

From Baptism to Confirming of Faith

Confirmation Program

**First Congregational UCC, River Falls, WI
2009/10**

Expectations of Confirmands

The Confirmation program at First Congregational UCC is intended to help and encourage confirmands to grapple with issues of faith in light of the biblical story and the Christian faith. This is accomplished in a variety of ways:

1. Participation in worship and Sunday School.
2. Participation in Confirmation classes.
3. Participation in mission and service activities.
4. Participation in fellowship and community service activities.

Program Content

Faith is a gift to the human family from God thus it cannot be measured in an objective manner. The development of faith is a life-long process to which there is no end. There are some things, however, that can be provided by the Church to facilitate and stimulate the struggle to be a person of faith. At least in part, the Church can engage individuals in a study of the “language” and “symbols” of the faith, tools and understandings that are essential for the Christian life of faith. The Church can also connect confirmands with specific spiritual practices that can connect them to the Christian faith. Accordingly, confirmands are expected to have a basic knowledge and understanding of the following

1. The Biblical story
2. The story of the Christian Church
3. The history and tradition of the UCC
4. The worship practices and music of the faith.
5. The mission of the Church.
6. The ethical reflection of people of faith.
7. Ways they can actively live a life of faith today.

It is important to remember that confirmation is much more than an academic program teaching knowledge and skills. Rather, confirmation is concerned with the totality of life and the many ways in which faith is expressed throughout the experiences of life.

Overall Structure of the Program

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| Year One: | Living the Christian Faith and Old Testament |
| Year Two: | Living the Christian Faith and New Testament |
| Year Three: | Putting it all together by studying a specific issue |

Assignments

Each confirmand is expected to fulfill the following assignments.

1. Attend and prepare for all Confirmation class sessions.
2. Attend Sunday School class sessions (begin in worship and then go downstairs to the youth room for class) and/or worship services.
3. Each confirmand shall meet with the pastor periodically for the purpose of making sure that the materials are complete and understood. There will be considerable flexibility in determining the times of these meetings.

Participation and Service

All confirmands are expected to participate fully in the life and mission of the church. Prior to being confirmed, Year Two confirmands will be asked to pick a specific service project to engage in once the Confirmation Program is completed. Projects include teaching Sunday School, helping with Wednesday School, singing in the choir, being a liturgist, playing in the bell choir, serving on a board or committee, helping in the nursery, working at the Tuesday Banquets or various other mission projects.

Tentative Youth Activities

Recognizing that Confirmation is not just an academic program, a variety of youth activities are planned, some through the ecumenical youth group which meets on alternating Sunday evenings at our church. Some activities are purely fun and group building activities while others have a specific mission oriented flavor. Here is a list of some of the activities. Please note that these will be published in the monthly newsletter.

2008/9 Confirmation Event Schedule

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|----------------|-----------|--|
| September 14 | Sun | Youth Bash—5 to 7 pm at the Academy |
| October 24-26 | (Fri-Sun) | Confirmation Retreat |
| November 16 | Sun | Pie Auction during Thanksgiving Meal (after 10:30 am service) |
| January 23-24 | Sun/Mon | Winter Retreat |
| February 1 | Sun | Souper Bowl |
| February 25 | Wed | Ash Wednesday Worship (all confirmands and parents) |
| March 27/28 | Fri/Sat | Relay for Life |
| April 9 | Thur | Maundy Thursday Worship (all confirmands and parents or Attend Good Friday worship service.) |
| April 10 | Fri | Good Friday Worship (all confirmands and parents or M.T.) |
| April 11 | Sat | Easter Breakfast setup |
| April 12 | Sun | Easter Breakfast |
| April 15 | Wed | Confirmation Banquet (2nd years serve, 3 rd years are guests) |
| April 19 | Sun | Confirmation Sunday for 3 rd Year Confirmands |
| | Sun | End of the Year Celebration |
| Summer Events: | | Canoe/Hiking trip, Day in the City |