

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHATHAM TOWNSHIP

CONFIRMATION PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Confirmation at The Presbyterian Church of Chatham Township provides a variety of learning, reflection and service experiences designed to nurture young people in three areas:

Faith – wrestling with questions about the nature and existence of God as revealed in Jesus Christ

Action – loving our neighbors through acts of compassion and service

Commitment – receiving God's freely given love, accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and choosing to pursue God's call on their lives

PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

- 1) Classes – Approximately two Sunday mornings each month. *On time arrival and full participation are expected.* Each youth will receive a Confirmation Notebook and Bible to bring with them. Classes will include large group presentations, guest speakers and discussion in small groups called "Little Churches." Make-up sessions for missed classes will not be provided.
- 2) Worship Attendance – Regular Sunday morning attendance during the year is expected. A group visit to the worship service of another faith will be scheduled. Confirmands should also plan to attend one evening service during Lent/Holy Week.
- 3) Service Hours – Confirmands are required to earn 10 service points for church-related service during the year. Of these, at least five must be mission-related. There are a number of church events and several off-site projects in which the Confirmation class can participate.
- 4) Youth Opportunities Fair – held in the fall as a way to introduce students to the ministries and mission activities of the church so they can find ways to get involved and complete service hours.
- 5) Retreats – An overnight retreat will be held at the beginning of the year. There will also be a Saturday evening retreat (no overnight) approximately half-way through the year and again at the end. Participation at all three retreats is expected.
- 6) Worship Journals – Short guided reflections on worship services, to be completed in church approximately once per month.
- 7) Statement of Faith – The final project, to be written following the Spring Retreat.
- 8) Meeting with Session – takes place at the end of the year. Students meet in small groups with members of Session to discuss their faith statements and talk about being church members.
- 9) Confirmation Sunday – The day youth take their confirmation vows, publically professing a Christian faith and committing to following Christ as Lord and Savior as adult members of the congregation.

The goals of this program are significant and far-reaching. To ensure that youth are keeping up with class requirements, and won't be overly burdened at the end of the year, we will have a midyear check-in at the time of the winter retreat, with make-up plans to be developed for anyone who has fallen significantly behind. Confirmands will be expected to have completed the following:

- Five of the required ten service hours
- Four or more worship journals
- Be at 75% or more of scheduled classes
- Attend the Fall Retreat
- Regular participation in worship and
- Go to a worship service of another faith