church. **The statement of faith is due on April 8th at our Confirmation gathering.** *Please note that through these faith statements we are looking for the student's expression of faith in their own words at their current stage of life. We are not expecting a theological treatise!* If helpful, students may choose to write out their answers to the following questions:

Who is Jesus? Why does he matter to you? Describe your relationship with him.

What is sin? Why does it hurt God's heart?

If someone asked you, "what is grace," how would you answer?

If you were at the gates of heaven and God said, "why should I let you in?" what would you say?

How do you seek to grow closer to God?

How is the Bible helpful to you? Do you have any favorite Scriptures?

Do you pray? How does prayer help you get closer to God?

How do you participate in the church? Why is that important to you?

Why is it important to have Christian friends or to be part of a small group?

MENTOR SELECTIONS

Upon registering your student for Confirmation, we encourage you to enter the person you have already vetted and selected to mentor your child throughout the Confirmation year. If you have not selected a mentor, you may still register your child and notify the Student Ministry Coordinator, Laurie.Moore@hppres.org with your selection. If you don't have a mentor for your child, please contact Charlie.Dunn@hppres.org, and he will recruit a mentor for you.

IMPORTANT NOTE: All mentors are to be active leaders and covenant members of Highland Park Presbyterian Church (**not an HP Pres staff member**). Please make sure that your selection meets the following criteria*:

- Active or reserve elder
- Deacon
- Lay leader of HP Pres
- If your selection does not meet the above requirements, please get approval from the Teaching Pastor before contacting the mentor.



PARENT PARTICIPATION

Parents are essential to the Confirmation journey of their child. Before each Confirmation Gathering, we will send out the lesson plan to you. Our hope is that this will help you to further discuss with your kids what they are learning during Confirmation Gatherings. Additionally, parents and students should also attend worship on Sunday mornings, join in on serving opportunities, and parents should share with their students how they came to faith in Jesus and ways they are growing in their relationship with him.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Sky Ranch: UTE Trail, Colorado
Monday, July 29 - Saturday, August 3, 2019

On the Confirmation retreat, students especially focus on the Confirmation priorities of “my faith” and “our faith.” Through worship, Bible study, and life-group testimonies, students are encouraged to consider their own faith in Jesus. Throughout the week, students reflect on Luke chapter 15, what it means to be lost in our sin (through our badness or our goodness!), and how God welcomes us into a relationship with him through *grace* – an undeserved kind of love that is absolutely free to us but incredibly costly to Jesus. Through the ropes course, white water rafting, kayaking, and other fun activities, students build deeper relationships with each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. As we hike up an 11,000 foot mountain, students learn to tackle adversity and carry one another’s burdens. And on the last night of the retreat, students worship together, pray for each other’s burdens, receive communion, exchange words of affirmation, and share in an “ask anything!” time with their leaders. Year after year, this retreat is a transformative experience that you do not want your student to miss. They build far deeper bonds with their classmates and leaders that help them stay connected to the church, and they have intentional opportunities to own and deepen their faith.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

On Sunday, September 8, 2019 all the students who have completed the Confirmation process and who are spiritually prepared to profess faith in Christ will be received into membership of the church during the 10 AM service in the Sanctuary. Students who have never been baptized can be baptized during this service as well.



CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE 2018-2019

Confirmation Gatherings are from 6-8 pm on the **first or second** Sunday of the month.

October 7: What is the Bible?/Creation: How does the story of salvation begin?

November 4: Fall: People rebel against God and disastrous consequences follow

December 2: Redemption Anticipated Part 1: God gathers a people for himself and gives them his law

January 13: Redemption Anticipated Part 2: God brings his people into the promised land but their sin drives them from it

February 10: Redemption Accomplished: God's redemption arrives in Jesus Christ

March 3: Redemption Applied: Jesus' redemption spreads through the Church

April 7: Redemption Perfected: Jesus returns to make all things new

May 5: EOY Party: Mentors and students exchange notes and celebrate the year



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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