**Confirmation Schedule**

**2023-2024**

**September 2023**

September 20 (Wednesday) 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

 On this evening, all of the Confirmands will gather in the Fellowship

Room with their sponsors/mentors and their families. We will share a simple supper, play some games, share information about ourselves, and get to know each other. Sponsors/Mentors will also receive a master Confirmation Schedule on that night, as well as sign up for participation in classes, and events.

**October 2023**

Sunday October 1 – worship – 9:30 a.m.

 On this day, you and your mentors will be formally recognized as participating in the Confirmation program. You will be lifted up in worship and prayed over by the congregation. ***We ask that your mentor also be in attendance, so make sure that you invite them.***

October 4, 2023 (Wednesday) 6:30 p.m to 8:00 p.m.

 Topic: So, what exactly is this Confirmation thing, why am I here,

 And what am I in for.

 Biblical Scavenger Hunt – we use this tool to introduce the youth to many

 Different aspects of the Bible – it’s parts, it’s writers, it’s rich history,

 And it’s message

October 18, 2023 (Wednesday) 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

 Core Stories Exercise – we begin our exploration of The Bible by examining it’s

 First five book (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy).

**November 2023**

November 8 (Wednesday) – 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

 Epistles – A major part of the New Testament is composed of letters (Greek word

 Is Epistle). Through a series of fun exercises, we will explore a little of what

 The epistle writers were trying to communicate.

November 29 (Wednesday) – 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

*“Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.” Martin Luther King Jr.*

 Topic: Service, what it means, and how I fit in.

Service Projects (we will shape these over several months)

 Each Confirmand will be asked to design a service project. Included in the project will be a projected cost. Members of the class will each receive a $25 grant to be applied toward the cost of the project. The project will need to involve the confirmand, members of their families, and members of the congregation. There will be a day in worship, January 9, 2022, where the Confirmands will pitch their service ideas to the congregation, and seek volunteers to help them. The actual projects themselves will take place in January, February, and March. (In between October and January, we will revisit the topic of service several times so that the youth can “hone” their ideas, possibly adapt their projects, and assess how their project affects others around them.)

**December 2023**

Service Project

December 6, 2023 (Wednesday) – serving dinner at Guest House.

 We gather at 4:30 p.m., pack the cars and head to Guest

 House (a homeless shelter in the city) to serve dinner to

 The men who live there. We will also receive a tour of Guest

House. We should return to Church between 8:00 and 8:30 p.m.

December 15 (Friday) 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. ???

 Confirmation Class. ***Tending the Fire Within*** Discovering ways to

 Nurture one’s own spirituality and personal growth. Through the

 Worlds of scripture, poetry, music, and meditation, we will try and be

 In touch with our spiritual selves, and explore how our Spirit

And the Holy Spirit can be tended from within. More information will be coming in December. At the end of the evening, we will order pizza, play bingo, and we have a gift exchange. More Details will be shared in class.

**January 2024**

January 10 (Wednesday) 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

 **God**Part One – Who is God and what do scriptures and other sources have to say.

January 24(Wednesday) 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

 ***God.*** Part Two - Who is God and what do the scriptures and other sources

 Have to say.

**February 2024**

February 4 (after church until 3:30 p.m.)

 Mini-Retreat – Exploring the Psalms

 Through guided conversation, reflection, life-mapping, and poetry writing,

 We will explore the Psalms of the Hebrew Scriptures.

February 7 (Wednesday) 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

 ***Who is Jesus*** – Part One – we will work with the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke,

 And John to answer the question: Who is Jesus?

February 21 (Wednesday) 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

 ***Who is Jesus*** – part two – we will work with the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke,

 And John to answer the question: Who are we because of Jesus

**March 2024**

March 6 (Wednesday) 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

 ***Our Jewish Roots***

March 20 (Wednesday) 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

 ***The Holy Spirit –*** on this night we explore the most elusive component of

 The Trinity – the Holy Spirit

**April 2024**

April 3, 2024 – Wednesday 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

 ***What is Church*** – We will explore what it means to be church in the current

 Age and what it means to be a member of a church

April 17 – Exploring the Church year – the church year does not follow the normal

 Calendar, but has a life all of its own. So, tonight we will explore the richness

 Of the church year, it’s seasons, and how we reflect those seasons in what we

 Say and do

**May 2024**

May 1 (Wednesday) 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

 Review of the Year, what we learned, what questions we have unanswered, what

 The confirmands learned about themselves and their mentors.

 Distribution of questions to answer, individually, concerning the confirmation class

 Faith statement

May 11 (Saturday) 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (with lunch)

 Writing our Confirmation Class Faith Statement

May 18 (Saturday (10:00 a.m. to 11:00)

 ***Confirmation Rehearsal*** – We will walk through the service, and

 Answer any questions about confirmation itself.

May 19 (Sunday) ***Rite of Christian Confirmation***

 9:00 a.m. Gather

 9:30 a.m. Service (students share their statements of faith)

 10:30 a.m. Reception

 11:15 a.m. Confirmation (students are confirmed)

**Sunday School/SEARCH/Worship Attendance**

Christian Education is a vital part of life in the church, no matter what age you may be.

\*Confirmands are required to attend SEARCH at least ten times through the year, AND they are also required to attend worship ten times during the year.

\*When you attend worship, worship sheets are available at the Usher’s station. You need to fill one out each time you attend worship.

\*You will be asked, throughout the year, to usher, perhaps read scripture, or lead the opening of worship.

**Attendance**

Attendance is time we meet, and any homework given will be collected each week, as well as worship sheets collected each week. Because we only have seventeen opportunities together, your participation is most important. You can’t learn and have the full experience if you are not in attendance. There will be “make-up” homework given in the event of absences. The homework will involve lots of reading and worksheets.

Also, if you know you are going to be late or absent, in advance, please give me a call or send an e-mail to revdavidgaeth@att.net. Finally, timeliness is important. We only have ninety minutes of classroom time when we gather (most times), and those minutes are jam packed. Please make sure that you are here, seated, and ready to begin at the beginning time.

**Extracurriculars at School**

I know that there are times when there is a “must attend” for an extracurricular that may conflict with something that we are doing. If this is the case, please let me know in advance. Also, please know, that I have never encountered a problem with any Middle School or High School Administration or Teacher when it comes to events scheduled for Confirmation. They (like me) simply wish to be notified as early as possible.

**SPONSORS/MENTORS**

Since 2002, we have included mentors in the Confirmation program. Their role is to develop a relationship with the student, have an intentional conversation once a month, and be present on outings and some classes, drive and chaperone for the experiential learning segments, and be present at the Rite of Christian Confirmation. Because you know who your son or daughter clicks with, we are asking each confirmand and their families to find an appropriate sponsor/mentor for the journey of confirmation. You may ask, “what must a sponsor/mentor do?” Here is a short list:

* Have an intentional conversation once a month with the student (suggestions)
	+ September – How do new beginnings make you feel
	+ October – Service – what ways of serving other people excites you
	+ November - Gratitude – what are you truly grateful for
	+ December – Blessings – can you name your blessings in life
	+ January – God – have you ever thought about what God looks like, or how you know God.
	+ February – What does it really mean to love someone
	+ March – Jesus – what are some of your favorite stories about Jesus, and why are they your favorites
	+ April – Belonging – what does it mean to belong to something
* Be available to drive to certain events and retreats (this schedule will be available at the opening dinner, and mentors will be asked to sign up)
* Rotate attendance at the classes outlined in this guide (this schedule will be available at the opening dinner, and mentors will be asked to sign up)
* Be present in worship on October 3 when they and their

Confirmand are lifted up in prayer during the worship service.

* Be present at the Rite of Christian Confirmation on May 19’th
* The sponsor/mentor does NOT have to be a member of GCC
* a sponsor/mentor can only sponsor one student.

Finally, for me, the Confirmation Year is a year of exploration and growth. It is my role to present information and various viewpoints. It is the student’s role to figure out what they believe. At the end of the year they will be asked to create a faith statement that clarifies those beliefs. I do not see it as my role to have your sons and daughters come out of the class believing what I believe. It has taken me 62+ years to figure out what is true for me. My hope is to create a space and an atmosphere in which it is safe for each of your daughters and sons to explore, and in the process discover who and whose they are.

**My contact information**

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