



**CONFIRMATION 2025**

**INFORMATION SESSION**

**JANUARY 12, 2025**



## WELCOME YOUTH, YOUNG PEOPLE, AND FAMILIES!

Hello Parents & Guardians,

Welcome to the 2025 Confirmation process! We are excited that your youth/young adult is interested in being part of our class this year, and we look forward to this journey with them and with you.

Your young person's Confirmation has the potential to be one of the most significant events in his or her life – and in the life of your family. That's why we want to explain what our program is and what to expect.

### THE MEANING OF CONFIRMATION IN THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Both Confirmation and Baptism are part of an ongoing, lifelong process of sanctification (that is, personal transformation where someone actively works with the Holy Spirit to follow God's moral code, to love God more completely, to love their neighbor more fully, and to even love their enemies), whereby we are shaped into the image of Christ. The word "**Confirmation**" literally means "**to make firm one's faith.**"

Through the Holy Spirit, God is at work in the life of the person—preparing, justifying, sanctifying, and empowering. The Confirmation program is one piece of the lifelong process of discipleship. Confirmation is closely tied to Baptism, but it is neither the completion of Baptism nor the second half of Baptism. Instead, it is the individual's first public affirmation of their baptismal covenant and their personal response to divine grace.

The response of faith in Confirmation involves the entire person, including:

1. **REPENTANCE:** Turning from sin and toward faith in God.
2. **CONVERSION:** The lifelong process of transforming more fully into the image of God.
3. **DECISION:** Receiving God's grace and committing one's life to God.

A child or young adult who has been baptized as an infant or a young child needs an opportunity to personally affirm the faith into which he or she was baptized and raised and to claim the faith for him or herself. In Confirmation, we acknowledge

that a child has reached the age when he or she can begin to assume responsibility for his or her own faith. Wesleyan tradition is clear in insisting that every person must come to accept for him or herself the salvation offered by Christ and that this commitment is to be made publicly.

## THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION SERVICE

### PENTECOST – JUNE 8, 2025

At the conclusion of the Confirmation class, confirmands will have the opportunity to decide how to respond. If they have not been baptized, they may choose to be baptized. Those who have been baptized may choose to confirm their faith and may decide to become members of The United Methodist Church.

As a ritual, the Rite of Confirmation Service in June 2025 provides the setting and opportunity for the confirmand to acknowledge and profess the faith into which he or she has been baptized. Families can choose the service that best meets their schedules: 9:30 or 11:00 am. During the service, the individual stands before the community, is asked the historical questions of Christian discipleship and to affirm the faith for him or herself, receives the power of the Holy Spirit, and is commissioned for a life of Christian discipleship and service.

This results in the person becoming a "professing member" of the Monroe United Methodist Church, committed to the journey we call discipleship.

## THE PILLARS OF OUR

### MONROE UMC CONFIRMATION MODEL

In our model, Confirmation is done in the sixth grade, at or about 12 years of age, or after. The curriculum we will use would also be appropriate for older youth and even young adults.

Our goals include providing a structured, accessible way for young people to explore core Christians beliefs and ask questions about their faith in a casual and engaging environment. The material we will use includes *Alpha Youth*, which encourages open dialogue about important Christian ideas and relevant matters to teenagers' lives, thus making the faith more relatable and meaningful. Our approach will foster supportive community where participants can share their perspectives and experiences with others, creating a sense of belonging within the church.

We will also use the United Methodist curriculum called *Confirm*, which discusses key concepts of Christianity, including God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, grace, the Trinity, worship, Baptism, Holy Communion, the Church, living a Christian life, and sharing faith stories. Participants will explore these topics together and grow in knowledge and insight, preparing them to take responsibility for their ongoing Christian lives.

## RELATIONAL COMMUNITY

One of the most important things we do in Confirmation is build relationships – with God, with each other, and with the adults who help throughout our Confirmation class. The great commandment that Jesus gave is to love God and to love each other. In all we do, we try to fulfill this commandment. We intentionally spend a lot of time and effort building trust, relationships, and community.

## MENTORS

Adults who partner individually with one Confirmation student are *Confirmation mentors*. Mentors should be mature Christians who are active participants in a local church – it does not have to be Monroe UMC or even United Methodist, though it is helpful if they are. Mentors journey with their Confirmation student throughout the class, offering a listening ear, encouragement, and support. Mentors are expected to attend *at least half* of the Confirmation sessions with their students. Class time will be given for students and mentors to meet together to discuss what they are learning, to share life, and to pray together. Mentors will also be asked to have contact (email, text, phone call) with their student at least two times a month outside of class time for the duration of the Confirmation class. **Students are responsible to choose their own mentor, to share their role with them, and to communicate with Pastor Jeff who their mentor will be before the first scheduled class session.** If students need help identifying a mentor, please talk with Pastor Jeff or with Gina Craft.

## WHAT IS THE COST OF CONFIRMATION CLASS?

The Confirmation class is entirely free to participants – the cost is paid by the congregation of Monroe UMC as a gift and an investment in the life of our youth and young adults.

## **PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS**

Confirmands are expected to attend all sessions of the Confirmation class. If a session must be missed due to illness or family emergency, it may be made up with a leader at a mutually agreed upon date and time. However, makeup sessions will not be the same as class, so we encourage that every effort to attend the class be made. Confirmands who must be absent are expected to contact either Pastor Jeff or Gina Craft in advance, if possible.

We also expect that confirmands will attend worship at Monroe UMC regularly during Confirmation class. This may be at either 9:30 or 11:00 am or both. We do not require perfect attendance but encourage frequent and regular attendance. In addition, we will offer confirmands opportunities to assist in leading worship as they feel comfortable, so they gain experience in the church community.

Participants will be expected to engage constructively and respectfully throughout the Confirmation class. This means listening to one another, respecting each person in class as a child of God, and seeking to resolve conflicts directly so that forgiveness and reconciliation may occur.

If there are difficulties that cannot be resolved with Confirmation leaders, parents/guardians may be contacted.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

We are still finalizing the Confirmation schedule. We reserve the right to add potential field trips, change the topic or sequence of topics, or cancel/reschedule classes as needed. We will strive to notify you by email, text, and/or phone call in advance. Thank you for your understanding.

## **JOURNEYING TOGETHER**

We are excited to partner with you and your family! Please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Jeff ([Pastor.MonroeUMC@hotmail.com](mailto:Pastor.MonroeUMC@hotmail.com)) or Gina Craft ([gmatcraft@gmail.com](mailto:gmatcraft@gmail.com)) with any questions you may have.

## CONFIRMATION MENTORS

Thank you for considering serving as a mentor for a confirmation student this year. Please know that the student asking you to serve as their mentor has chosen you themselves.

Mentors are caring adults who are willing to develop a relationship with one confirmand. The requirements of a mentor are flexible, the heart of the commitment is a willingness to walk alongside these students as they explore their faith. We are asking that mentors:

- **Pray for your student regularly**
- **Attend at least half of the Confirmation sessions, Jan. 26 through June 1, 2025:** You will actively participate alongside your confirmand during class sessions, learning, discussing, and sharing the experience. We will allow time during class sessions for you and your confirmand to talk individually, or you may choose to meet after class. Class sessions are on Sundays, 12:15 to 2:45 pm at Monroe UMC – a free lunch will be provided.
- **Make contact with their students twice a month February-May:** Making contact with your student means reaching out with a text message, phone call, email, letter in the mail, etc. This does not need to be two in-person meetings. We just want your confirmand to know that you are present. You may wish to encourage them, answer questions they have, or offer support.
- **Attend worship together two times.** Find two opportunities to sit together in worship. Consider inviting your student to attend a different worship service with you as a way of exploring worship.
- **Attend Confirmation Sunday, Pentecost, June 8, 2025:** We recognize that this is a busy time of year and things come up in life, but we recommend that you make every effort to be present with your student for their confirmation.

Should you have any questions, please contact Pastor Jeff Motter at Monroe UMC, 513.539.7290, [Pastor.MonroeUMC@hotmail.com](mailto:Pastor.MonroeUMC@hotmail.com), or cell/text 419.302.8165.

Your confirmand needs to notify Pastor Jeff of their mentor before Jan. 26, 2025.