



CONFIRMATION @ WLUMC

Introductory Packet

Letter

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Student Get-to-Know-Me Page

Parent Student Covenant



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Tom Ebersole, Lead Pastor
Chris Hardy, Associate Pastor
Terry Cooney, Pastor of Visitation
Pat Goshert, Lay Pastor
Trisha Rabold, Youth Pastor

Dear Parents,

Confirmation gives each of our youth an opportunity to make a personal affirmation of their faith. They are saying yes to membership at West Lawn UMC, yes to membership in the United Methodist Church and most importantly they are saying yes to a lifetime of faith with Jesus! Every year the students grow in their understanding of their own personal faith and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

There is a lot to be covered and accomplished between now and Confirmation Sunday. I am hopeful that this packet will help answer some questions, provide some details and serve as a guide for the remainder of the confirmation process. Our goal is to give as much information about upcoming events as possible, but as we all have learned, planning is subject to change in this always changing world. We are also hopeful that students and families will take seriously the events planned, and do their best to attend classes & weekend events.

Specifically, there are off-site events throughout the year (Fall, Winter, & Spring). These weekends allow students to bond with one another, make their faith more experiential and provide extended time for meaningful conversations about their faith. We want your child to have the best opportunity to grow in their faith and these weekends play a large part in that process.

Students will also have a mentor to meet with them, answer questions and provide a safe space to wrestle through the topics being covered in class. You can help choose a mentor, or we can help line up someone that would be a good fit for your child. We just ask their mentor to be an active member of West Lawn, the same gender as the youth, and a non-family member. We are hopeful that these mentor meetings will be fruitful times for the confirmands to engage with what they are learning and to solidify what they believe.

The third piece of Confirmation is Sunday morning classes. In an effort to create the best program, and to balance the other weekends away, we have Sunday morning classes every other week. We will run class from 9am-10:30am, because we only meet 2xs/month on average. This allows enough time to dig into topics like Spiritual Gifts, Serving at the Local Church, Wesleyan Quadrilateral and so much more. Plus, it will give parents time to fellowship with others between 9-9:30am over pancakes or just a simple cup of coffee.

Finally, I want to strongly encourage active participation in both the youth ministry and the larger church family. At the end of this process students become full members of the church family. Our hope is that they actively participate and serve in the life of the church both now and moving forward.

If you have questions or need any more info, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly. (Email- trisha@westlawnumc.org , Cell- 484-432-7808)

In Christ,

Trisha Rabold

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

Regular Classes occur on Sunday Mornings from 9:00-10:30am in Room 109

Date	Time
Sept 13	Class @ 9am
Sept 20	Class @ 9:00am
Sept 27	Class @ 9:00am
Oct 11	Class @ 9:00am. ***Youth Group IGNITE Wildwood Weekend***
Oct 25	Class @ 9:00am
Nov 8	Class @ 9:00am
FRIDAY Nov 13	TENTATIVE: Local Trip: Oheb Shalom Jewish Congregation, Shabbat Service
Nov 22	Class @ 9:00am
Dec 6	Class @ 9:00am
Dec 20	Class @ 9:00am
Jan 3	Class @ 9:00am
Jan 17	Class @ 9:00am
Jan 24th TENTATIVE	Winter Retreat
Jan 31	Class @ 9:00am
Feb 7	Class @ 9:00am
Feb 21	Class @ 9:00am
March 7	Class @ 9:00am
March 21	Class @ 9:00am
April 4	Class @ 9:00am
April 9-11th	CONFIRMATION WEEKEND @ Gretna Glen
April 18	LAST Class @ 9:00am - Attend with Mentor
April 25	CONFIRMATION SUNDAY, 9:30am Service

Fall Weekend- Oct 9-11th- This weekend is organized by the Next Generation Ministries of the Greater New Jersey UMC Conference. We will enjoy concerts by Christian bands, time at the boardwalk/beach, speakers, and two workshop choice times. More details about the weekend can be found at the event website- <https://www.ignitenj.org/> and you can register on our App & website- westlawnumc.org/youth-group

Winter Retreat- This Retreat is a favorite of West Lawn Youth, as we head to Pocono Plateau for a weekend of snow tubing, learning, lots of games, and delicious food. Sign Ups will be published later in November, after details and costs are determined.

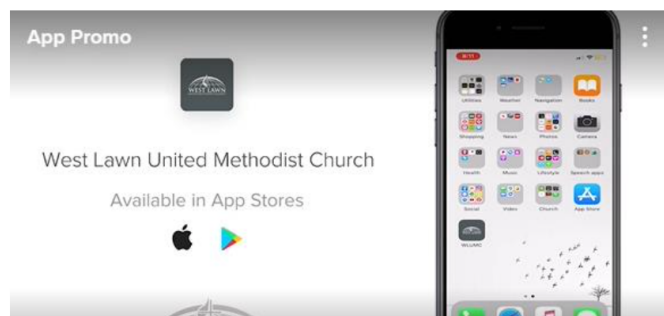
Gretna Glen Confirmation Retreat- This weekend is organized Conference wide, and includes Confirmation students from UMC churches across the Eastern PA Conference. This has been one of the most important weekends for students to think through their faith along with many others students from various churches. We head to Gretna Glen for outdoor fun, new friends, and again, delicious food.

Mentor meetings will happen 8 times throughout the year, and occur about once a month. They should be scheduled between just the two parties involved at a mutually agreed upon time. We always demand our same Safe Sanctuary rules to be followed (meeting a semi public place, or if conversations happen over text, the parent should also be included in the text). The church building is always available, or some prefer to meet at a public place: restaurant, library, park, or outdoor space at someone's house, etc. Just contact Diane@westlawnumc.org if you wish to reserve a room at church for a mentor meeting.

Confirmation Registration -

You can register your child for this year's class through the app or website. Just go to <https://westlawnumc.org/confirmation> or you can use this QR code below. You can find a digital copy of this packet located on the website.

If you do not already have the church App on your smart device, you'll find it very helpful. The Confirmation schedule is located on the Youth Calendar, and we will use the messaging feature to keep you and your teen alerted to upcoming classes, or other announcements. Below is the QR Code to register for the 26-27 class.





CHURCH INVOLVEMENT MENU

Being a member of a team means that you rely on others, and they rely on you. It's the same way in the Body of Christ. This portion of Confirmation is set up for you to take baby steps into various areas of the church. Hopefully by the end of Confirmation you'll feel the church supporting you, and know how you've supported others in the Church.

Below is a menu of various ways people are involved at West Lawn UMC. **You will need to complete ONE item from each of the three columns, plus ONE more in any area.**

These items should be completed by January of next year. Early in January you will share with your class what you've done, how it's impacted you, and hear from others at West Lawn who regularly give of their time and gifts.

Please have the adult supervising you sign off in the square you've completed. .

Fellowship	Service	Worship
Attend Youth Group twice	Help Serve at a WL Pancake Breakfast	Help serve communion or collect offering -2 times
Help plan and attend a Five Hour Frenzy Fun Night	Help for 3hrs. at a church-wide ministry event; Help Build Hope, Children's Special Event, Sunday morning donuts/drinks	Help greet at the beginning of a service - 2 times
Attend a Youth Group Retreat	Help serve food at New Journey Community Outreach, Hope Rescue, or Opportunity House w/ the Youth Group or other WL church group.	Use one of your personal talents in a service- sing, play, pray, read scripture.
Attend a church-wide event this fall/winter	Serve our younger church attenders... Sunday School, babysitting nights, special kid events, etc. -2 times	Help serve on our A/V Tech team -2 times
Your own idea approved by Trisha	Your own idea approved by Trisha	Your own idea approved by Trisha

Helpful Contacts

If you are looking to coordinate your Serving time from the front of this page, you'll want to talk to an adult from that ministry. Here is a list of a few common people and the ministries that they lead. You can also find this information on our Church Directory App (contact kelly@westlawnumc.org if you don't have or use this currently) and it is also available from our Ministry booklets, which are at the Welcome Centers in both the Sanctuary and the Education Building.

Children's Ministry Sunday Morning Volunteer- Contact Laurie Jentes- 856-495-6351
Children's & Family Ministry Community Events- Stephanie Serfass - 610-730-0335

Consignment Sale- Meghan Epler- 484-577-9006

Serving Meals at Opportunity House- to be determined

Hope Rescue- Mike Stephens 717-600-7422

New Journey- Shelley Bonk 610-568-2122

Serving Communion- Contact church office, as various people organize it for each service

Serving as a Greeter or Usher- contact Carol Lochman for 8am service- 610-301-9595
contact Beth Ebling for 9:30am service- fourebs@comcast.net
contact Terrie Jenkins for 11am service- 610-914-9263

Serve in the Music ministry- Chris Rodgers @ 8am or 11am
Jayme Raffauf @ 9:30am

Serve by reading scripture- Contact Pastor Tom or Pastor Chris

Serve w/ our A/V team during worship- Contact Jeff Guers- jeffguers@westlawnumc.org

Confirmation Information Form

STUDENTS NAME *(First, Middle & Last)* _____

Student's cell NUMBER _____ **Can we text you at this Number?** Yes / No

HOW LONG HAVE YOU ATTENDED WEST LAWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH? _____

WHAT ACTIVITIES DO YOU PARTICIPATE IN, EITHER SCHOOL RELATED OR COMMUNITY RELATED?
(Sports, Music, Drama, Etc.)

WHAT IS ONE EXCITING THING ABOUT SCHOOL THIS YEAR? AND ONE NOT EXCITING THING?

WHAT WAS ONE OF THE MOST MEANINGFUL PARTS OF YOUR SUMMER ?

WRITE A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOUR FAITH: (No pressure, just looking for a starting point about what you believe about God, The Bible, Church, Etc.) _____

WRITE AN INTERESTING FACT ABOUT YOU: _____

Student/Parent Confirmation Covenant

This covenant helps to provide a clear picture of what expectations there are on a student during the Confirmation year. Of course we are willing to extend grace, but wherever possible, we would expect families/students to abide by the following guidelines:

1. Attendance at 80% of class sessions- Attendance assumes participation and completion of all in-class assignments. While we realize that students have busy lives, it is important to have a full understanding of what it means to become a member of the church, and to begin to grow in their faith with others their age. This comes out to missing about 2 classes throughout the school year.
2. Attendance at Sunday morning worship- If you are preparing to become a member of the church, you should expect to regularly attend worship services.
3. Meet regularly (approx. once a month) with an adult mentor- All confirmation participants will meet with his or her mentor for 8 sessions, using the materials provided to the mentor.
4. We ask that Confirmation Youth do their best to attend the three weekend events scheduled throughout the year. The Fall Weekend allows students to begin to form friendships and thus jump into faith conversations more easily through developed trust with peers. Students also experience the connected aspect of the UMC by being apart of a larger "youth group". The Winter Retreat, open to all in 6-12th gr, will be a weekend where they can develop their faith in a deeper way, with all ages in youth group, and experiencing all that Pocono Plateau has to offer. The Spring Retreat is for Confirmation students only, and is open to all UMC Confirmation programs across the Eastern PA region. It is more of a culmination of the process, alongside other youth taking the same Confirmation Vows.
5. Participation in other church programs and functions: The Church Involvement Menu helps to guide students on ways to worship, serve, and be apart of the Body of Christ here at West Lawn UMC. Our hope is that they will continue to engage their faith through these various ways here at West Lawn UMC.
6. Attendance at Confirmation Rehearsal and making time to sit down and have a short private discussion with either Pastor Tom or Pastor Chris before making the decision on Confirmation.

Date: _____

Student Signature

Parent Signature

West Lawn UMC Firehouse Youth Behavior Contract

As an attendee of all Youth functions, both on the campus of West Lawn UMC & off campus events, I (Student/Adult Name) _____ know certain behavior standards are expected of all attendees, in order to create a safe and enjoyable experience for all. I understand that with my presence at any WLUMC Youth function, I am agreeing to the terms below:

-I have the right to have fun. Thus, I also have the responsibility to help create an environment of fun by participating to the best of my ability & encouraging others to do the same.

-I have the right to be safe and free from harm. Thus I also have the responsibility to contribute to this safety (physically, emotionally, mentally, etc.) in a positive way with my words & actions.

-Including but not limited to; no illegal substances, weapons, cursing, inappropriate physical contact, and no insulting others in any way, shape or form.

-I have the right to be respected. Thus, I also have the responsibility to respect other people, students & adults, as well as all property, and rules for various activities.

-Including but not limited to; Respecting physical property; no destruction of church property, no misuse or purposeful wasting of supplies, no inappropriate use of tools, supplies, technology, video, or game equipment. And respecting others; working out disagreements without slander, rude comments, or other degrading communication. We just respect each other as humans who deserve to be treated with decency, fairness, and understanding.

-I have the right to express my faith openly. Thus, I also have the responsibility to respect other people's faith when it doesn't always align with my beliefs. We are each unique, and we agree to accept others opinions, even when different than our own. For it is in these challenges we increase our love, grow deeper & strengthen our own faith.

Mistakes happen, and we all need redirection at times. If a minor incident, or breaking of the contract has occurred, the following steps will be taken:

1. The person will receive a verbal explanation of how the rule has been broken. This may be done privately or publicly depending on the current circumstances.
2. A Parent/Guardian will be notified verbally or via email of the circumstances.
3. After the first warning, the person will be allowed to stay and continue during the event.
4. If a second warning occurs, and the student has expressed no interest in following the rules laid out above, he/she will be removed from the group, and the Parent/Guardian must come pick up the child immediately.
5. A plan for the student to return to Youth Group Events will be created using various restorative practices in a timely manner. Both the Youth Pastors and the Youth/Family will agree upon the Return Plan before it is set in place.

If a major incident occurs (using illegal substances, weapons, bullying, etc.), the following steps will be taken:

1. The person will receive a verbal explanation of how the rule has been broken. This may be done privately or publicly depending on the current circumstances.
2. A Parent/Guardian will be notified via phone and the student will be removed from the group, and the Parent/Guardian must come pick up the child immediately.
3. A plan for the student to return to Youth Group Events will be created in a timely manner, using various restorative practices. Both the Youth Pastors and the Youth & family will agree upon the Return Plan before it is set in place.

_____, and _____,
(The student) (the Parent/Guardian)

agree to the terms of this Behavior Contract. This Contract will be upheld from September 2026 through the end of August 2027.

