

Welcome to Confirmation Class

Confirm Series: Lessons 31-32

As we wait to begin, take a moment to review our goals and expectations for class:

Lesson Goals



As a result of this lesson, I will be able to...

- Understand the Christian promise of eternal life with Jesus and how our faith shapes our future.
- Understand the historical development of Christian creeds and their significance in shaping the United Methodist faith.
- Reflect on how the creeds provide guidance for their personal expression and practice of faith today.

Class Expectations



- WORK HARD
- BE KIND

For Fun!



Be ready to share one of these responses:

- What is your favorite movie?
- What is your favorite TV show?
- What is your favorite video game?
- What would you prefer to do: watch TV, watch a movie, play video games?

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.

John 14:26

Tentative Agenda

5:00-5:05= Welcome/Opening Prayer

5:05-5:30= Lesson 31: Life After Death

5:30-5:45= Break/Snack

5:45-6:25= Lesson 32: The Creeds

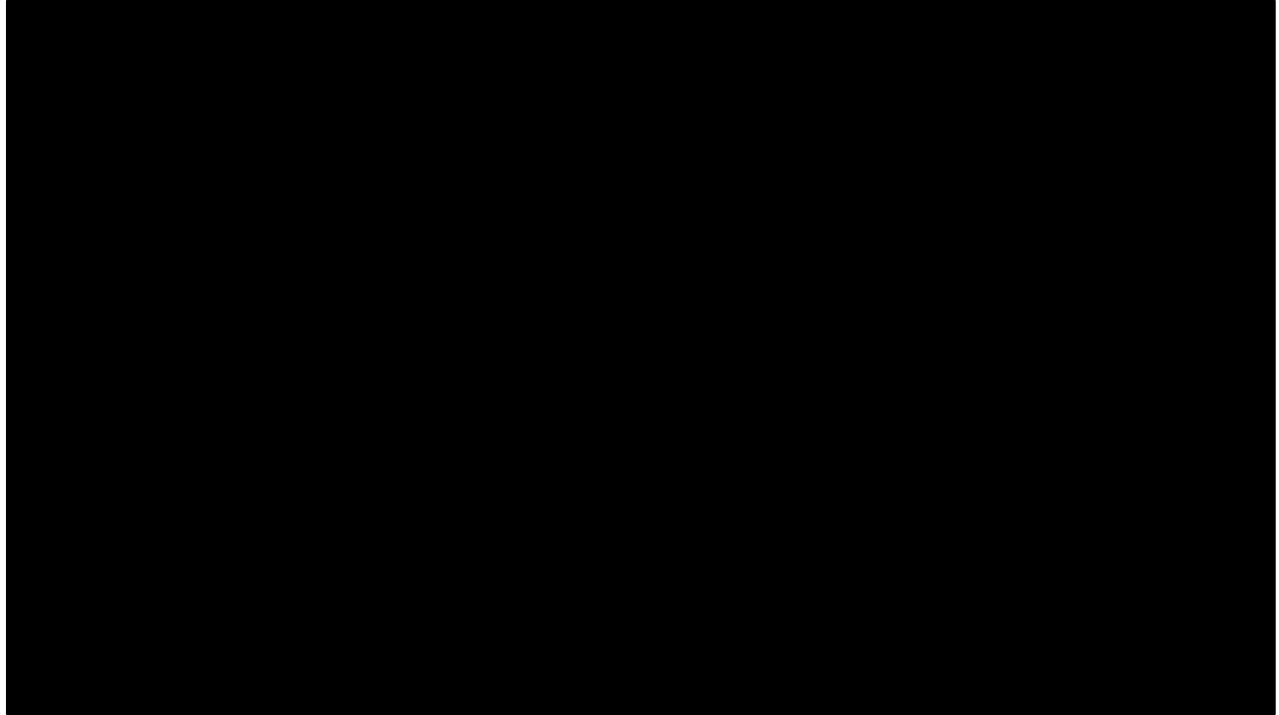
6:25-6:30= Wrap Up/Closing

Opening Prayer

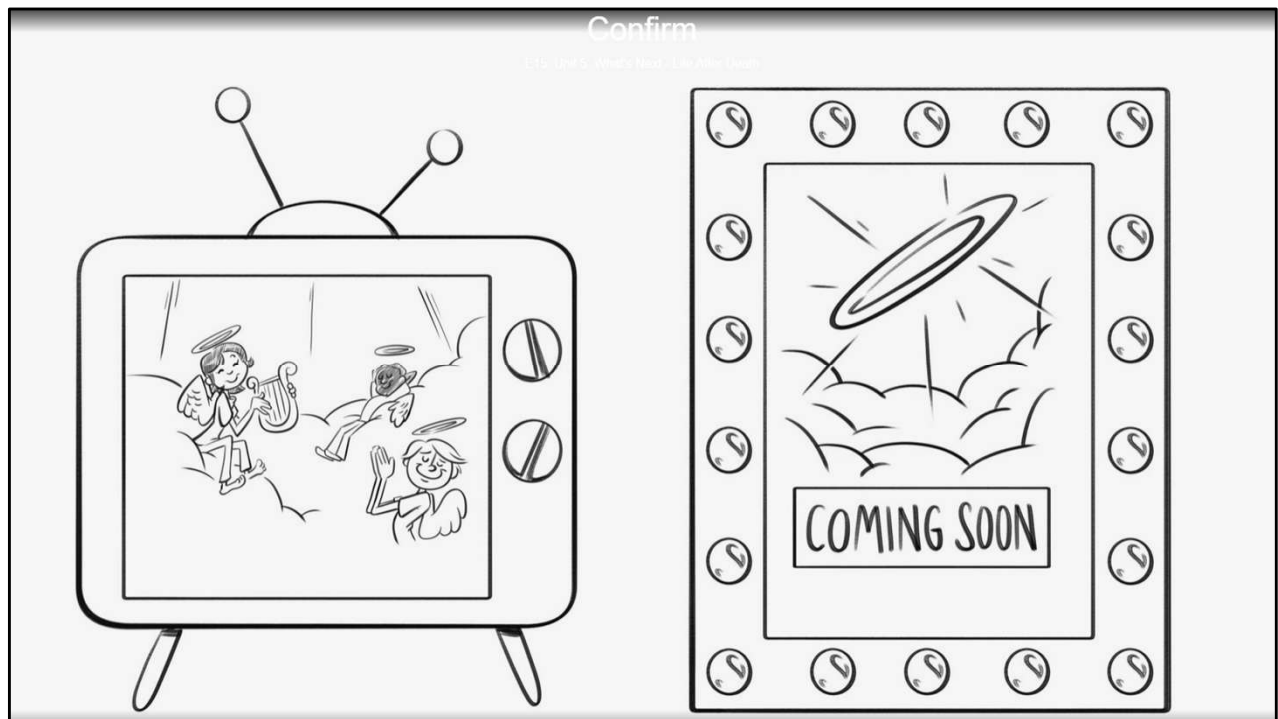
Loving God, we come before You with open hearts, seeking to understand Your presence in our lives. Fill us with wisdom as we learn more about Your promises, especially the hope of eternal life with You. Help us to trust in Your plan, live in faith, and reflect Your love in all we do. As we explore the creeds of our faith today, open our hearts and minds to the wisdom they offer. Help us to understand how these words guide us in living out our calling as United Methodist Christians. May Your spirit lead us in our journey of faith. In Jesus' name, we pray.
Amen.

Unit 5: Our Theology

Lesson 31: What's Next? Life After Death



- The hope of a life with Jesus Christ after death is one of the beautiful promises that we have as Christians.
- There are many depictions and explanations of what life will be like after we die—many of these depictions are seen in the media, literature, and other art forms.
- While we cannot know in advance of Jesus’s return or how the world will end, we can be sure that loving God and right actions on earth set us up to spend eternity with Jesus.
- Heaven and the end of the world. These two subjects can be confusing.
 - What comes to mind when you think of heaven?
 - What do you think of when you think of the end of the world?
 - How are these two subjects portrayed in movies, music, books, or on TV?
- Write words, draw pictures/icons of what comes to mind on your whiteboard.
[share]



- Watch (4 min):
<https://my.amplifymedia.com/amplify/video/unitedmethodistpublishingho use/23051-confirm/23054-confirm/60865-unit-5-whats-next-life-after-death>
 - User ID: cedwards@kingswoodumc.com
 - Password: Youthminmvnu!1



Matthew 25:31-46

Romans 8:35-9:1

2 Peter 3:8-14

Revelation 21:1-8



- We're going to take a look now at what the Bible says about two related, but distinct topics: life after death and the end times.
 - While the topics are very different, they share a common question that we all wonder about: What happens next?
 - When we talk about the end times, what we're really talking about is the Second Coming of Jesus.
 - In the Gospels, we're told that the coming of Jesus is good news for the world.
 - For our discussion today, we aren't going to focus on the "why" or the "how" of the Second Coming, instead, we're going to focus on where we find the good news in these verses.
- AFTER READING
 - What is the good news in these scriptures?
 - What are some common themes/what ties these scriptures together?
 - It's important to talk about concepts like life after death or the end times because they can sometimes be scary, anxiety-producing, confusing. What are some ways you think we can talk about death or heaven that would make our conversations more honest and less scary or frustrating?

Unit 5: Our Theology

Lesson 32:

From Whence We Came— The Creeds

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

Hebrews 12:1



- Read Hebrews 12:1-12 from the Bibles together, round robin with one verse per student.
- How does this align with where you are in your Confirmation and personal faith journey?

**Creed =
Latin word
CREDO
"I believe"**

CREDO

DEFINITION

A credo is a statement of belief or principle that guides actions and decisions. It often reflects core values and serves as a moral compass. In organizations, a credo can define the company's mission, vision, or values. It provides clarity and direction, ensuring alignment with the organization's or individual's overarching goals.

EXAMPLES

Personal Credo

"I believe in treating every individual with respect and kindness, regardless of our differences."



Corporate Credo


"Our company is committed to sustainable practices that benefit both our community and the environment."



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- Just like we have relay games that involve everyone’s participation to meet our goals, we also have a relay of faith that is passed on from person to person until all are introduced to Jesus and the Christian faith.
- The creeds are a way that the church can pass along its “statement of faith” from generation to generation.
- During Confirmation, we have already explored what we believe—what it means to be saved, how grace plays a role in our Christian development.
- Creed = Latin word credo, meaning “I believe.”
 - The creeds tell us the basics of what Christians have believed throughout the centuries.
 - Having that connection to the past helps us better understand our present and future in Christ.
- We have many different creeds, and each is unique.
 - Often creeds were written to deal with issues that were in dispute.
 - You can sometimes tell why a creed was written by what is in it and how much space it devotes to a particular topic.
 - For example, the big issue in the Apostle’s Creed is “Who is Jesus?”
 - The paragraph on Jesus is bigger than the rest of the creed.
 - Each creed emphasizes specific concepts.



The Apostles' Creed

 WE BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY,
 MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH 

WE BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST, GOD'S ONLY SON OUR LORD,
 WHO WAS CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT
 BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY 

 SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE,
 WAS CRUCIFIED, DEAD, AND BURIED
 HE DESCENDED TO THE DEAD.
 ON THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE AGAIN.
 HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN 

HE IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER.

 WE BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT,
 THE HOLY CHURCH UNIVERSAL
 THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS
 THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS
 THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY
 AND LIFE EVERLASTING. AMEN. 

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
 the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made,
 of one Being with the Father;
 through him all things were made.
 For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven,
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
 and became truly human.
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
 On the third day he rose again
 in accordance with the Scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory
 to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son
 is worshiped and glorified,
 who has spoken through the prophets.
 We believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic church.
 We acknowledge one baptism
 for the forgiveness of sins.
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

- In the United Methodist Church, we have a variety of creeds that summarize our faith instead of just one. Let's look at a few of them.

The Apostles' Creed...

The **Apostles' Creed** is an important statement of what Christians believe. It's used in many churches, including Methodist churches, to help people remember the core of their faith. Even though it wasn't actually written by the apostles (Jesus' first followers), it's called the **Apostles' Creed** because it summarizes what they taught.

The Apostles' Creed (Traditional Version)

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

➔ This means there is one God who created everything—our world, the universe, and us! He is powerful and loving, like a perfect parent.

**And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,**

➔ Jesus is God's Son and our Savior. His birth was a miracle—He was born to Mary, but His Father is God.

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;**

→ Jesus was unfairly punished, died on a cross, and was buried. But He didn't stay dead—He came back to life on the third day! That's why Easter is such a big deal.

**He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

→ Jesus went back to heaven and is with God. One day, He will return to bring justice and make everything right.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

→ The Holy Spirit is God with us today, helping, guiding, and comforting us.

**the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,**

→ The word *catholic* here means **universal**—it's about all Christians, not just one church. The "communion of saints" means all believers, past and present, are connected as God's family.

the forgiveness of sins,

→ Because of Jesus, we can be forgiven when we mess up. God's love is bigger than our mistakes!

**the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

→ One day, God will bring new life to all who follow Him, and we'll live forever with Him.

Why Methodists Say the Apostles' Creed

In Methodist churches, this creed is often used in worship to remind people of what they believe. It helps bring Christians together and connects us to believers throughout history. Even if we don't understand everything fully, the Apostles' Creed helps us grow in faith.

The Nicene Creed...

The **Nicene Creed** is like a summary of what Christians believe about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. It was written a long time ago (in the 300s) when people were debating who Jesus really was. The Creed helps clear things up.

Breaking it Down Simply:

1. God is One:

1. There is only one God, and He made everything—things we can see (like animals and trees) and things we can't see (like angels and love).

2. Jesus is God's Son and is also God:

1. Jesus wasn't created—He has always existed with God.
2. He is described as *Light from Light*—just like sunlight comes from the sun but is still the same thing, Jesus comes from God but is still God.
3. Jesus was born as a human (through Mary) but was still fully God.

3. Jesus' Death and Resurrection Matter:

1. Jesus was killed unfairly but willingly died for our salvation (so we could be close to God).
2. He didn't stay dead—He rose again and went back to heaven.
3. One day, He will come back to make everything right.

4. The Holy Spirit is God Too:

1. The Holy Spirit gives life and helps us understand God.
2. The Spirit worked through prophets (people in the Bible who spoke for God).

5. The Church and Our Hope:

1. The word *catholic* here means "universal" (not just one church group but all believers in Jesus).

2. Baptism symbolizes being washed clean and joining God's family.
3. Christians believe that one day, God will bring new life to everyone who follows Him.

Why It's Important:

The Nicene Creed is a way for Christians around the world to agree on the basics of faith. It helps keep our beliefs clear and reminds us of God's love and plan for us.

After reading these two examples, think about the following questions...

- What is the creed trying to emphasize? Does it repeat itself on particular topics?
- What about the creed you read did you find confusing or unexpected? Why?
- Did the creed cause you to think about any ideas you hadn't considered before?



- Remember that the word CREED comes from the Latin word, CREDO, meaning “I believe.”
 - Use the creeds you looked at today and everything you’ve learned in Confirmation class as an inspiration to think about what you believe for each of the following...
1. Confirmation
 2. The Church
 3. God
 4. Jesus
 5. The Holy Spirit
 6. Sin
 7. Grace
 8. The Bible
 9. Heaven
 10. Love



Wrap-Up

Confirm Series: Lessons 31-32

As we wrap up class, lets go over a few things together:

Objectives

The objectives of class today were...

- Understand the Christian promise of eternal life with Jesus and how our faith shapes our future.
- Understand the historical development of Christian creeds and their significance in shaping the United Methodist faith.
- Reflect on how the creeds provide guidance for their personal expression and practice of faith today.

Application

Today's lesson is important to me because...

Upcoming Dates

- Sunday, April 19
 - Last SNL—family potluck and celebration
- Wednesday, April 22
 - Earth Day Clean Up
- Saturday, April 25-Sunday, April 26
 - Confirmation Retreat
- Sunday, May 3
 - Confirmation Dinner @ BG (5p)
- Sunday, May 17
 - CONFIRMATION SUNDAY (9 and 10:30a)

Closing Prayer

One confirmand will lead us in a closing prayer.