

Confirmation Guidebook

for parents • students • covenant partners

2017-2018



First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville, IL

219 W Maple Ave, Libertyville, IL 60048

www.firstpreslibertyville.org

847-362-2174

Table of Contents

Welcome to Confirmation	3
Calendar of Events	4
Leadership & Curriculum	6
Expectations of Confirmands & Parents	7
Projects & Requirements	8
Covenant Partners	10
Special Gatherings & Deadlines	11
Approved Service Opportunities	12
Memorization Projects	14
Becoming an Active Member	17
Statement of Faith	17
Notes	18

Welcome to Confirmation

Welcome to Confirmation Class! It is a time for adventure and exploration, a time to learn and grow in the faith.

This eight-month process is designed for 8th graders and above to:

- Gain a basic knowledge and understanding of the Christian Story.
- Learn about the core beliefs, practices, and emphases of The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
- Explore the vows that confirmands will take if they choose to be confirmed so that they understand the commitment they will be making.

What is Confirmation?

Historically, a confirmation class was designed as a church rite of passage, where a young person crossed over into adulthood and claimed their faith for themselves. If you were baptized as a child in a Christian church, your parents and the whole church took vows to guide and nurture you in the Christian faith. Your faith as a child was wrapped up in the faith of those who love you. Our Confirmation process is designed to help you claim that faith for yourself and make those vows your own.

We have planned a program of worship and study, fellowship and service which will give you the opportunity to not only learn about the faith, but will also give you the opportunity to question and explore, experience and wonder about the God who loves you and wants to be in relationship with you!

*Welcome to a spiritual adventure seeking to follow
Jesus Christ!*

Calendar of Events 2017

Class Sessions are in the Conference Room
Sundays • 8:30 - 9:40 AM

- Aug 25-26** ***Confirmation Retreat @ Covenant Harbor (required event)***
(estimated cost \$165)
- Aug 27 Family Meeting @ 11:30 AM in Conference Room
- Sept 3 No Class (Labor Day Weekend)
- Sept 10 Rally Day, #1 Class—Text Messaging (The Bible)
***Confirmation Class attends JHF Kick-off @ 4:00 PM**
- Sept 17 Class #2—Awesome God (Father/Creator)
- Sept 24 Class #3—Extravagant Love (Jesus/Redeemer)
***Covenant Partner Meeting @ 11:15AM in room 207**
- Oct 1 Class #4—Taste & See (World Communion Sunday)
***Class attends 10:00 AM worship together**
- Oct 8 Class #5—Never Alone (Holy Spirit/Trinity)
- Oct 15 Class #6—Can you Hear Me Now? (Prayer & the Lord's Prayer)
- Oct 22 *Covenant Partner Breakfast A in Social Hall*
- Oct 29 Class #7—Reformed and Always Reforming (Reformation
Sunday—500th Anniversary)
***Class attends 10:00 AM worship together**
- Nov 5 Class #8—Living Right (The Ten Commandments)
- Nov 12 Class #9—Glory Be! (Worship/Liturgical Year)
- Nov 19 Youth Sunday (No morning class)
***Class attends 10:00 AM worship together**
- Nov 26 No Class (Happy Thanksgiving)
- Dec 3 Class #10—Where is God When It Hurts?
- Dec 8-9** ***Special Week-end Event (required event) (Estimated cost \$155)***
- Dec 10 *Covenant Partner Breakfast B in Fellowship Hall*
- Dec 15** **Worship at Jewish Temple (TBA)**
- Dec 17 Class #11—Looking Behind...Looking Ahead
- Dec 24/31 No Class (Merry Christmas! & Happy New Year!)

Calendar of Events 2018

Class Sessions are in Conference Room
Sundays • 8:30 - 9:40 AM

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Jan 7 | Class #12—Baptism (Baptism of the Lord Sunday)
*Class attends 10:00 AM worship together |
| Jan 14 | Class #13—Living Grateful Lives (Stewardship) |
| Jan 21 | <i>Covenant Partner Breakfast C in Fellowship Hall</i> |
| Jan 28 | Class #14—The Apostles' Creed |
| | |
| Feb 4 | Class #15—Faith Statement Workshop |
| Feb 11 | <i>Covenant Partner Breakfast D in Fellowship Hall</i> |
| Feb 18 | Class #16—We Are Presbyterians
*Faith Statements are due for first reading |
| Feb 25 | No Class (JHF winterXtreme retreat)
*Faith Statements returned by Kara for editing |
| | |
| Mar 4 | Class #17—I Will, With God's Help (Discipleship)
*Final Draft of Faith Statements are due! |
| Mar 11 | 12:30-3:30 PM - Confirmation Lunch in Fellowship Hall
*Confirmands Share Faith Statements with Session
*Session receives Confirmands into Church Membership |
| Mar 18 | 9:00 AM - Confirmation Sunday (gather in Fellowship Hall)
10:00 AM - Confirmation Class Recognized in Worship |
| | |
| Apr 20-21 | A.W.O.L. Retreat (A Work of Love) |
| Apr 29 | Sunday Service Event (TBD) |
| | |
| May 6 | Confirmation/SHF Pancake Breakfast |

Leadership

Confirmation 2017-18 will be coordinated by the Associate Pastor for Youth Ministries, Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein. Other leaders will include Pastors, Small Group leaders, and Covenant Partners. The Small Group leaders will be working with the confirmands weekly. Covenant Partners will work directly with the youth they are partnered with to schedule times to meet for projects and discussion, as well as attend the four Covenant Partner Breakfasts.

Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein
ksmith-laubenstein@boxp.net
Church Office (847) 362-2174
Cell (847) 404-9543

Curriculum

Classes are held almost every Sunday from 8:30—9:40 AM in the Conference Room. Weekly lessons are designed to build on one another. It is expected that everyone will attend. However, when that is not possible, you must notify Kara. Then the confirmand will be e-mailed an “at-home” project that will cover the previous lesson. These projects are to be completed and handed in at the next class session.

Resources that give direction to our class sessions include:

- The Bible (CEB-Common English Bible) *provided by FPC*
- The Study Catechism: Confirmation Version *provided by FPC*
- Re:form Curriculum (Sparkhouse) *provided by FPC*
- We Believe Curriculum (Congregational Ministries Publishing) *provided by FPC*

Expectations of Confirmands

- Open your heart and mind to the work of the Holy Spirit and God's voice in your life.
- Attend the Confirmation Retreat in its entirety (estimated price \$165).
- Attend the Special Week-end Event in its entirety (estimated price \$155).
- Attend Sunday morning class, arriving on time, and **not missing more than three times.**
- When not able to attend class, complete the "at-home" project and return it the next Sunday.
- Follow the class rules for appropriate behavior and interaction.
- Thoughtfully choose a Covenant Partner and be open to building a relationship with him or her.
- Complete all assigned projects on or before listed due dates.
- Attend JHF a minimum of four times during Confirmation process.

Expectations of Parents

- Pray for and encourage your youth during this time of faith exploration.
- Worship with your youth on Sunday mornings following class.
- Be open about sharing your own faith with your youth.
- Model a life of Christian discipleship for your youth.
- Bring your youth to scheduled classes, fed and energized to learn.
- Complete "at-home" assignments with your youth if they have to miss a class session.
- Encourage and equip your youth to complete required assignments and meet designated deadlines.
- Be open to volunteer opportunities as they become known (driving, providing refreshments, etc.).

Love God with all your **SOUL • Worship**

Regular worship with a community of faith is essential to being a follower of Christ. Worship is the most comprehensive way in which a congregation rehearses its faith and is recharged by God.

- As a confirmation class, attend worship together on World Communion Sunday (Oct 1, 2017), Reformation Sunday (Oct 29, 2017) Youth Sunday (Nov 19, 2017) and Baptism of the Lord Sunday (Jan 7, 2018).
- Attend four worship services with your Covenant Partner at First Presbyterian Church after each breakfast. During **ALL FOUR SERVICES**, take sermon/worship notes, discuss them with your partner after worship, and turn them in to Kara.
- As a confirmation class, attend worship at a Jewish Temple on Friday, December 15, 2017 (time and location TBA)

Love God with all your **MIND • Study**

The apostle Paul tells us that the way we are transformed is through the renewal of the mind. (Rom. 12:2) “Finally, . . . whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is anything worthy of praise, *think* about these things.” (Phil 4:8) The discipline of study is the primary vehicle to bring us to “*think* about these things.”

- **Class Attendance:** It is expected that the students will attend all of the classes that are scheduled missing no more than three.
- **Memorization Work:** Over the duration of the class it is expected that the students will memorize The Lord’s Prayer, The Books of the Bible, The Ten Commandments, The Apostles’ Creed. The Study Catechism (Confirmation Version) and class discussions will be provided to explore these topics further.

Love the Lord with all your **HEART • Fellowship**

Our relationship with God calls for us to live in relationship with our fellow human beings. “Day by day, they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” (Acts 2:42)

- Junior High Fellowship (JHF) meets from 4:00 to 5:30 on Sunday evenings in the Youth Lounge. It is our hope that 8th graders will take an active role in this part of the life of our church. The kick-off is on September 10 and attending an additional three times is the minimum requirement.
- Covenant Partners. Studies have shown that youth need to have at least five meaningful relationships with adult church members to feel like they are a part of the church. At FPC, we believe that every youth deserves to know there are people at this church who love them and support them. **Covenant Partners must be selected by Sept 17, 2017.**

Love the Lord with all your **STRENGTH • Service**

“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” (Matt 25:40) Service is not a duty to be performed but rather our grateful response to the gift of abundant life that God has given us in Jesus Christ.

- One **REQUIRED** large group service project will be done as part of the Confirmation Special Event on Saturday December 8-9, 2017 at Urban Youth Mission at Fourth Presbyterian Church (urbanyouthmission.org) (Estimated price: \$165).
- One small group service project will be scheduled in order to build community within the small group and provide service to others.
- One service project will be agreed upon and scheduled with your Covenant Partner. Suggestions can be found on page 12-13.

Covenant Partners

Guidelines for choosing a Covenant Partner

Choose someone who is . . .

- 21 years of age or older and of the same gender as you.
- An active member of First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville.
- Not related to you.
- Fun to spend time with.
- Willing to challenge you and will hold you accountable.
- Not already someone else's Covenant Partner.
- Not a member of the pastoral or program church staff.
- Not a JHF or SHF Youth Advisor.

****Partners MUST be chosen by September 17, 2017. If you need help choosing or contacting a possible Partner please contact Kara or Kristin in the office.**

Expectations of Covenant Partners

- Attend the Covenant Partner orientation gathering, September 24, 2017 @ 11:15 AM.
- Attend the Worship Service at the Jewish Synagogue, December 15, 2017.
- Attend the Confirmation Luncheon, March 11, 2018 @ 12:30 PM.
- Pray for your Confirmand.
- Present the Christian life in a positive light by your own example.
- Attend the four Covenant Partner Breakfasts with your Confirmand, using the time to ask good questions that encourage conversation (Talk Points will be provided) and to confirm completion of assigned projects.
- Worship with your Confirmand at least four times, discuss sermon/worship notes together, fill out the worksheets and turn them in by their due date.
- Complete one service project with your Confirmand, fill out worksheets and turn them in by their due date.
- Assist your Confirmand in memorizing the four memorization projects, fill out the worksheets, and turn them in by their due date.
- Encourage your Confirmand to attend youth group and fulfill the confirmation and youth group attendance requirements.
- Encourage your Confirmand in this time of faith exploration by occasionally, writing notes, e-mails or text messages.

Special Gatherings and Deadlines

Four times during the year we will have special Covenant Partner Breakfasts. This is an opportunity to not only have fellowship with one another but to share with your peers thoughts and reflections on your various Confirmation experiences. Your Covenant Partner is invited and expected to attend all of the special gatherings with you. All due dates for service projects, memorization projects, sermon notes, and worship attendance requirements correspond with the dates of the gatherings:

Oct 22	Breakfast A (Social Hall)	Lord's Prayer/Spiritual Practices World Communion Reflections Worship/Sermon Notes #1 (FPC)
Dec 10	Breakfast B (Fellowship Hall)	Ten Commandments Worship/Sermon Notes #2 (FPC)
Jan 21	Breakfast C (Fellowship Hall)	Books of the Bible Worship/Sermon Notes #3 (about Jewish worship service) Covenant Partner Service Hours
Feb 11	Breakfast D (Fellowship Hall)	Apostles' Creed Worship/Sermon Notes #4
Feb 18		First Draft of Faith Statement Due
March 4		Final Draft of Faith Statements Due

In addition to the above requirements, the following events are MANDATORY:

- the Confirmation Retreat—August 25-26 (estimated cost \$165).
- the Urban Youth Mission Retreat—December 8-9 (estimated cost \$155).
- the JHF Kick-Off—September 10.
- at least three additional JHF weekly gatherings or special events (like Fall Lock-Out and/or Winter Retreat).

To fulfill Confirmation attendance requirements, the student may not miss more than three scheduled class sessions (see page 6 & 7 for more information about missed classes).

Approved Service Opportunities

• BERNIE'S BOOK BANK •

Volunteer info can be found at www.berniesbookbank.org/volunteer/
 Bernie's Book Bank Processing Center
 917 North Shore Drive in Lake Bluff (New Location)
 847-780-READ (7323)

Bernie's Book Bank collects, processes and distributes quality new and gently used children's books to significantly increase book ownership among at-risk infants, toddlers and school-age children throughout Chicagoland.

• DEACONS—SENIOR MINISTRY TEAM •

3rd Sunday of each month (2:15-2:45 PM) at ManorCare
 4th Sunday of each month (2:30-3:00 PM) at Libertyville Manor
Rev. Brian (847-362-2174 or bpaulson@boxp.net)

The Deacons lead monthly worship and/or communion services at area nursing homes. You can assist with: greeting the residents, sharing your musical talent, or reading scripture. In the fall we also invite area senior adults to attend a Communion Service at our church followed by a Luncheon and Entertainment. You can assist with: greeting the residents, serving tables, assisting with clean-up. The 2017 Senior Luncheon is tentatively scheduled for either Saturday, October 14-21 (2 shifts available: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM and 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM).

• FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN (FMSC) •

Volunteer info can be found at www.fmsc.org
 742 East Park Avenue (Hwy 176)
 Libertyville, IL 60048
 (behind Life Storage, use same parking entrance)
 847-984-3846

Meals specifically formulated for malnourished children are hand-packed then shipped to nearly 70 countries around the world. Shifts are ordinarily two hours in length. For every four 8th graders there must be one adult. \$\$ donations are not required but are appreciated.

Approved Service Opportunities

• MOBILE FOOD PANTRY •

3rd Saturday of each month (9:00 AM—1:00 PM)
 South Parking Lot of First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville
Sue Ellen Skeens (847-816-9189 or settnt@aol.com)

The Mobile Food Pantry is held on the third Saturday of each month (rain or shine) in the south church parking lot. Through the Northern Illinois Food Bank we purchase approximately 5,000 lbs. of food that we distribute to approximately 200 families. No skill or sign-up is required—just a smile and a willingness to help. You can come for an hour or the whole day.

• PADS (Providing Advocacy, Dignity, and Shelter) •

Tuesdays / Oct—April (5:00 PM—7:00 AM)
 Fellowship Hall of First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville
Dave Marsden (224-321-2998 or dgmarsden@gmail.com)

Homelessness affects many people in Lake County. Starting in October members of First Presbyterian volunteer to staff the PADS homeless site located in our Fellowship Hall. Opportunities include:

- Site Set-Up Volunteers (5-6 PM).
 - Shift Volunteers (6-9 PM).
 - Food Volunteers (Prepare and help serve a hot dinner meal).
-

- **Do you have an idea for a project or a passion for a specific organization?**

Wonderful! Please talk with Kara to have your project approved.

Memorization Work



Our Father who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name.
 Thy kingdom come.
 Thy will be done
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread,
 and forgive us our debts,
 as we forgive our debtors,
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 forever. Amen.

Matthew 6:9-13 & Luke 11:2-4

The Study Catechism (Confirmation Version): Questions 95—106



1. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not make for yourself an idol.
3. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet what is your neighbor's.

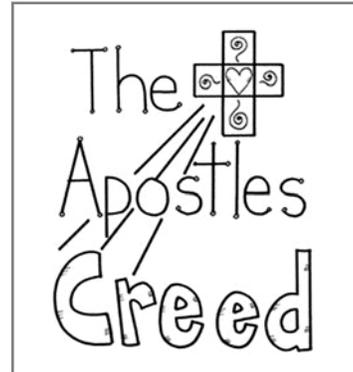
Exodus 20:1-17 & Deuteronomy 5:6-21

The Study Catechism (Confirmation Version): Questions 68—94

Memorization Work

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.



I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Study Catechism (Confirmation Version): Questions 5—67

Memorization Work

BOOKS *of the* BIBLE

OLD TESTAMENT

GENESIS

EXODUS

LEVITICUS

NUMBERS

DEUTERONOMY

JOSHUA

JUDGES

RUTH

1 SAMUEL

2 SAMUEL

1 KINGS

2 KINGS

1 CHRONICLES

2 CHRONICLES

EZRA

NEHEMIAH

ESTHER

J O B

PSALMS

PROVERBS

ECCLESIASTES

SONG OF SOLOMON

ISAIAH

JEREMIAH

LAMENTATIONS

EZEKIEL

DANIEL

HOSEA

JOEL

AMOS

OBADIAH

JONAH

MICAH

NAHUM

HABAKKUK

ZEPHANIAH

HAGGAI

ZECHARIAH

MALACHI

NEW TESTAMENT

MATTHEW

MARK

LUKE

JOHN

ACTS

ROMANS

1 CORINTHIANS

2 CORINTHIANS

GALATIANS

EPHESIANS

PHILIPPIANS

COLOSSIANS

1 THESSALONIANS

2 THESSALONIANS

1 TIMOTHY

2 TIMOTHY

TITUS

PHILEMON

HEBREWS

JAMES

1 PETER

2 PETER

1 JOHN

2 JOHN

3 JOHN

JUDE

REVELATION

Becoming an Active Member

The church nurtures those baptized as children and calls them to make public their personal profession of faith and their acceptance of responsibility in the life of the church. When these persons are ready, they shall be examined by the Session. After the Session has received them as active members they shall be presented to the congregation during a service of public worship. In that service the church shall confirm them in the baptismal identity. They shall reaffirm the vows taken at Baptism by

- a. professing their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- b. renouncing evil and affirming their reliance on God's grace.
- c. declaring their intention to participate actively and responsibility in the worship and mission of the church.

They are commissioned for full participation in the mission and governance of the church, and are welcomed by the congregation.

Book of Order W-4.2033

Youth who have not been previously baptized in a Christian church may be baptized on Confirmation Sunday. Youth who do not choose to make their public profession of faith at this time may be recognized and affirmed for their months of hard work.

Statement of Faith

The final assignment to be fulfilled is for the confirmands to write their own Statement of Faith. This statement will give them an opportunity to express their beliefs about God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the Church. It will give them an opportunity to reflect on what the sacraments of baptism and communion and the disciplines of prayer and Bible study mean for their faith journey. It will give them the opportunity to identify what gifts and talents they have to share with the community of faith and where they would like to make commitments of their time and resources that affirm Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Resources and further information will be provided for the writing of faith statements. See page 11 for due dates. Two pages, double spaced, 12-point font.

Notes

Notes



This booklet belongs to: