

**Welcome To Confirmation
Confirmation Parents Meeting 2011 – 2012
Agenda**

What is Confirmation?

Why we do Confirmation?

What Confirmation is not? (a fix, a band-aid, or a “one time” thing)

What will we learn?

What will we do?

Schedule

Mentors/Crosses

Cost/Register

E-mail

Medical Release

IMPORTANT DATES

Retreats:

October 15-16

January 14-16

Confirmation Rehearsal & Staff Conversations:

May 18, 2012

Confirmation Sunday:

May 20, 2012

Youth Group Sunday Night 6-8pm
Cantate (Youth Chior) Sunday Night 5- 6

**Text message: [suncrekyouth](#)
To 41411 to receive updates
regarding extra activities**



**Suncreek Youth Group Page on Facebook:
send a friend request to [Suncreek United Methodist Youth](#)**

**Erick Dahl, Youth Director:
work: 972-390-1695, cell: 469-450-5078
e-mail: erick.dahl@suncreemc.org**

CONFIRMATION FAQ's

What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is the time in a youth's life when they are CONFIRMED in their faith. It is when they stand in front of the church and declare that Jesus is the Lord of their lives. The process of getting to that point in their lives is a series of events and classes called "Confirmation".

Why do Confirmation now?

A long time ago, the Methodist church decided that youth entering or in the 6th grade would be eligible to take a Confirmation Class in their local church. It is when youth start to develop their own faith that is different from their parents, and it was a good fit with the maturity and stage that most youth are in. Confirmation is 100% voluntary experience. If at any time you choose NOT to do confirmation, that is OK!

Do youth have to do Confirmation?

It is NOT required that anyone participate in a Confirmation Class to be confirmed. It is suggested since most youth have not had much of an opportunity to explore their faith on their own before now.

What is expected of Confirmation Participants?

Since Confirmation is a voluntary program, it is expected that each participant give 100% to the experience. It is expected that youth will be at each session for the entire session. Youth will be asked to do some writing, drawing, sharing, leaning, reading, and thinking. It is expected that each participant will be willing to try new things and will enter each session with an open mind. This generation of youth have many extracurricular activities, and we want to be sensitive to that...but at the same time, faith development for teenagers is a vital part of their own journey through life.

What is expected of Confirmation Parents?

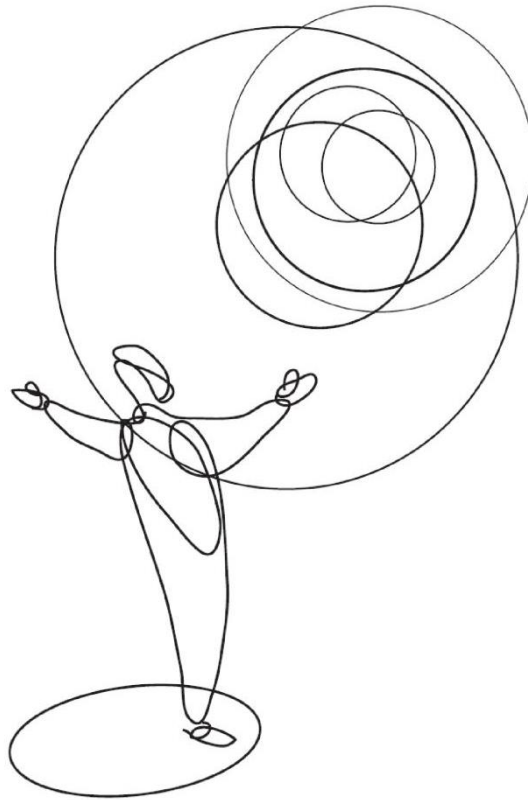
Parents are *crucial* to making Confirmation a success. We ask that you hold up your "end of the bargain" as well. Occasionally, there are family activities and worksheets that we will ask you to do with your youth. Please do them! They will make an impact on their confirmation experience! In recent survey, kids listed their parents as the number one figure in their faith development. We are here to support you as you guide your youth through this exciting time in their lives. We consider Confirmation a partnership between the church and the parents.

What is a confirmation session like?

Not all confirmation sessions are the same. Most sessions follow a similar format with different speakers and activities. Some sessions have guest speakers that talk on a variety of topics, and some have exciting "field trips". Regardless of what is scheduled, and each session is guaranteed to be an EXPERIENCE.

What is a mentor and why do I need one?

A mentor is a faith friend who will help you along your path of Confirmation. This person can be someone you are close to already, but does not have to be. A mentor will be asked to be at specific sessions during the semester and will be asked to sit with you in worship occasionally. If you need help finding a mentor, please ask, we have some people who have volunteered.



The Journey

CONFIRMATION

Fall Semester 2012

SCHEDULE

All Sessions begin at 9:30 am unless otherwise noted.

August 28 – Confirmation kickoff

September 4 - The Journey Begins...

September 11 – Thinking Olympics

September 18 – Group Art Project

September 25– Who Are You Board Game

October 2 – Mission Day (TBD)

October 9 – Our Religious Heritage

October 15-16, Confirmation Retreat Sat. 2pm to Sun. 2 pm

October 23 – Trip to worship at Anglican/Orthodox church
(Depart: 9:30 am, Arrive back at church to TBD)

October 30 – Mission Day (Can Food Drive contest)

November 6 – Teamwork Game

November 13 (9:30 am – 2:30 pm) Field Trip to Worship at Oak
Cliff UMC

November 20 - Drama Day

November 27 - Spaghetti Towers

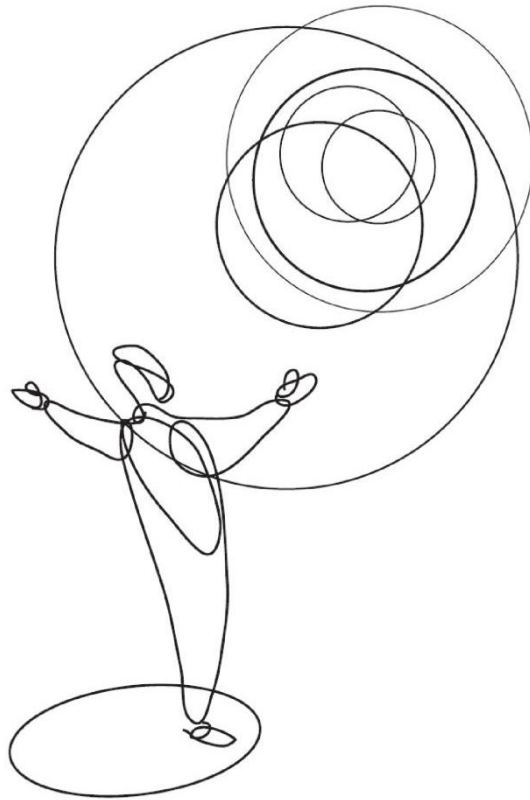
December 4 - Mission Day (TBD)

December 11– Jungle Island

December 18 - Christmas Party

December 25 -Christmas – No Class

January 1 - New Years Day – No Class



The Journey

**CONFIRMATION
SMALL GROUP
CURRICULUM
2011 – 2012**

SCHEDULE

All Sessions begin at 9:30 am unless otherwise noted.

January 8 - What is Confirmation?

January 15 - The Journey Begins...

January 22 - 16 - Where we've been...

January 29 - The People Called Methodist

February 5 - Three Simple Rules,
Being a UM in 21st Century

February 12 - How we interact with the world...

February 19, 11 am – 6 pm - MORNING GET AWAY –
BISHOP'S EVENT

February 26 - Who is God?

March 4 - Baptism

March 11 - Communion

March 18 – Grace, What is it & how can I get some

March 25 – Holy Spirit

April 1 - 9:30 am – 12pm! The Jesus Experience Retreat

April 8 - EASTER – No Class

April 15 - Discipleship I

April 22 - Prayers

April 29 – What is Worship?

May 6 – My Choices

May 13 – Creeds/New Life in the Image of God

May 18 - 6:30 pm – 11:00 pm - Friday Night Dinner,
Conversations, Rehearsal

May 20 - 8:15, 9:30 & 11:00 am - CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Parent Volunteer Opportunities

Fall Class Leader

Lead an activity one time in the Fall Semester.

Small Group Leader

Lead a group of 6-8 youth through the Confirmation journey.
Every Sunday Jan – May, 2012

Assistant Teacher

Assist teachers in teaching portions of the curriculum, help coordinate components of curriculum, and help where needed

Administrative/Mailings

Help sort, label, and stuff quarterly mailings along with various other administrative tasks.

Retreat Chaperone

Join us on retreats and have a great time!

Morning Away/Bishop's Celebration Chaperone

Date: TBA - 9:30 am – 5 pm

Adult Ministry Class

Beginnings, offered by Adult Ministries is an excellent course for parents of confirmands. Join us for a 10 week journey into a more meaningful Christian Faith! Beginnings is an overview to key Christian beliefs as they relate to everyday life. For 10 weeks we will gather with fellow inquirers to discuss significant questions about life such as - who Christians believe God is, how God touches human lives, and how we may strengthen our relationship with God. Starts September 11 at 6:15pm, please register online at www.suncreekumc.org/journeys or contact the church office at 972-390-1695.

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING IN ANY OF THESE
AREAS, PLEASE CONTACT ERICK. ALSO, LOOK FOR
INFORMATION AS TIME GETS CLOSER FOR SOME OF THE
SMALLER EVENTS.**

Finding a Mentor

A significant part of the Suncreek UMC Confirmation experience each year is the interaction between each Confirmand and an adult mentor who is a member of our church. The following guidelines are offered to parents as they carefully and prayerfully consider who might be the best person to be a mentor for their child:

A mentor is an adult church member who offers his/her assigned Confirmand fellowship and support, and a sense of belonging to the Suncreek UMC body of Christ.

- Consider someone whose level of involvement at Suncreek UMC is consistent and active. A mentor is expected to attend worship regularly with your child and communicate with your child often (email, phone, card). Mentors are invited to visit class, including several designated class visits and to attend some field trips.– a calendar will be provided.
- Choose someone you feel is well grounded in their own Christian faith.
- Choose someone you think will communicate well with your child throughout the year.
- Choose someone you feel will want to give significant time with your child and will take interest in your child during the year of confirmation.
- *Do not* simply choose someone because they are already a close friend – this could be an opportunity to make a new close friend at Suncreek with someone you admire and think would be a very helpful and spiritually nurturing influence for your child.

If you need help finding a mentor, please ask Erick.

A word FOR a mentor:

(Confirmands – please give this to your mentor!)

Thanks so much for agreeing to be a confirmation Mentor! Your participation will help your Confirmand have a more full and meaningful experience! As a mentor, your primary responsibility during the year will be to accompany your Confirmand through the beginning steps of a journey of faith. You will listen, ask questions, and just be a presence in their lives. Each mentor will find what works for them, but here are some general guidelines to work by:

What does a mentor do?

A mentor does 3 key things:

1) Pray for and with your Confirmand
- Lead by example
- Talk to your Confirmand about their needs, concerns, school, home, etc
- Tell them you are praying for them on a regular basis.

2) Get to know your Confirmand
- Make contact with them at least once a month (maybe weekly e-mail or phone call)
- Break the ice
- Ask questions – see below for more here
- Be available to talk if needed

3) Attend worship and events with Confirmand
- See mentor calendar for all important dates and times. For a full confirmation schedule, ask your Confirmand.
- Make these dates a priority, and if you cannot be there, tell your Confirmand ahead of time
- Ask questions afterwards like: What did you like best about worship? Was it hard to worship at Sun creek? What would make worship better for you? What is one thing from the worship service you are going to remember this week?

Asking Questions

Conversations with your mentor can be a great opportunity to allow them to explore faith issues. Open ended questions like; how was confirmation?, what did you talk about?, what did you think of what you talked about?, are great ways to begin conversations about faith issues. IT IS OK FOR YOU TO NOW “KNOW” ALL THE ANSWERS! Use the resources that are available to you if something comes up to find the answer together. Begin conversations by asking about interests, hobbies, etc.

Get them involved in the community of faith

You play a critical role in showing your Confirmand that being a part of a community of faith is crucial to any faith journey. Things like Youth and Choir Programs are a great way to keep them involved in the church after Confirmation is over. We encourage you to go to special events, Cantate show, and other church events together.

Confirmation Gift

It is customary that mentors give a gift to their confirmation at the end of confirmation. In order to keep comparisons and competition between kids, we have gifts that are pre-ordered for Confirmands. Each year, we have special crosses commissioned from a local artist. These crosses are \$5 each and we would ask that each mentor provide \$5 so that we may get a class gift for each person. Look for more information on this later.

How can I be more connected to the class?

Simple, send an E-mail to erick.dahl@suncreekumc.org and ask to be on the “Mentor Distribution List”.

Glossary of Youth Terms

Youth Group/Suncreek Youth

This is the big umbrella in which all the youth programs, including Confirmation, fall under. The “youth group” means the community of faith that is comprised of youth and adults interested in accompanying youth on the journey of faith.

Confirmation

Confirmation is a program that is the duration of the school year that is intended to provide encounters with the living and loving God. This mix of learning, experience and community is meant to provide a foundation for a life of faith. Confirmation is designed for students in the 6th grade, but all who are interested are welcome to attend.

UMYF

This is the primary community activity of the youth program. UMYF is on most Sunday nights during the year. UMYF includes games, fun, community, learning, small groups, and a great opportunity to connect with the youth group as a whole.

Jr. High/Sr. High

We designate our group into two distinct groups. Jr. High” is for students in 6-8th grades, and “Sr. High” is for students in 9-12th grades. We separate most programs during the year into these two groups so that we can offer age appropriate programs based on cognitive needs.

Cantate

The youth choir provides an amazing opportunity for students to connect music and faith. The choir sings most Sunday mornings in worship and rehearses Sunday evenings in conjunction with UMYF activities.

Sunday School

Every Sunday morning youth gather for a time of learning and fellowship. Confirmation is held at the same time as youth Sunday school, so 6th graders will be in Confirmation Class this year and will be able to go to Sunday School starting in the summer of 2010.

Růst

Růst translates to “grow” in Czech. To serve as a reminder of our connection with the people of the Czech Republic, we have adopted the name Růst for our Wednesdays night small group opportunities. Because of the intensity of Confirmation, 6th graders are not included in the Růst activities.

Mission Trip

In addition to the mission opportunities throughout the year offered through the church and the youth program, there are summer mission trips that are a great way to put your faith into action and become close to God and to the group.

Retreats

These are special weekends where we get away. Some will be exclusively for the Confirmation class, and some will be for the larger youth group, including the Confirmation class! We encourage you to take advantage of these, they are great ways to get plugged and form great friendships.

SUNCREEK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1517 W. McDermott – Allen, TX – 75013 – 972-390-1695

YOUTH MEDICAL RELEASE FORM

This form must be filled out by all youth AND adults participating in Suncreek UMC Youth events outside the walls of the church. It will be kept on file as long as the person remains active at Suncreek UMC. It is the responsibility of the parent(s) or guardian to update this form as needed.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name of youth: _____

Date of birth: _____ Anticipated year of high school graduation: _____

In the event that the above referenced person becomes ill or sustains injury on any authorized and chaperoned outing from Suncreek UMC, 1517 W. McDermott, Allen, TX, 75013 I, the undersigned, give my permission to those in charge to take whatever steps are necessary to stop any bleeding and to administer first aid.

I also consent, in the event that I cannot be contacted, to emergency treatment for my youth (or myself) which may include x-ray examination, anesthetic, medical (or dental) surgical diagnosis and treatment and hospital care; and supervision, and upon the advice of a duly licensed physician and/or surgeon. I also understand that I am responsible for any and all costs that these services incur.

I will not hold Suncreek United Methodist church, its staff or volunteers liable in the event of injury or illness involving my youth (or myself).

Medical Insurance Co: _____ Policy No. _____

Physician's Name: _____ Physician's Phone No: _____

Does your insurance carrier require a pre-admission call? _____ If yes, what is the Phone No.? _____

Allergies: _____

Is your youth on any medication? _____ If yes, please name medications, dosage & prescribing physician: _____

Any other special medical conditions we should know about? _____

Printed Name of parent, legal guardian or adult: _____

Address: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Ph: _____ Cell Ph: _____ Work Ph: _____

Signature of parent, legal guardian or adult

[notary seal] _____
Notary Public, State of Texas