

From Baptism to Confirming of Faith

Confirmation Program

**First Congregational UCC, River Falls, WI
2011/12**

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

Pre-Confirmation	Who Am I and Who Are We Together?
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, 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.

Date	Day	Groups	Activity
September 11	Sun	Pre, 1,2	Confirmation Kick Off Event (after 10:30 am service)
September 14	Wed	Pre,1,2	Feed My Starving Children Trip (lv church at 5, work 6-7:30, home at 8:15)
September 21	Wed	Pre	Bonfire (6-7:30pm at Diana & Adam Villeneuve's house)
	Wed	1,2	Bonfire and College packs at Jeff and Deb Hoffman's House (6 to 7:30pm)
October 2	Sun	Pre, 1,2	Corn Maze Trip (leave after 10:30 am worship service)
Oct 21-23	Fri-Sun	1,2	Confirmation Retreat (Urban Immersion Retreat to Mpls)
November 13	Sun	Pre,1,2	Pie Auction during Thanksgiving Meal
December 4	Sun	1, 2	Christmas Servant Event (same time as Advent Event)
Jan	TBD	TBD	Winter Retreat-Servant Event
February 5	Sun	Pre	Souper Bowl
February 22	Wed	Pre	Ash Wednesday meal (pancakes served by pre-confirms)
February 22	Wed	Pre, 1, 2	Ash Wednesday Worship (all classes and parents)
April 5	Thur	Pre, 1,2	Maundy Thursday Worship (all confirmands and parents or M.T.—Seder Meal)
April 6	Fri	Pre,1,2	Good Friday Worship (all confirmands and parents or G.F.)
April 7	Sat	1,2	Set up for Easter Breakfast
April 8	Sun	1,2	Easter Breakfast (serve and clean up)
Summer			Summer Musical Boundary Waters Canoe Trip (7 th graders and up) Day in the City Summer Program 6 th through 12 th graders)