



First Covenant Church

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Parents of upcoming 7th and 8th Graders,

Confirmation has always been a lasting tradition to explore God's word and the importance of living a Christian life. A major focus for a young teenager is learning to think for oneself and develop their own identity. Confirmation sits at the cusp of this stage of life. The end goal of confirmation is for students to dig deeper in God's word and learn the biblical truths that impact the way we live. This then leads us to affirm our faith before the Body of Christ, then go and live by that faith. Yet we know that following Jesus is a lifelong journey filled with these things. Confirmation Sunday is not the end, but really it is only the beginning of a deeper relationship with Jesus.

At First Covenant, we value confirmation as an opportunity for students to go through an intentional two years of discipleship consisting of three key components: (1) to read through and discuss the big picture of God's story; (2) to learn about core building blocks of our faith; and (3) to reflect on their own faith journey through personal experiences. These things make up Confirmation at First Covenant, and are detailed further in this packet.

Last year we revitalized our confirmation program that continues to fulfill the purpose of Confirmation, all while keeping our church's mission and vision in front of us. This new program highly emphasizes building a "sticky faith" environment for our youth, and incorporates a direct discipleship model of spiritual growth. To summarize the confirmation journey this year, those families participating can expect the following:

1. WEEKLY MENTOR CONNECTIONS

Students will meet weekly with a mentor that your family will choose. Research shows that regular time spent with a trusted adult and faith conversations significantly impacts the spiritual growth of youth. Together, your student will meet with their mentor each week to read and discuss the biblical story (resources will be provided for these connections). In addition, because this mentor relationship is important, long-lasting, and one-on-one; we are equipping families to pick their mentor. This packet will help provide you with the resources and process to find a confirmation mentor. Students are expected to complete all 25 studies with their mentor by the end of the school year (as indicated on the schedule).

2. MONTHLY CLASSES

Once a month we will gather together in a classroom setting where students will explore the building blocks of our faith. These theological conversations will serve as a foundation for understanding topics like who God is, who we are, and what Christ calls us to. Classes will meet approximately once a month on Wednesday from 6:00-7:30pm at First Covenant. See schedule for the class dates. Since there are only 8 classes, **students are expected to miss no more than 1 class per year!** So make sure to mark these dates on your calendars now: Oct 6, Nov 10, Dec 1, Jan 12, Feb 9, Mar 9, Apr 6, and May 4.

3. YEARLY PROJECT

Each year students are expected to complete a project that allows them to reflect more deeply about the personal faith stories of those around them, and pursue an experience where students will extend God's mercy and justice in our world. More details about this year's project will be provided early on during the school year.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

For those students who are entering into their 2nd year of confirmation, at the end of the school year students will meet with a pastor to bring their confirmation journey to a close and then participate in Confirmation Sunday on May 22, 2022. More details regarding these two events will be provided later, but you can mark your calendars for now to plan ahead. Family and friends are welcome to come and celebrate with you on Confirmation Sunday!

In order to help you prepare and register for confirmation this year, we have included the following in this packet:

1. Confirmation Schedule - here's a snapshot of what this year will look like!
2. Picking a Good Mentor - we empower each family to decide on who the confirmation student's mentor will be. Use this as a guide to discuss with your confirmand who would be the right mentor for them this next year!
3. Confirmation Mentor Description - feel free to read through this so you know what is expected of the mentor. But then after you have confirmed who your mentor is, pass this document on to them to keep. All mentors will be required to go through a church background check (provided by First Covenant Church). Our church office will contact them with more information about how to complete this process.

HOW TO REGISTER

Register online no later than Sunday, September 12, 2021 by going to our church website at redwingfirstcov.org/students and filling out the online form. If you need assistance, please contact our church office. ***You must have a mentor and their contact information in order to register.***

If you have any questions about Confirmation at First Covenant, don't hesitate to contact me by email at mike@redwingfirstcov.org or by calling the church office at 651-388-2385. I look forward to all that God will do in our confirmation students this year!

Blessings,

Mike Bechtold
Associate Pastor

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE 2021-2022

Week of	Mentor Connection Readings (New Testament)	Other Dates/Notes
Sept 26		Sept 26 - Presentation of Bibles during the services 1st year confirmands
Oct 3	Week 1 - The Birth of Jesus (Luke 2:1-20)	Oct 6 - Confirmand Pizza Party & Intro
Oct 10	Week 2 - The Baptism of Jesus (Matt 3:1-17)	
Oct 17	Week 3 - Jesus and Nicodemus (John 3:1-21)	
Oct 24	Week 4 - The Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5:17-48)	
Oct 31	Week 5 - Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand (John 6:1-15)	Nov 10 - Class / Begin Justice Project
Nov 7	Week 6 - Jesus Walks on the Water (Matt 14:22-36)	
Nov 14	Week 7 - Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind (John 9:1-25)	
Nov 21	Thanksgiving Week (No Assignments)	
Nov 28	Week 8 - Parable of the Sower (Luke 8:1-15)	
Dec 5	Week 9 - Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)	Dec 1 - Class
Dec 12	Week 10 - Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)	
Dec 19	Christmas Break (No Assignments)	
Dec 26	Christmas Break (No Assignments)	
Jan 2	Week 11 - Woman at the Well (John 4:4-30, 39-42)	
Jan 9	Week 12 - The Triumphant Entry (Matt 21:1-11)	Jan 12 - Class
Jan 16	Week 13 - The Last Supper (Matt 26:17-30)	
Jan 23	Week 14 - The Death of Jesus (Mark 15:16-47)	
Jan 30	Week 15 - The Resurrection (Luke 24:1-12)	
Feb 6	Week 16 - The Ascension of Jesus (Acts 1:1-14)	Feb 9 - Class
Feb 13	Week 17 - Pentecost (Acts 2:1-47)	
Feb 20	Week 18 - Saul's Conversion (Acts 9:1-22)	
Feb 27	Week 19 - The Council at Jerusalem (Acts 15:1-21)	
Mar 6	Week 20 - Have the Attitude of Christ (Phil 1:1-11; 2:1-11)	Mar 9 - Class
Mar 13	Week 21 - Love is the Greatest (1 Cor 13:1-13)	
Mar 20	Week 22 - Faith and Deeds (Jam 1:19-27, 2:14-26)	
Mar 27	Spring Break (No Assignments)	
Apr 3	Week 23 - Great Examples of Faith (Heb 11:1-12, 11:32-12:3)	Apr 6 - Class
Apr 10	Holy Week (No Assignments)	
Apr 17	Week 24 - Ministry of Reconciliation (2 Cor 5:11-21)	
Apr 24	Week 25 - Jesus is Coming (Rev 22:7-21)	
May 1	These weeks are left open to complete any remaining mentor connections and for 2nd year confirmands to complete their pastor interviews.	May 4 - Class / Justice Project Due
May 8		
May 15		
May 22	Confirmation Sunday (May 22)	

PICKING A GOOD MENTOR

Mentors are an important part of our student's faith journey. So picking the right mentor will help make students' Confirmation experience a great one! Here is a guide to help families find a mentor:

A MENTOR SHOULD BE SOMEONE WHO...

- 1. Loves Jesus >** This may sound obvious, but as a family it is important to discuss the question, "How do we know if someone loves Jesus?" Create a short list of characteristics and use them to assess if someone you are considering would be a good fit as a confirmation mentor (this is a great way to involve the student in this process)!
- 2. Cares about the student >** Not only does the mentor need to love Jesus, but loves the student too! We recommend that the mentor be someone who already knows the student and will view their role of mentor not as an obligation, but as an opportunity to invest in them! This will help make their weekly meeting be a great time together right from the start!
- 3. Is a responsible adult >** From October through May, the mentor will be investing in your student through weekly connections. Pastor Mike will help the mentor with everything they need, but following through with the weekly connections is the mentor's responsibility. As parents, you have a significant role in helping the mentor succeed. Be an encouragement and help make weekly connections happen between the mentor and student.
- 4. Is an adult and the same sex as the student >** Mentors should be an adult (older than 18 years old). Likewise, we encourage they be the same sex as the student, even if the mentor is in your family.
- 5. Is not a parent / primary guardian >** This is an important part of creating a web of adults who invest in your student. Especially at this age, it is a value that you find another trusted adult who can be a second voice sharing the importance of having Jesus in their life. So the student's mentor cannot be their parent for this confirmation journey.
- 6. Is chosen by the family >** Because this mentor relationship is important, long-lasting, and one-on-one; we want families to decide who this mentor will be. Work together as a family in deciding the right mentor. After you've used this guide to narrow down a list of a few adults that you as parent's think would be a good fit as their mentor, let your student have the final say on which person they choose. All mentors, no matter who they are, will be required to go through our church background check as per our church policy.

WHERE DO I BEGIN TO FIND A MENTOR?

Perhaps you are wondering this exact question?! Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- Ask the student to name five adults they trust and would go to if they had questions about life or faith. This is a starting list of names to consider!
- Is there someone at First Covenant your student knows well, perhaps a former teacher, person from a small group, or who sits by your family during the service every week?
- Is there extended family or a godparent that your student is close with who would be a good mentor?
- Technology has made a significant impact in long-distance relationships. If you know of the right mentor, but live hours away, you can also meet weekly through video chat (phone calls, emails, texts, social media, etc. are not allowed). You will still want to set parameters for the student to meet without distractions in the room and a dedicated time together to avoid "rushing through it if you go this route.
- If you still need help finding a mentor, don't hesitate to contact Pastor Mike!

CONFIRMATION MENTORS

(Give this page to your mentor)

WHAT IS A MENTOR?

Congratulations! You have been selected as a role model of faith and will embark on one of the most important callings this year to be a confirmation mentor! A mentor is someone, usually older and wiser, who speaks into their mentee's life and faith in Christ (think of the Apostle Paul and his mentorship of Timothy). Research shows that consistently spending time with a trusted adult and engaging in faith conversations significantly impacts the spiritual growth of our youth. This is why at First Covenant we want our confirmation students to connect regularly with a mentor during their confirmation journey and dig into God's word together. We desire to see our students develop a faith that will stick with them long after they graduate high school, and their relationships with people like you who talk about Jesus with them now are vital to seeing that vision happen!

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF CONFIRMATION MENTORS?

1. MEET WEEKLY WITH YOUR STUDENT

- Starting the week of Oct 3, start sitting down once a week with the student to read through and discuss the bible passage together. An outline of everything you need for your connection will be provided in advance via email. Commitments are for at least 1 school year, with the option to opt in for the student's 2nd year of confirmation.
- Plan a time that works for the both of you! If you know a scheduling conflict is coming, plan to meet at a different day or time. If you fall behind, plan to meet for a longer period of time or a second day to catch up. You have the freedom to do what you need to in order to stay on track.
- Avoid a "let's run through this quick" mindset. Meet somewhere that gives you space to focus on the conversation well. Perhaps plan on meeting at McDonalds for ice cream or coffee at Caribou where you can have dedicated time together. Plus, it's always fun to meet up for a treat!
- Being a mentor doesn't mean you have all the answers about the bible and faith. It's okay to say "I don't know" to questions. Be open to learning together with the student! If a question comes up, write them down and do some research on it together. If you're still looking for help, send Pastor Mike an email with your questions and he'll be happy to help!
- More direct training will be coming from Pastor Mike soon!

2. HELP YOUR STUDENT COMPLETE THEIR PROJECT

- Each year students are expected to complete a project that allows them to reflect more deeply about the personal faith stories of those around them, and pursue an experience where students will extend God's mercy and justice in our world.
- As a mentor, we ask that you work with them to help them stay on track with completing the project, and sometimes working on the project together with them can lead to some great conversations and shared experiences! More details about this year's project will be provided early on during the school year.

3. JOIN US FOR CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

- If you are able and this is your student's 2nd year of confirmation, plan to join us on May 22, 2022 to celebrate with your student as they are confirmed before the congregation! Family and mentors will be invited to lay hands over them for prayer during the service. More details will be made available as we get closer.

Our church policy requires that all of our mentors (no matter their relationship with the student) will be required to go through a church background check (cost is covered by First Covenant Church). You will receive an email to begin this process at the beginning of the year. If you have any questions at any time, don't hesitate to contact Pastor Mike Bechtold at mike@redwingfirstcov.org or by calling the church office at 651-388-2385.