

# Confirmation 2019



*parent information packet*

**Covenant**  
STUDENT MINISTRIES

# Confirmation Matters

Confirmation gives high school students at Covenant the opportunity to confirm their understanding of the Christian faith, their trust in Jesus Christ and their commitment to joining our community as we encourage one another to follow Jesus together. We see Confirmation as a milestone in the lives of young people as they make a personal decision to go further in their journey of our faith allowing our church to journey with them.

## Confirmation Objectives and Expectations

### *Objectives*

- To create a space for healthy dialogue, doubt, and wondering for students at Covenant to explore their relationship to God revealed in Jesus Christ and their participation in the life of the Church.
- To connect students in our congregation with mature followers of Jesus in our congregation in a meaningful friendship.
- For students to confirm their baptismal identity, understanding of the Christian faith, and their trust in Jesus Christ.

### *Expectations*

Because we think Confirmation matters as a pivotal time in your student's faith journey, we expect that each student who participates in Confirmation will engage in the whole process by faithfully attending each Confirmation Gathering, meeting regularly with their mentor and writing a Rule of Life, participating in several church activities, and attending the Confirmation Retreat.

# The Three Phases of Confirmation

Confirmation will commence in three phases: **The Faith**, **My Faith**, and **Our Faith**. At the end of the Confirmation process, we hope and pray that your child will publicly declare their trust in Jesus and commitment to this community. By doing that, your child will be affirming the vows you made on their behalf in their baptism. Any young person who has not yet been baptized will have the opportunity to do so on or before Confirmation Sunday.

- 1) **The Faith**: Through the Confirmation gatherings, our students will hear about the amazing story of God's redemption that spans from creation to recreation, learn the theology of the church and memorize the Apostles' Creed together.
  - 2) **My Faith**: The students will have the opportunity to explore their own relationship to God through meeting regularly with a mentor and writing a Rule of Life together.
  - 3) **Our Faith**: Through participation in several church activities and the Confirmation Retreat, students will learn more about Covenant Presbyterian Church and how to be involved in our Christ-centered community as together we encourage one another to follow Jesus wherever we live, work and play.
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## **The Faith — Confirmation Gatherings**

*January 27 – May 12 | 10:30 – 12:00 p.m.*

We will gather once a month for five months to learn together about The Faith "*once and for all handed down to the saints*" (Jude 1.3). Director of High School Billy Streu will be the primary communicator. Students will sit with their mentors and have the opportunity to learn the theology of the church, hear about the great story of God's redemption in Christ, and memorize the Apostles' Creed and Lord's Prayer.

Because we are only meeting five times, we ask that students do not miss any of the gatherings.

### **Memorization**

Students will be encouraged to memorize and recite the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles' Creed.

# ***My Faith* — Mentor + Rule of Life + Statement of Faith**

*February – October | 10:30 a.m. on select Sundays*

The way most of us mature in our Christian faith is by looking over the shoulder of someone else, imitating them as they imitate Christ. So while the Confirmation gatherings will introduce ways of thinking and knowing about Christ and being a Christian, we think what is most vital to your student's faith is developing a relationship with exemplary older Christians who will invite the students to look over their shoulder as they both attempt to be Christ's followers. During this time, mentors and students will discuss the material from the classes together, delve into the 5 questions Confirmands will answer on Confirmation Sunday, attend worship services together, and raise questions about the joys and difficulties of being a Christian in the modern world. Students will meet with their mentors on 2/10, 3/10, 4/14, 5/5, once in the summer and once more following the Confirmation Retreat.

## ***Rule of Life***

One of the most helpful ways to be intentional about following Jesus is to write a Rule of Life. Our spiritual formation is much like planting a garden. Plants require intentional support. Without the space and sunlight they need to flourish, they wither and collapse. Similarly, we need support, intention and structure so our spiritual life does not grow in a stunted and disorderly way.

In the Christian tradition, the name for this kind of support for our spiritual life is called a Rule of Life. It dates back to the sixth century with the Rule of St. Benedict. Benedict was a monk who created a monastery to invite others to live in prayerful community. His Rule has been a guide to the spiritual life of ordinary people since then. Each student will write a Rule of Life with their mentor and share their Rule during the Confirmation Retreat.

## ***Statement of Faith***

Students will have an opportunity to consider their own personal Statement of Faith. We begin with the Apostles' Creed as our foundation and then encourage students to write their own Statement of Faith recognizing that it may evolve over our lifetime as we grow and work through questions and doubts together.

## ***Mentor Selection***

All mentors are active leaders at Covenant Presbyterian Church. We are happy to pair students with mentors for this process. However, if you know of someone you would like to serve as a mentor for your student, please make sure that they are either an active or reserve elder, or a deacon. If your selection does not meet the above requirements, please speak with Billy Streu. Ministry staff may not serve as mentors.

# Our Faith — Participation + Retreat

## *Participation*

A great opportunity of Confirmation is to get to know Covenant better. In addition to regularly attending Sunday worship during the Confirmation process, each student will choose **three** from the following activities to attend between the final Confirmation Gathering on May 12<sup>th</sup> and the Confirmation Retreat on September 14<sup>th</sup>:

**Summer High School Ministry Event or Trip** – see CSM Summer Schedule when it becomes available

**Session Meeting** – contact Maureen Crawley at [mcrawley@covenant.org](mailto:mcrawley@covenant.org) to RSVP

**Deacons Meeting** – contact Kay Austin at [kaustin@covenant.org](mailto:kaustin@covenant.org) to RSVP

**Visions Activities Day** – 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month; older members and guests gather in FE 200 for games, puzzles and lunch beginning at 10 a.m. – contact Beth Daniels at [bdaniels@covenant.org](mailto:bdaniels@covenant.org)

**Reel Ministry** – An event at Alamo Drafthouse engaging relevant films that explore issues of faith and culture. 4 Wednesdays in July. Contact [@ksedberry@covenant.org](mailto:@ksedberry@covenant.org) to RSVP

**The Wrecking Crew** – this is a group who gathers every Friday to take care of odd jobs around the church. Contact Darleen Kleinhenz at [dkleinhenz@covenant.org](mailto:dkleinhenz@covenant.org)

**Landscaping at Covenant** – Melissa Matthews and others volunteer their time to keep Covenant beautiful. Contact Darleen Kleinhenz at [dkleinhenz@covenant.org](mailto:dkleinhenz@covenant.org)

**Reel Ministry** – watch engaging relevant films that explore issues of faith and culture. This will happen twice in July at Alamo Drafthouse. (Dates will be announced before the summer.) Contact Kathryn Sedberry at [ksedberry@covenant.org](mailto:ksedberry@covenant.org)

A Sunday worship service at Covenant that the student does not normally attend

A Sunday service at a church of another denomination

Students will follow up with their mentor describing their experiences and what they learned.

## *Confirmation Retreat – September 14–15, 2019 | Location: TBD*

Students will deepen their relationships with one another and learn how to plug into the life of Covenant Presbyterian Church in new ways. Attendance is required.

# Confirmation Sunday: All Saints

*Fall 2019*

On this special Sunday, we remember and celebrate the "great cloud of witnesses" surrounding us as we make our journey of faith. All the students who participated in Confirmation will be given the opportunity to be received into active membership of the church. We will begin the day's festivities with a breakfast in the Chapel at 9:30 and proceed together to the 11:05 worship service. During the service Confirmation students will recite their vows and enter into membership at Covenant Presbyterian Church.

## *Parent Participation*

We invite parents to participate in this journey by using "windshield time" and dinner conversations to give space for your students to continue to reflect on what they are learning during Confirmation gatherings. We also encourage you to share your own faith journey and regularly worship with your child on Sunday mornings.

For more information or to contact us with any questions:  
Billy Streu – [\*\*bstreu@covenant.org\*\*](mailto:bstreu@covenant.org)

# 2019 Confirmation Gathering Schedule

## January 27<sup>th</sup> | 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

10:30 – 10:45 Welcome + Prayer  
10:45 – 11:30 Lesson: Welcome to Confirmation  
11:30 – 11:35 Break  
11:35 – 11:55 Discussion  
11:55 – 12:00 Apostle's Creed & Lord's Prayer

## February 24<sup>th</sup> | 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

10:30 – 10:45 Welcome + Prayer  
10:45 – 11:30 Lesson: The Story of Stories  
11:30 – 11:35 Break  
11:35 – 11:55 Discussion  
11:55 – 12:00 Apostle's Creed & Lord's Prayer

## March 31<sup>st</sup> | 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

10:30 – 10:45 Welcome + Prayer  
10:45 – 11:30 Lesson: The Word  
11:30 – 11:35 Break  
11:35 – 11:55 Discussion  
11:55 – 12:00 Apostle's Creed & Lord's Prayer

## April 28<sup>th</sup> | 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

10:30 – 10:45 Welcome + Prayer  
10:45 – 11:30 Lesson: Worship & The Sacraments  
11:30 – 11:35 Break  
11:35 – 11:55 Discussion  
11:55 – 12:00 Apostle's Creed & Lord's Prayer

## May 12<sup>th</sup> | 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

10:30 – 10:45 Welcome + Prayer  
10:45 – 11:30 Lesson: The Mission & the Church  
11:30 – 11:35 Break  
11:35 – 11:55 Discussion  
11:55 – 12:00 Apostle's Creed & Lord's Prayer