

## Hello 2024-2025 Confirmation Class!



### Welcome from Deidre

We are so excited for this year of confirmation that is ahead of us! This year is a special time in the life of your youth. Confirmation is a rite of passage for students to own their faith in Jesus Christ for themselves and to proclaim this faith to their church family. Students will be confronted with the Gospel, challenged in who THEY say Jesus is, and learn about Christ's intention for the Body of Christ. The emphasis of these classes is what students choose to do AFTER Confirmation Sunday is over . . . just as Jesus called the disciples and they followed (still having questions, failing miserably at times, but following nonetheless), we are called to follow Jesus on this life-long journey . . . even if we still have questions, and even if we fail. These students will be confronted with who THEY say Jesus is and if they want to follow Him and claim the name Christian and walk with the Christian community.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. We are looking forward to getting to know your families this year!

Blessings,



Deidre Imthurn

*Director of Confirmation, Associate Director of Youth Ministries*

To register: <https://fumcmckinneyyouth.regfox.com/confirmation-2024-2025>

## Expectations for Completion of Confirmation

1. Regular attendance and participation in class sessions (75%), worship, retreats, and activities
2. Participation in the prayer partner program
3. Complete 30 service hours. Service logs kept up to date
4. Bible and materials brought to all class meetings
5. Read the Bible on a regular basis (follow reading plan, or on your own)
6. Interview with one of the pastors in April

## Confirmation Fees

**CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION FEE = \$60**

### **Confirmation Registration Fee Due: September 15<sup>th</sup>**

*The Confirmation Fee will cover the spring confirmation retreat, Bishop's Rally, confirmation t-shirt & confirmation materials.*

### **Confirmation Retreats**

Our **FALL RETREAT** will take place October 4-6. We will meet at Bridgeport Camp, in Bridgeport, TX for our fall retreat. This is an expected part of the confirmation experience, and we will cover some important lessons on redemption, worship and the sacraments while we are there. **We will need some parents to attend.** It is a great weekend! *This event will be a separate cost to be paid when you register for the event.*

Our **SPRING RETREAT** will be on Sunday, April 27 at 12:30-5:00pm. This will be a time for confirmands to run through their roles in their confirmation service, make preparations for their confirmation service, and they will experience a meaningful lesson by walking in the steps of a disciple.

### **Financial Assistance**

In our youth ministries, we never want money to be the reason a student does not participate in an activity or program. This is true for all of our students, and it is especially true for our confirmands. We are extremely blessed in our church, and we have resources available to take the stress out of the financial side of confirmation. If, for any reason, you cannot pay the registration fee or an event, we offer the following help. First, you can set up a payment plan, and pay smaller payments throughout the year. If you foresee this is going to be the route you need, you can even start those payments right now! Second, if you know that the payment plan is not going to work, we offer partial and full scholarships for confirmation. If you would like to set up a payment plan, or need a scholarship, please contact Deidre to get this set up.

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## Confirmation Calendar of Events 2024-2025

<b>August 6</b>	<b>Confirmation Begins!</b>	<b>10:05 am</b>
<b>August 11</b>	<b>Confirmation Orientation</b>	<b>5:00 pm</b>
<b>August 25</b>	<b>Turn in Prayer Partner Forms to Deidre</b>	
<b>September 29</b>	<b>Prayer Partner Sunday</b>	<b>5:00-7:00 pm</b>
<b>October 4-6</b>	<b>Fall Retreat @ Bridgeport Camp</b>	
<b>October 6</b>	<b>Bishop's Rally</b>	<b>2:00-5:30 pm</b>
<b>October 27</b>	<b>Prayer Partner Sunday (Trunk or Treat)</b>	<b>5:00-6:30 pm</b>
<b>November 17</b>	<b>Prayer Partner Sunday/Mission Project</b>	<b>5:00-7:00 pm</b>
<b>December</b> <i>choose a Sunday</i>	<b>Shadow Sunday (with Prayer Partners)</b> Confirmands "shadow" their prayer partners to see how they live out their faith in the life of the church	<b>TBD with Prayer Partner</b>
<b>January 26</b>	<b>Prayer Partner Sunday/Mission Project</b>	<b>5:00-7:00 pm</b>
<b>February 23</b>	<b>Prayer Partner Sunday/Mission Project</b>	<b>5:00-7:00 pm</b>
<b>March 5</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday Service</b> ( <i>suggested Prayer Partner Activity</i> )	
<b>March 30</b>	<b>Prayer Partner Sunday/Mission Project</b>	<b>5:00-7:00 pm</b>
<b>April 17</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday Service</b> ( <i>suggested Prayer Partner Activity</i> )	
<b>April 18</b>	<b>Good Friday Service</b> ( <i>suggested Prayer Partner Activity</i> )	
<b>April 27</b>	<b>Confirmation Spring Retreat</b>	<b>12:30 – 5:00 pm</b>
<b>Saturday, May 3</b>	<b>Confirmation Service</b>	<b>Time TBA</b>
<b>May 25</b>	<b>Last Day of Confirmation Classes</b>	<b>10:05 am</b>

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### **This is a Great Opportunity for Evangelism!**

The importance of confirmation is known even to people who are not connected to a church. You and your family have the opportunity to be invitational and evangelistic with your friends, family and neighbors. Invite them to learn more about this exciting time!

### **Getting Back to the Main Building After Sunday School**

Many parents meet their children at the Hub. We also have many students that walk back to the main building. On Sunday mornings, there are crossing guards to help students get across Lamar and Church streets. Please encourage your children to cross the streets at these points, to stay on the sidewalk, and to not cut across parking lots. This will keep everyone safe.

### **Involvement in Youth Ministry Programs**

Confirmation is a unique time within the ministries of our church, and as such, we welcome our confirmands to join us on Sunday evenings for our youth programming. We meet at 5:00-7:00 pm at the Hub. Please have your youth bring \$5 for dinner, or \$20 for a Sunday Night Youth Dinner Card for 5 meals (which gets you 1 free meal).

### **How You Can Help**

The first roles that we will be filling are the teaching roles. If you are interested in helping teach a class, please let us know. We would like each class have three teachers, which would allow for a rotation throughout the year. Usually, you would spend one month teaching, one month supporting another teacher and one month off, but the exact rotation can be worked out with your team.

There are also opportunities to coordinate mission projects, social activities and other events. Contact Deidre if you are interested.

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# Frequently Asked Questions

## What is confirmation?

Confirmation is more than just a series of classes and it is not an end unto itself. It is the continuation of one's faith journey and the beginning of one's covenant relationship with the church. Confirmands must be fully engaged in the life of the church through worship, service, small groups, and involvement with other ministries. They should emerge from their confirmation experience prepared to lead a life of Christian discipleship.

## What are the goals for confirmation?

- I. We hope that this year would be a rite of passage for our 6<sup>th</sup> graders. We want this to be a special time in their lives that they always mark this year as an important year in their faith journey.
- II. We hope that the students will learn the basics of the Christian faith, and have an answer to the question, "What does it mean to be a Christian?"
- III. We will do our best to facilitate an environment where students have multiple opportunities to experience the life changing presence and love of God through Jesus Christ.
- IV. And finally, it is our desire that students would make a conscious decision to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, and would be confirmed in their faith.

## Is it a requirement for parents to be members of FUMC, McKinney in order for their child to participate?

No. All are welcome! In May, the students will be given the opportunity to join the church. At that time, families who have not yet joined will be extended that same invitation.

## What happens at the confirmation service on May 3, 2025?

Your child will plan and lead this very meaningful service of worship. During the service, some students will be baptized and all students, if they choose to do so, will affirm their faith through the confirmation vows and will take the vows of church membership. Parents and prayer partners will stand with their children as they are confirmed. Friends and other family members are welcome to attend the service.

## My child has not been baptized. Will he/she need to be baptized before confirmation and when will this happen?

Yes. You may choose to schedule a baptism during a Sunday morning worship service or your child may be baptized at the confirmation service on May 3rd. Special arrangements will need to be made for students who choose to be baptized by immersion.

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### **If my child was baptized as an infant or was baptized in another church or denomination, will he/she need to be baptized again?**

No. The United Methodist Church honors and accepts all forms of baptism.

### **Why do we need to attend the fall and spring retreats?**

Retreats offer experiences that cannot be duplicated in class sessions. At retreats, we can get away from distractions and focus on God's presence in our lives. On our retreats, many important lessons will be covered and stronger relationships will be built through group building activities and social time.

### **What if my child misses a class session?**

Of course, your child will get the most out of confirmation if he or she is here regularly, but the lessons will be reinforced throughout the year, which helps if classes have been missed. We are also happy to provide you with copies of the lessons to go over at home.

### **What are prayer partners?**

Prayer partners are adult members of the congregation who commit to praying for and supporting your child throughout the process and beyond. Some group activities will be planned for confirmands and prayer partners. We strongly encourage you to find your own prayer partner, as we have found this to be the most successful and the longest lasting. We request that prayer partners not be parents of students in the confirmation class or First UMC staff members.

### **What if we don't know anyone to ask to be our child's prayer partner?**

We will help you find one. All prayer partners will be background checked and will complete the Ministry Safe Training.

### **What are some ways that parents can get involved?**

This ministry takes the hearts, hands, and feet of many! We need teachers, assistants, and volunteers to help with the social and service activities. Please talk to Deidre Imthurn for more information.

## Service and Mission

As followers of Christ, we are called to love and serve God and neighbor. Confirmands are required to complete 30 hours of service over the course of the year. For example, you may serve as an acolyte, help with a church-wide event, or participate in a larger mission project. The missions committee will keep you updated on opportunities to be in service and mission.

Please fill out a service form for each activity and keep the forms.

**All students will complete a poster at the end of the year to highlight their service activities during their confirmation year.** (May want to try to remember to take pictures.)

**Date of Service:**

**Description:**

**How did this make a difference in your church, community, or the live of others?**

**How did this make a difference in your own life?**

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