



ROOTED
In Grace

CONFIRMATION
— 2026-2027 —



2026 - 2027

PARENT HANDBOOK

Welcome

Hello Parents,

Welcome to 2026–2027 Confirmation! We could not be more excited that your child is a part of our class this year, and we look forward to this journey with them and with you.

Your child's Confirmation year has the potential to be one of the most significant events in his or her life and in the life of your family. That's why we want to better explain what our program is and what to expect this year.

The Meaning of Confirmation in the United Methodist Church

Confirmation is a continuation of the grace we received at our baptism.

Both confirmation and Baptism are part of an ongoing, lifelong process of sanctification, where we are shaped into the image of Christ. The word "Confirmation" literally means "to make firm one's faith."

Sanctification: The ongoing process of becoming more like God in character and conduct through the Holy Spirit being active in our lives!

Through the Holy Spirit, God is at work in the life of the person—preparing, justifying, sanctifying, and empowering them. The Confirmation program is one piece of the lifelong process of discipleship. Confirmation is closely tied to baptism, but it is neither the completion of baptism nor the second half of baptism. **Instead, it is the individual's first public affirmation of their baptismal covenant and their personal response to divine grace.**

A child who has been baptized as an infant or a young child needs an opportunity to personally affirm the faith into which they were baptized and raised and to claim the faith for themselves. **In Confirmation, we acknowledge that a child has reached the age when he or she can begin to assume responsibility for their own faith.**

When your child comes to confirmation, they will learn about God, the church, Scripture, worship, and the sacraments, all while also experiencing the faith of others through their small group and mentors. We pray that they will go and live out faith in all areas of their lives! May God bless them during this time, and may they feel safe enough to ask questions, find answers, wrestle with doubts, and learn more about how much God loves them!

The Vows of Our Confirmation & Baptismal Covenant

As a ritual, the Rite of Confirmation Service in April 2027 provides the setting and opportunity for the child to acknowledge and profess the faith into which he or she has been baptized. During the service, the individual stands before the community, is asked the historical questions of Christian discipleship, asked to affirm the faith for him or herself, receives the power of the Holy Spirit, and is commissioned for a life of Christian discipleship and service.

This results in the person becoming a "professing member" of the church, committed to the journey we call discipleship.

1. Do you desire to be confirmed in the church?
2. Will you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of the world, and repent of your sin?
3. Will you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression?
4. Will you confess Jesus Christ as Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord?
5. Will you be loyal to Christ through The United Methodist Church and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries; to faithfully participate in by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness?

What if my child has not been baptized yet?

All are welcome in confirmation! As United Methodists we believe Baptism is an initiation into the church body. In infant baptism, the parents (or sponsors) and church congregation take vows to nurture the child in the faith. One of the main reasons baptism is tied to Confirmation is the vows. At infant baptism, parents take vows on BEHALF of their child. At Confirmation, the child now takes the vows for THEMSELF. At the Rite of Confirmation Service on April 11, 2027, we can both baptize and confirm your child.

Confirmation at Wildwood UMC

Confirmation is done in the sixth grade. However, if your child did not participate in sixth grade, we are happy to have them in the class.

During the middle school years, our goals do include instruction and a basic understanding of faith, but this is not our primary goal. At the sixth-grade level, our priority is for students to experience the faith community and have an opportunity to identify with, be shaped by, and affiliate with that community. As the child grows, the intellectual aspect of faith becomes more important, especially during the high school years.

Outreach Projects & Confirmation Retreat

Confirmation is much more than just a Sunday evening class. It is a comprehensive program that includes two overnight retreats, a trip to a synagogue, and confirmation with the Bishop. The Rite of Confirmation Service is April 11, 2027. Each of these events and services allows the student to feel tied to the wider WWUMC community, witness their call to service in the world, and grow to see how their future faith can look within our student ministry.

Parent Volunteer Team

At WWUMC, we have a beautiful tradition of leading Confirmation with a team of parent volunteers who will pour into the students over the course of the year. Parents serve as part of our hospitality team, lead our small groups, and help the staff execute special events throughout the year. Our parent volunteers are vital to our ministry—not just logistically, but also spiritually—as they invest in the next generation of Jesus followers.

Relational

One of the most important things we do in Confirmation is build relationships with God, each other, and the adults who help throughout our Confirmation year. The great commandment Jesus gave us is to love God and each other. In all we do during the year, we try to fulfill this commandment. We intentionally spend a lot of time and effort building trust, relationships, and community.

Journeying Together

We are excited to partner with you and your family! Please do not hesitate to contact any one of the Clergy with any questions you may have.

Cost

The cost for confirmation class is \$100 plus retreat fees. Scholarships are available.
Questions? Reach out to Deanna Young at deanna@wildwood-umc.org

2026 - 2027 Confirmation Schedule

Sunday Evening Classes

Confirmation runs concurrently with the academic school year. We begin on Sunday, August 23, 2026, and the last class is April 4, 2027. Confirmation class meets on specific Sundays (as noted on the calendar) from 5-6:30 PM.

Fall Semester

- August 16, 2026 - Parent meeting
- August 23, 2026 - Why Are We Here?
- August 30, 2026 - You Are The Church
- September 12-13, 2026 - Confirmation Retreat in Galveston
- September 20, 2026 - Who Is Jesus?
- September 27, 2026 - Who is the Holy Spirit?
- October 4, 2026 - What is Sin?
- October 25, 2026 - What is Grace?
- November 8, 2026 - Who is John Wesley?
- November 13-15, 2026 - Journey Retreat
- November 29, 2026 - Advent Workshop/Auction
- December 6, 2026 - Apostles' Creed
- December 13, 2026 - Christmas Party

Spring Semester

- January 10, 2027 - What is the Bible (Part I)
- January 24, 2027 - What is the Bible (Part II)
- January 31, 2027 - Book of Discipline/Social Principles
- February 7, 2027 - Who is Wildwood?
- February 19-21, 2027 - Connect Retreat (7th-12th grade)
- February 27, 2027 - Confirmation with the Bishop
- March 7, 2027 - Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service, Witness
- March 21, 2027 - Worship/Liturgical Calendar
- April 4, 2027 - Confirmation Walk Through
- April 11, 2027 - Confirmation Sunday