



CONFIRM
NOT CONFORM

CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

2023-24

First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville

Parent / Mentor Guidebook

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CONFIRM NOT CONFORM Parent/Mentor Guidebook

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Introduction to *Confirm not Conform*

What is *Confirm not Conform*?

Confirm not Conform, or *CnC*, is a youth confirmation program that takes confirmation seriously. It exposes youth to a wide range of topics, including Scripture, sacraments, creeds, heresy, prayer, other religions, and serving others, and asks them to think through what they believe and why.

It is also a philosophy. *Confirm not Conform* emphasizes finding one's own voice rather than simply conforming to an external standard. It is a program that respects the work youth and adults do as they explore their faith. We trust that when people put in the effort to articulate what they believe and why, they will make good choices about their next step in faith.

CnC is also a congregational development program. The entire church grows in faith by participating in *Confirm not Conform*, as mentors, parents, leaders, clergy, or church members all make the commitment to support participants in the program in their life in Christ.

Program Overview

“But what exactly does *Confirm not Conform* include?” you’re asking yourself. “What do I actually have to do?” Though the list below may seem daunting, remember that this is spread out over the course of many months. Some background on these different elements follow.

- 1 Parent/Guardian and Mentor Meeting
- 1 Mentor Training
- 18 Sessions
- 1 Retreat Weekend
- 2 Field Trips
- 2 Required Worship Services
- 2 Required Service Projects - 1 with the youth and 1 with a mentor
- 4 JHF/SHF Gatherings (depending on student’s grade)
- 1 Rehearsal for the *iConfirm* service
- 1 *iConfirm* service and celebration
- 1 Confirmation service

Parent/Guardian and Mentor Meeting

Before *CnC* begins, we host a Parent/Guardian and Mentor meeting where everyone can learn about *CnC*, review the schedule, and ask questions.

Mentor Training

Mentor Training brings together mentors to discuss their role in *Confirm not Conform*, answer questions, and provide materials to make their work easier. Training occurs before the first class and no later than the third session (since mentors take part in Session 3).

Sessions

There are 18 sessions, covering all sorts of topics, as you will see in the outline on page 7, but overall they will take on three different tasks: Deconstruction, Design, and Construction.

Deconstruction: Youth learn that it’s OK to challenge what they have always been told, to take apart the common beliefs and look at them in a fresh way.

Design: As youth decide what they do believe, it helps to see what other people believe. Youth take a close look at other religions as well as their own.

Construction: As youth build their beliefs, it’s important to put them into action. In this section, youth see how belief is more than words.

These tasks overlap and may not happen in a linear fashion; some sessions include two or even all three of these tasks.

Mentors are present at four of the sessions: 3, 9, 12, and 18. See the following pages for the scheduled days, times, and locations of the sessions.

Retreat

We believe a retreat helps build community within the group. It also provides a more intensive opportunity for discussing key issues. We will hold the retreat just before the program begins, so our group can build that community sooner rather than later.

Field Trips

Field trips allow youth to experience other traditions and different worship styles. These trips can take anywhere from 3 hours to half a day or more, depending on where you go and what you do. Special events (a local revival meeting, a Jewish temple service, etc.) may take place on days other than Sunday. The Sundays when Confirmation class is intentionally not happening are good opportunities to take a self-guided field trip together to whichever options are most intriguing. Families are encouraged to coordinate trips so students can go together. **We strongly encourage mentors to also participate in field trips.**

Worship Services

Just as important as field trips is exposure to our own services in a new way. Students are expected not only to explore worship but also to own it by taking on leadership roles. Some ways to be part of regular worship services throughout the year include reading the Scripture, serving as ushers, or preparing and leading a children's sermon. Students will be encouraged to sign up for at least one worship leadership role. Youth Sunday, March 17, 2024, is a great opportunity to meet this expectation, as well as the Maundy Thursday service on Thursday, March 28, 2024. Rev. Nicole will work with other church leadership to make these arrangements.

Service Projects

Students are expected to participate in one of two designated Mobile Food Pantry dates with other youth and one service project selected and attended with their mentor. Approved service opportunities are listed on page 40. If students have a passion for a specific organization, talk with Rev. Nicole for approval of an alternate project.

JHF/ SHF Gatherings

Because being in community is such an important part of what it means to be church, students are required to attend four JHF or SHF gatherings (depending on their grade).

***iConfirm* Service and Rehearsals**

The *Confirm not Conform* program concludes with a special liturgy of celebration called *iConfirm*. During this service the congregation recognizes that the youth have taken responsibility for their own spiritual lives, and the youth, in turn, accept that responsibility. Youth share the Bible passages they have memorized and speak to their personal significance. It is a service of great emotion and power. Afterward, a party celebrating the youth follows the service.

Confirmation Leadership

Confirmation 2023-24 will be coordinated by Interim Associate Pastor, Rev. Nicole Chapman-Farley and co-led by Pastoral Resident, Ms. Kim Mendoza.

Outline of Sessions

This outline is provided so that mentors and families may be aware, generally speaking, of what youth are learning and doing as the program progresses. The schedule follows below.

Sessions that include the mentors are outlined with a box.

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023 11:15 AM-12:00 PM Youth Education Room

Session 1: Introduction to *Confirm not Conform*

Introduces the program and establishes expectations.

SEPTEMBER 24, 2023 11:15 AM-12:00 PM Youth Education Room

Session 2: Where Do You Stand: The Gospel According to Whom

Explores where youth are starting from and what they currently believe.

OCTOBER 8, 2023 11:15 AM-12:00 PM Fellowship Hall

Session 3: Where Do You Stand: Meet Your Mentor

Establishes the mentor/youth relationship. **Mentors attend this session.**

OCTOBER 15, 2023 11:15 AM-12:00 PM Youth Education Room

Session 4: Heretics R Us

Discovers how heretics through the ages have shaped our faith today.

OCTOBER 22, 2022 11:15 AM-12:00 PM Youth Education Room

Session 5: Scripture: A Mad Dash Through a Good Book

An overview of the Bible and how it is put together.

OCTOBER 29, 2023 11:15 AM-12:00 PM Youth Education Room

Session 6: Teach Us to Pray: The Lord's Prayer

Closely examines several versions of the Lord's Prayer, followed by a Prayer Lab where youth can explore different ways to pray.

NOVEMBER 5, 2023 11:15 AM-12:00 PM AM Youth Education Room

Session 7: Tradition: The Nicene Creed

Presents the history of the church up through the writing of the Nicene Creed. Youth are invited to define the meanings of some basic concepts of faith.

NOVEMBER 12, 2023 11:15 AM-12:00 PM Youth Education Room

Session 8: Tradition: Church History Continued

Youth develop a creed through the Council of *CnC*. A very brief and sketchy presentation on the history of the church through the 1700s.

NOVEMBER 19, 2023 11:15 AM-12:00 PM Fellowship Hall

Session 9: Faith In Action: Pain Into Power

Explores how God helps us transform the pain in our lives in to the very power we need to transform the world. **Mentors attend this session.**

DECEMBER 10, 2023 11:15 AM-12:00 PM Youth Education Room

Session 10: Faith In Action: How We Can Help

Examines those things that can help others, those things that don't, and why we help others at all.

DECEMBER 17, 2023 11:15 AM-12:00 PM Youth Education Room

Session 11: Faith In Action: The Issue of Power

Focuses on the role that power plays in living out our call to be Christ's body in the world.

JANUARY 14, 2024 11:15 AM-12:00 PM Fellowship Hall

Session 12: Scripture: The Bible By Heart

Youth learn to use a concordance to help them select a passage of Scripture to memorize. **Mentors attend this session.**

JANUARY 21, 2024 11:15 AM-12:00 PM Youth Education Room

Session 13: Tradition: Our Neck of the Woods

An overview and exploration of the history and beliefs of the Presbyterian Church.

JANUARY 28, 2024 11:15 AM-12:00 PM Youth Education Room

Session 15: Tradition: The Church Through the Year

Explores the seasons of the church year and examines materials used in worship.

FEBRUARY 4, 2024 11:15 AM-12:00 PM Youth Education Room

Session 16: Tradition: The Priesthood of All Believers

Discusses how all who are baptized are ministers in the church, and how the church sometimes sends mixed messages about that.

MARCH 3, 2024 11:15 AM-12:00 PM Youth Education Room

Session 17: World Council of Religions

Explores the basic tenets of other major world religions.

APRIL 7, 2024 11:15 AM-12:00 PM Youth Education Room

Session 20: Where Do You Stand: Where Do You Go From Here?

An evaluation of the *CnC* program and an opportunity for youth to brainstorm about their ongoing ministry in the church and the world.

APRIL 14, 2024 11:15 AM-12:00 PM Fellowship Hall

Session 18: Where Do You Stand: The Power to Choose

Revisits the statements of faith the youth looked at in Session 2 and explores how their positions have changed over the course of the program. **Mentors attend this session.**

Making the Commitment

Sounds like a lot? *Confirm not Conform* does require a commitment, but we believe it's worth it. Youth who go through *Confirm not Conform* gain so much—and offer amazing gifts to the church and the world.

Youth will be asked to sign a *Confirm not Conform* Commitment Pledge, which is found on the next page. This pledge involves not just the youth making a commitment, but the community also making a pledge to youth.

When youth take part in *CnC*, the community promises to:

- Listen to youth's questions and concerns with open minds and hearts.
- Take youth's contributions seriously and treat them with respect.
- Expose youth to the fundamental questions of faith and explore them with the youth.
- Provide a mentor who will share their own faith experiences and questions.
- Offer help when youth need it.
- Keep the youth in their prayers.

Mentors: if you agree to take on the role of mentoring a young person, please do your utmost to honor that commitment. You will see more about what is expected of you in Section 2 of this guidebook, the Mentor Guide.

Parents: if you and your child agree make the commitment, then we ask for *Confirm not Conform* to take precedence over other things that might demand your time. Maybe this year, other extracurricular activities need to take a back seat to the questions and challenges of a growing faith. You will see more about what is expected of you in Section 3 of this guidebook, the Parent Guide.

So this is your chance to ask yourselves, as mentors and as families, what really matters. We hope you'll find choosing *Confirm not Conform*—the time it takes, the questions it asks, and the issues it explores—to be the investment of a lifetime.

CnC Commitment Pledge

To be signed by youth, mentor, and Pastor Nicole at the beginning of the Confirm not Conform program.

I pledge to participate in the *Confirm not Conform* Program, to abide by its requirements, to bring an open mind and heart to all sessions and events, and to treat all those involved in the program with respect.

As part of the program, I also commit to:

- Attending all 18 confirmation sessions. I am allowed to miss one session in both the Fall and Spring, but must make up those missed sessions.
- Participating in 2 field trips.
- Being involved with worship services as much as possible, either at my church or with another congregation. At a minimum, I will attend or participate in Youth Sunday and Maundy Thursday services.
- Participating in two community service projects, one with my confirmation class peers and one with my mentor.
- Participating in four JHF/SHF gatherings.
- Memorizing a passage of scripture at least 10 verses in length.
- Participating in the *iConfirm* Service, at which I will recite the passage I have memorized and explain my reasons for choosing it and what it means to me.
- Attending the confirmation service, whether or not I choose to be confirmed, as a show of support for other members of the program.

In return, the community commits to:

- Listening to my questions and concerns with open minds and hearts.
- Taking my contributions seriously and treating them with respect.
- Exposing me to the fundamental questions of faith and exploring them with me.
- Providing a mentor who will share their own faith experiences and questions, and respond to mine.
- Offering help when I need it.
- Keeping me in their prayers.

Youth Signature

Mentor Signature

Pastor Signature

Welcome to Mentors

This guidebook will help you understand what to expect when you make the commitment to be part of *Confirm not Conform*—and what is expected of you.

We believe that helping people—youth or adult—prepare to be confirmed is an important ministry. We ask those being confirmed (confirmands) to make a mature public affirmation of their faith. That's something to be taken seriously. When people make this commitment, and intend to act on it, the church is forever changed by their presence and their gifts. Your ministry as a mentor will help students discern whether or not they wish to make that commitment—though ultimately the choice is theirs.

This guidebook will give you an overview of the *Confirm not Conform* program, the various roles that you and others will play in it, further information on the mentor/youth relationship, and an appendix with additional information to help you in your ministry.

Thank you for being part of *Confirm not Conform*.

“At the *iConfirm* service, we mentors sat in the choir stalls, the mentees at right facing the congregation. Proudly I watched as each mentee got up and recited his passage and spoke on it for a few minutes — offering a simple testimony of faith. I suddenly felt a new wave of respect for these youth — who had guts enough to stand up and share their hearts. It was powerful.”

~CnC mentor

Mentor Guide

To begin with, let’s establish what a mentor is not. A mentor is neither parent nor peer, social worker nor savior. Rather, a mentor is a friend, a confidant, and a positive force in the life of a youth.

In serving as a mentor, the main thing you offer is a listening ear and an interest in your youth’s questions and explorations. You don’t have to have all the answers—in fact, one of the greatest gifts you can offer are your own honest questions. With humility, offer your youth the greatest gift you can give: yourself—warts and all.

You can read more about your role as a mentor in the supplemental resources at the end of this guidebook.

Expectations

There are seven main expectations of CnC mentors:

- Get together with the youth you are mentoring often enough to build a relationship. How often is entirely up to you and the youth you are working with.
- Attend four sessions of the CnC program. These sessions include activities in which you and your youth work together. The sessions to which you are invited—sessions 3, 9, 12, and 18—are described in the outline of sessions on pages 7-8 of this document. The dates are Sundays, **October 8, November 19, January 14, and April 14, from 11:15 AM-12:00 PM** in Fellowship Hall.
- With your student, select and participate in an approved service project, found on page 40.
- Attend the Confirmation Luncheon on **Sunday, May 5, 2023 from 12:00 - 2:00 PM**, where the confirmands will be examined by Session and become members .
- Be present for the *iConfirm* service itself. The date is:
Service: Saturday, May 11, 2024 2:00-4:00 PM
- Attend , if at all possible, **Confirmation Sunday, May 19, 2023 at 10:00 AM** in the Sanctuary.
- Attend as many of additional scheduled *Confirm not Conform* events as possible. Your presence for field trips and other special events can be quite meaningful. A schedule of events is found beginning on page 43 of this guidebook.

Communicating with Teenagers

Modes of Communication

Communicating effectively with teenagers requires entering into their frame of reference. We have found that the two best ways to reach youth (as of this writing) are via **text messages** (to their cell phones) or via **social networking sites** such as Facebook (though that too is becoming old fashioned).

At your first meeting with your youth (Session 3), we will ask you both to communicate the best way to get in touch with each other. Talk with youth about the best way(s) to reach them. Do they have a cell phone with text messaging? (And do they use it?) Do they have a Facebook (or other site) page, and how often do they visit it? Will they “friend” you?

Social Media

Any adult working regularly with youth within the church should give serious consideration to having separate social networking accounts from their personal adult account for communication with youth . This provides opportunity for monitoring messages and does not give the minor access to adult conversations on the same site.

It is inappropriate for the adult to “friend” a minor; however, an adult may respond to a “friend” request on Facebook or a “Follow” request on Instagram. Contact via social media between adult and minors should be at the minor’s instigation. Youth will primarily be pointed to Youth Ministry accounts, not private accounts of pastors/teachers/directors. There will be two adults serving as administrators on all youth ministry accounts. Both adults will have access to messaging, pictures, and content.

The primary reason for an adult to communicate via social media with a minor should be to share information.

Adults should avoid engaging in religious counseling via social network sites. This should be done face to face with another adult present or in a public place. If a minor reveals abuse or inappropriate interactions with an adult via private messaging on a social media platform, the adult must report this information in the manner of any “suspected abuse.”

Photographs should not be posted online without parent/legal guardian permission.

Parents or legal guardians will give permission on the annual Child and Youth Information Form for the pastor/director to text directly with a student. Without this permission, a pastor/teacher/director must communicate solely with a parent or legal guardian.

When participating in online group functions (i.e., Zoom), sessions with only one adult present will be recorded and uploaded to a cloud-based server. Students will be asked to participate in a public space in their living environment with an open door.

Social Networking Code of Conduct

Each person who leads using the resources of social media shall apply this Social Networking Code of Conduct:

- Prohibit comments that are, or could be construed by any observer, to be harsh, coercive, threatening, intimidating, shaming, derogatory, demeaning, or humiliating.
- Prohibit sexually oriented conversations or discussions about sexual activities.
- Prohibit private messages between employees, Minor Workers and minors.
- Prohibit posting inappropriate pictures (for example, sexually suggesting, exploitive, or voyeuristic) or inappropriate comments on pictures.
- Provide Minors and their parents or legal guardians with this Social Networking Code of conduct.
- Encourage parents and legal guardians to play a role in monitoring their Minor's interactions with employees, Minor Workers.
- Continuously remind Minors how to interact appropriately through social networking sites.
- Deny participation by individuals who repeatedly violate the Social Networking Code of Conduct.

“Do something active: batting cages, miniature golf, ball game, walk. Sitting in a bookstore or café can get slow real fast.”

~CnC mentor

Starting a Conversation

So you're sitting there and you have this kid in front of you. Now what? You say, “How are you?” The answer is “Fine.” You say, “Tell me about school,” and you get a shrug. An awkward pause ensues and you wonder, “Will it always be like this?”

Building a relationship with youth may take some time, but eventually you will most likely find that conversation flows easily. It will be easier when you know something about one another and have more shared experiences upon which to draw. But how to get there?

Start somewhere safe. Have a conversation about something neutral and fun, just to find a place to begin. At the end of this guidebook you will find a long list of Conversational Jump-Starters organized into categories for ease of reference. Take a look at them before your first meeting—or maybe for every meeting, making it a tradition. For fun, you might even jot a few down on slips of paper and have your youth pick one randomly, like cards in a deck.

Safety may also lie in posture. Many of you already know that youth will chatter freely to you or to one another when they're sitting behind you in the car. You might find it easier to have a conversation if you are walking somewhere or seated side by side rather than face to face. Youth may feel more comfortable walking around or doing something than sitting or being stationary.

Also, consider the venue; if you are in a building where adults tend to have more power than youth, youth may find it more difficult to speak freely. If you are in a place where youth outnumber adults—say, a café near the high school—then you are on the youth's territory which may give the youth more confidence.

Know that you do not need to be cool. What you need to be is authentic. Do not try to make yourself into something you're not. Don't pretend to know all the answers. Youth can smell inauthenticity from a mile away. However, you will be amazed to find that even though you may feel old and lost, youth will often refer to you as

cool— not because you are so flashy and exciting, but because you care about them.

Ask clarifying questions if you don't understand something. In some ways you will be learning another language and another culture. You'll learn about peers and teachers, technology, and television programs that you've never heard of before. You don't need to know it all before you start. You'll certainly know a lot more by the time you're through.

Finally, accept what they offer and do your best to reserve judgment. In one session, they will have a favorite song to share with you. You may think this song is not the greatest thing you have ever heard, but remember it is important to them. Clarifying questions are your friend. "Why do you like this song?" may only get you a shrug as youth may not yet be able to articulate why they feel the way they do, but simply asking the question makes it clear that you have accepted their offering without judgment. Knowing they will be heard, youth will be far more willing to share what else is important to them.

"Here you are sitting with an adult that's not a parent, that's not a relative, and she's saying, OK, let's talk about this. What do you want to do? That relationship that develops is a really crucial one. Teenagers, we get so wrapped up in our little world and our little bubble and having a mentor helps to pop that bubble."

~CnC student

Listening to Youth

Many youth do not have adults in their lives that truly listen to them. Usually, adults are busy telling youth how to act (or how not to) and what to think and do.

Therefore, listening is one of the most important gifts you will offer your youth. Resist the urge to give answers, even if you are prompted for them. While there may be an appropriate time to share your faith story or your perspective on a given topic, such sharing should always be in the context of drawing out the youth's thoughts: helping youth tell their story and formulate their faith.

After all we said above about how to draw out youth in conversation, you may find yourself paired with a youth who won't stop talking, who will want to go on at length about subjects far removed from your ostensible topic. It may be that there is something important going on and they do need you to listen at that time. Be flexible. Your topic or plan may not be the most important one. On the other hand, they may be talking out of nervousness, hyperactivity, excitement, or simply to avoid the topic at hand. In that case, you may need to lead the conversation back to what you intended to discuss. Use your best judgment about what is most important for your youth at the moment.

In the appendix, you will find an article on Active Listening that will give you thoughts and examples on engaging youth in conversation and hearing what they have to say.

Honoring Confidentiality

The youth you mentor may wonder whether anything the two of you talk about goes straight back to a parent or pastor. It may be useful to discuss the subject of confidentiality early in your relationship to

establish clear “rules of engagement.”

Consider what you think is most appropriate in terms of confidentiality. You might agree that all communication be held in strict confidence. On the other hand, you might agree not to share with a youth’s parents, while reserving the right to inform the pastor or youth leader if you think the youth or someone else is in danger (remembering that clergy are mandated reporters—by law, they must report suspected child abuse).

The important thing is to establish those boundaries so that trust can be built and lines of communication can be opened.

Confidentiality should extend to others as well. Mentors should take care to hold close any information shared with them by other mentors. They should likewise be aware that other mentors might be parents—or good friends to parents—of their youth.

If something is said and you don’t know what to do, don’t panic. Talk with Rev. Nicole or another member of the pastoral staff. They may already have some information about the situation or thoughts about how to proceed.

Meeting together

What to do, what to do? There are quite a number of things you can do with youth, but not all of them are the best fit for you both. Ask your youth what they would like to do. They might even tell you!

If you do intend to go on an outing, double-check with parents that youth actually have permission to go. Youth may readily agree to go out for ice cream on a Sunday night, completely forgetting (or “forgetting”) Aunt Sally’s birthday party. (“But I have to go out with my mentor!”)

For those who need a little extra help figuring out what to do or where to go, take a look at this list, perhaps together with your youth, and find some activities with mutual appeal. Then you’ll begin on shared territory.

Note that in our experience, the hardest part of meeting with youth is finding a time that works for you both to get together. One way we address this is by setting up Sunday morning *CnC Café* time and space—the Dougherty Room is reserved from 9:00-10:00 AM any Sunday that the youth are meeting in the Youth Education Room. You’re already there, you can grab a coffee and a corner, and you are meeting in a safe space.

“It was SO hard to find a time we could meet together, and then the coordinator set up the CnC Cafe on Sunday mornings. Meeting with my mentee between services was perfect for both of us.”

~CnC Mentor

“Kids these days do not get many chances to just hang out and be kids. Playing catch at the park sounds trite but it may be exactly right.”

~CnC Mentor

Active Outings

- Walk around some local landmark such as a lake or park.
- Go fly a kite or hang at a playground or skate park.
- Play catch (baseball, football, softball).
- Play pick-up basketball.
- Shop for holiday gifts.
- Face off playing a video game. (You don't need to be good to have fun.)
- Go to a U-Pick-'Em farm.

Food Outings

- Head to a local café, juice bar, or coffee shop to hang and chat low-key and low-budget (e.g., Jamba Juice, Starbucks, etc.).
- Go for ice cream and split a sundae.
- Go out to a restaurant for a more expensive option. Be sure to select one where it's OK to linger over dessert.
- Try a new type of food together (e.g., Indian, Vietnamese, etc.).
- Make cookies in the church kitchen for Coffee Hour—or for yourselves.

CnC-Related Outings

- Go on a CnC field trip together.
- Invite the youth to see you in your church ministry.
- Go to church together and have lunch afterward to talk about what church means and why we go (or don't).

Volunteer Activities

- Volunteer at a soup kitchen or food pantry together.
- Invite the youth to join you in your own usual volunteer activity.
- Do a walk-a-thon for a cause you both care about.
- Adopt a family or kid for the holidays. Often the schools set these up so you can offer to help.
- Work on a community garden or compost project.

Cultural Outings

- Go to a museum together. (In some parts of the country, you can reserve and pick up free passes to go to certain museums for the day.)
- Catch a ballgame or other sporting event together.
- Share musical likes and dislikes: Introduce the student to the music you enjoyed as a kid and allow them to do the same. You might find some commonalities. Then again, maybe not.
- Go to a pet show or a fundraiser for homeless pets.
- With other mentors and mentees, have a movie night. Watch and discuss.

Support Outings

- Find out what your youth's activities are, and ask if you can come watch them play or perform. This might include musical performances, athletic events, art shows, etc.

Giving Gifts

Mentors often wonder whether giving and receiving gifts is appropriate in the mentor relationship, and if so, to what extent. This is a topic that should be discussed with Rev. Nicole so that specific concerns and issues in your church culture may be considered. However, here are a few general remarks.

At their best, gifts can be wonderful expressions of heartfelt affection. Gifts can evoke powerful emotions. But gifts often imply expectations or convey confusing messages. It is important to recognize that the bearer of a gift is exercising a form of power: the power to shop for and buy a gift. Moreover, giving a gift often—although not always—places a burden upon the recipient to reciprocate. It is something to take into consideration when one thinks of giving any gift.

The mentor relationship is inherently characterized by an imbalance of power. The adult mentor does not approach the relationship in the same way or for the same reasons as the youth. In many ways, the mentor is the party with more responsibility and more authority. It is therefore incumbent upon the adult to establish a proper boundary with respect to gifts.

Gift-Giving Guidelines

- It is not necessary to give birthday and/or Christmas gifts. A card or a note or, even better, an outing are preferable. You might give a card with a “coupon” to cash in for that special outing.
- The most appropriate time to consider giving a gift is for the confirmation ceremony itself. A prayer book, a Bible, a cross, icon, CD, or book are all suitable confirmation gifts. Best, though, are those gifts that grow out of something you have shared in the course of your time together, something that comes from a significant conversation or event that shows you have been paying attention.
- Your gift does not have to be spiritual. What you are hoping to find is a gift that is *meaningful*. If your deepest conversations about Scripture happened while you were at a hamburger joint, it may be that youth will be more vividly reminded of Scripture by a hamburger-related gift than by an actual Bible.
- Gift cards, even though they may seem impersonal to us, are something kids thrive on. If you're stumped, don't be embarrassed simply to give a card with a personal message and a gift card enclosed.
- Don't spend a lot of money. Discuss a limit with Rev. Nicole.
- Never expect or suggest that the youth reciprocate. If you receive a gift from the youth or their family, thank the youth or family and move on. If the gift seems inordinately valuable or otherwise unusual, confer with Rev. Nicole about what to do.

Helping Youth Make a Confirmation Decision

So you've spent many months getting to know a person. You've been actively listening—asking questions, repeating feelings back, providing a consistent, patient, and empathic sounding board. You've heard their serious doubts about the virgin birth, their anger about church politics, or their apathy about religion. Or perhaps, to your amazement, you've seen a teenager grow and change in front of your eyes from a monosyllabic shrugger to a theologian, an activist, or a saint.

When you arrive at Session 18, you will be asked to discuss the question of confirmation with your youth. Ideally, it will be an open question that will be subject to lively discussion. Remember that it is not your job to get youth to be confirmed. Rather, it is their job to make an independent decision. Your job is to help provide a safe space in which to explore the question.

There is an activity in Session 18 that opens up the question, but you may find that if the question is still unclear in the mind of your youth that it will be useful to take a step back and find out more about where they are now and what they want to do.

Below is a list of questions that might be helpful in getting such a conversation started, but feel free to use your own questions or just allow the conversation to flow naturally if conversation starters are unnecessary.

Conversation starters on the CnC Process and Confirmation

- What did you learn about yourself this year?
- What do you see differently now from when you started the program?
- What would you say you believe about God now? About the church? How has that changed?
- How do you feel now about the Bible passage you picked to memorize? How has that changed from when you first picked it?
- What do you think you're going to remember about this 10 years from now?
- What does it mean to you to be a Christian? What does it mean to be a Presbyterian?
- What would you like to do next?

Keeping Youth Safe

It goes without saying that church should be a safe place. Adults who work with youth within a church setting are expected to model the patterns of healthy relationship that youth deserve in all settings. Safeguarding the youth in your care is one of the most important functions you have as a mentor.

Moreover, the ways in which you model good practices may well have repercussions beyond your relationship with the youth you are mentoring. By modeling safe ministry practices, you raise awareness in youth as to unsafe situations they may encounter elsewhere.

By your vigilance, you can tangibly demonstrate Christ's love and care and teach wisdom to youth who inhabit a world in which, unfortunately, predators and opportunists may seek to do them harm.

To that end, we require each mentor to submit (graciously) to a background check and attend church-approved training on how to prevent child abuse and promote healthy boundaries in church settings. We have a **Child Protection Policy in place that you will receive and be asked to review.**

Getting Support

You don't need to be a mentor alone. In addition to the resources you will find here, we encourage you to meet with other mentors on occasion to check in, share tips, or vent. Be sure to ask for help or advice if you need it. Always remember that being a mentor doesn't mean you have to know it all.

Parent Guide

You may be thinking, “Not another activity I have to schedule, plan, and manage!” You may not feel like it, but you are more than just a chauffeur. And so to begin, we want to say thank you for supporting your child in so many ways.

Your main role as a parent is to be a parent, as best you can be. But *Confirm not Conform* is also an opportunity for you to fulfill in a very visible way any promises you might have made if you ever presented your child for baptism—promises to raise the child in the Christian faith and help them grow to Christian maturity. With God’s help, and the help of your community of faith, you can take advantage of this time to help your child prepare to take responsibility for their own life of faith.

Expectations

As a parent, one of the very difficult parts of your role is letting go of control. Please resist the temptation to require that your child be confirmed. Your child is more thoughtful than you might currently believe and will make this decision with due consideration. Don’t try to rig the outcome.

You help set the tone for your child by making *Confirm not Conform* a priority, not a burden. Do your best to see that your child makes it to classes and events on time. Your willingness to make the commitment makes a huge difference in your child’s experience.

You do have a formal role in the *Confirm not Conform* program: you and other parents are the hosts of the *iConfirm* celebration at the very end of the program. More information on this can be found later in this section.

Finally, your role is to pray for your child, your child’s mentor, and for the youth and leaders of the program.

Attendance

18 classes: It’s expected that students attend each of the eighteen (18) classes. No more than two (2) classes may be missed (one in the fall and one in the spring) AND materials will be provided to make up the class material by the following class. We get it that your kids have other things going on in their lives, things they are passionate about—really, we do. In order for their faith to become one of the things they are passionate about, it needs to be practiced, too. Make-up work will help them learn the technical details of a lesson but it cannot replicate the community-building that is such a cherished component of being part of a family of faith. Please let Rev. Nicole know as soon as possible if a class will be missed.

2 field trips: On page 39 of this guidebook is a list of seven possible field trip destinations. The Sundays where Confirmation class is intentionally not happening can be good opportunities to take a self-guided field trip together to whichever options are most intriguing. Families are encouraged to coordinate

"As a parent I appreciated this program because it gave the kids a chance to see other faiths. It also focused them on their faith during a time that other influences are so strong. My daughter seems stronger in her convictions and her faith after going through this program."

~CnC Parent

trips so students can go together. Students will be asked to offer a verbal recap of what they found interesting, what they found confusing, what they liked, and what made them uncomfortable in these settings.

4 JHF/SHF gatherings: On pages 41 and 42 of this guidebook are the JHF and SHF 2023-24 preliminary calendars. Because being in community is such an important part of what it means to be church, students are required to attend four JHF or SHF gatherings (depending on their grade).

1 service opportunity: Youth will be assisting with the Mobile Food Pantry on December 16, 2023, and on March 16, 2024. Students must attend one of these two dates, although both dates are strongly encouraged.

1 service opportunity with their mentor: Students will select, with their mentor, a service opportunity from page 40 to do together.

1 Confirmation Luncheon and Examination by the Session: On Sunday, May 5, 2024, from 12:00-2:00 PM confirmands and their families are invited to a luncheon in Fellowship Hall, after which the confirmands will be examined for membership by Session members in small groups, and the luncheon will conclude with the confirmands being welcomed into membership of the church.

1 iConfirm Rehearsal: On Saturday, May 11, 2024, from 1:00-2:00 PM students who are choosing to be confirmed AND students choosing **not** to be confirmed will rehearse in the Chapel for the *iConfirm* celebration.

1 iConfirm Celebration: On Saturday, May 11, 2024, from 2:00-4:00 PM students who are choosing to be confirmed AND students choosing **not** to be confirmed will have the opportunity to speak about what they have learned and be celebrated for all their hard work and the ways in which their participation in the program has been a gift to the church.

1 Confirmation Sunday: On Sunday, May 19, 2024, at worship in the sanctuary at 10:00 AM the confirmands will be publicly welcomed into the church. There will be a brief review of the service beforehand at 9:30 AM in the Social Hall.

Reducing Stress

We don't want this program to add more stress to your life. Here are some strategies that will make *Confirm not Confirm* a less stressful—perhaps even enjoyable—experience for you and your family.

Participation

We know that getting youth to attend confirmation classes can become a battleground. If this is an issue for you, there are ways to reduce the contentiousness.

First, understand what confirmation is. Confirmation is an opportunity for those who were baptized as infants to affirm their faith. That's it. It's not a puberty rite. It's not a sign of church membership. Confirmation is a time for a person of any age to say, "I claim the Christian faith for my own." If your child has absolutely no interest in or is not ready to affirm their faith, then you might want to consider waiting until they are.

If, however, you believe that with some encouragement, your child will get a great deal out of an exploration of faith, you may want to set up a trial period after which your child has the option to withdraw. In our experience, we encourage youth to stay until they meet their mentor, which happens towards the beginning of the program. At that time, youth are usually bonded to one another and no longer want to withdraw.

However, if they do, don't do their dirty work for them – and communicating one's wishes and plans is not dirty work. Have your child call and talk with Rev. Nicole directly to explain why they do not want to continue in the program. At the very least, we urge you to have your child claim the right to withdraw and to do so with dignity.

Conflicts with Extracurricular Activities

The schedule for *Confirm not Conform* is printed starting on page 43 of this guidebook. Look through it to determine now if there are any conflicts that you can see with other extracurricular activities and inform the other organization of the conflict as soon as you can. Remember that what you are asking for is time off for a religious observance! When you explain what you are doing in those terms, most people will be understanding.

Don't try to squeeze in every activity, rushing from one to the next and worrying about whether you'll make it. You are allowed to set limits and say that, for this year, your child's spiritual life has priority.

Transportation

Consider different ways youth can get to church so you are not spending most of your time in the car. If at all possible, we always heartily encourage youth to be responsible for themselves. Or arrange with other families to share the responsibility for transporting youth to and from sessions.

Down time

If, due to your circumstances, you and other parents find yourselves driving your children to church at the same time, consider getting together for coffee or a meal to support one another.

Working with Mentors

Being the third wheel in the mentor/youth relationship can be tricky. While it can be very difficult to hand over your child into the care of another adult, trust the process. Obviously, if you sense that there is physical or emotional danger in this relationship, consult with Rev. Nicole. But don't be afraid if your child bonds with the mentor or brings home new and strange ideas. Support and respect your child's relationship with their mentor.

Mentors are instructed to establish clear guidelines with their youth about what is to be held in confidence, so you may not always know what they discuss.

You may wish to communicate with your child's mentor if there are any family rules that you need them to follow or particular concerns that you have.

You will find an article with more information on working with your child's mentor at the end of this guidebook.

Materials

Students will be gifted with a CEB (Common English Bible) version of a student Bible at the start of the program. This is theirs to keep whether they choose to be confirmed or not. All other class materials will also be provided.

Forms

The parent or legal guardian of each minor must provide the appropriate information and medical forms annually. The information form should include all contacts for the parent or legal guardian. Further consent forms must be signed by a parent or legal guardians for any off-campus events. Any photos at the event that are used in social media or published material by FPC Libertyville must be released by a signed consent form from a participant's parent or legal guardian.

iConfirm celebration

The *iConfirm* service and celebration are the very last things to happen in the formal *Confirm not Conform* program. At the service, youth recite a passage of Scripture and share with the congregation a message about what that means to them. And afterwards, there's a party: the *iConfirm* celebration at which the parents of all the youth serve as hosts.

This does not mean (necessarily) that you will be passing around the trays of cheese snacks. However, it does require advance planning so that by the time you get to the celebration, you'll know everything is ready to go.

If you particularly enjoy planning parties, we encourage you to speak to Rev. Nicole about serving as the Celebration Preps to help coordinate the celebration and serve as the point person on this particular project.

Further details on planning the *iConfirm* celebration are found in the *iConfirm Service and Celebration Handbook*.

A note for youth

If you have made a commitment to be part of the *Confirm not Conform* program, then your primary responsibility is...to participate in the *Confirm not Conform* program. That means attending every session (or making up for any you miss), taking part in field trips, going on retreat, meeting with your mentor, leading worship, attending JHF/SHF gatherings, participating in the *iConfirm* service, and making the choice whether or not to be confirmed.

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, 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, explore, experience, and wonder about the God who loves you and wants to be in relationship with you!

You are *not* required to be confirmed. In fact, it is very important to us that when you choose whether or not to be confirmed, you take that decision seriously. If by the end of the program you do not feel you are ready to be confirmed or do not want to be confirmed, then we strongly urge you not to get confirmed. Obviously, if you want to get confirmed, then we're all for that, too. But the choice of whether or not to get confirmed is yours to make and yours alone.

As the title of the program suggests, you will not be required to conform to a certain set of beliefs. Our hope is that through the *Confirm not Conform* program, you will be able to explore what you believe, ask honest questions, and share with your family, your mentor, and your congregation what is important to you.

Oh, and we want you to have a great time. We think you will.

“CnC allowed me to question my beliefs and gave me a chance to realize what truly matters to me as a member of [my] church. I was able to do so with a group of people that did not try to control me in any way. I felt like everyone wanted to help me out.”

~CnC Student

Resources

What Is My Role as a Mentor?

It seems simple at first, the notion of being a mentor: someone who spends time with a young person. But once you are in the mentor role, you may find yourself in situations where you are uncertain about your part in the relationship. Is it appropriate to provide discipline when they're out of line? What if I suspect they are experiencing trouble at home—what is my responsibility? How can I have the most positive impact on my mentee?

There is no one answer concerning what your role is or is not. If you are involved in a formal mentoring program, Rev. Nicole may be able to provide clearer direction for you based on the program's rules and expectations. In general, here are some basic guidelines to help you determine your role with your mentee.

YOU ARE . . .

. . . **a friend.** Like peer friendships, mentors and mentees do things together that are fun and engaging. They support each other both in good times and in tough times. They teach each other. They help each other. They're honest with each other. And sometimes they have to have hard conversations about concerns they have, asking the right questions at the right time. By being a good listener and engaging in authentic conversations with your mentee, you are helping them develop important life skills.

. . . **a role model.** You are expected to set a good example to the mentee for how to live your life. This is not the same as being perfect. Rather, it is about acknowledging your imperfections and sharing your strengths. It is also about advocating for your mentee when dangers to their physical or emotional well-being are present.

. . . **a confidant.** Building a close relationship with your mentee will help them build better relationships with others in their life as well, such as parents and peers. In the process, your mentee may tell you things they do not feel comfortable telling anyone else. Sometimes they may tell you about their hopes, dreams, or insecurities. Other times they may reveal mistakes they have made. Unless your mentee is in trouble and needs outside help, try to keep their private comments between the two of you. Your role is to be supportive of your mentee as a person with potential, regardless of the kinds of actions or attitudes they confide in you.

. . . **a nurturer of possibilities.** Your role is to see the gifts and strengths of your mentee and help them flourish personally. You should help your mentee channel their gifts toward actions that make them a resource to others in their family, neighborhood, school, or community.

YOU ARE NOT . . .

. . . **a mentor to the family.** Your role is to provide special attention to your mentee. While getting acquainted with parents, caregivers, and siblings can be helpful to understanding your mentee and their situation, your energy and attention should be focused on providing support to your mentee.

. . . **a social worker or doctor.** If your mentee tells you about experiences or health conditions that concern you, always turn to the pastoral staff for help. Although arming yourself with information about, say, a learning disability or abuse may help you understand your mentee better, it is not your responsibility to try to address

conditions or situations that require professional help. The pastoral staff may be able to find additional help for the mentee, including local information and referral services.

. . . **a savior.** You should not see your role in this relationship as coming in to make a young person’s life better or to fix their problems. Certainly your support can help your mentee overcome hurdles. But don’t forget that every young person—regardless of their circumstances—has gifts and talents that make them more than a “recipient” of your support. Your mentee should be treated as having much to offer to the world, because they do.

“What is My Role as a Mentor?” from *Mentoring for Meaningful Results*, used with permission from Search Institute, Minneapolis, MN. More information is available at www.search-institute.org.

Supporting Your Child's Relationship with a Mentor

What Can I Do to Help Make This Work?

By involving your child in a mentoring relationship, you have taken a very important step to making sure your child gets what they need in life. Every young person benefits from having another caring adult in their life—someone who supports your child, believes in them, and can be another person your child turns to when they're having a tough time—so kudos to you for welcoming a mentor into your child's life!

A good mentor–mentee relationship takes time to develop. Just like the start of any friendship, the mentor and your child will need to spend some time getting to know each other. They may encounter difficulties or misunderstandings along the way. There will be ups and downs.

You as a parent or caregiver can play a very important role in helping their friendship grow and develop, regardless of whether or not you have much direct contact with the mentor. Here are some tips to help you support your child's new mentoring relationship:

- *Be positive.* Let your child see that you are happy they have a mentor in their life. When your child tells you about their visit with their mentor, listen for the positive experiences, even if your child doesn't seem very excited about the visit. (For example, you might point out, "Well, it sounds as if you two have some things in common. Getting to know someone isn't always easy, but give it time.")
- *Tell your child the positive skills and behaviors you see them developing as a result of having a mentor,* and let them know that you are pleased with those changes. ("I've noticed that since you started hanging out with Joe, you've gotten your homework done on time more often. I'm proud of you!")
- *Let the mentor know how much you appreciate* that they are a part of your child's life. An occasional card or just telling them "thank you" can do much to make the mentor feel they matter.
- *Encourage your child* to show their mentor that they appreciate them.
- If you are present when your child and mentor get together, *be available but not overbearing.*
- *Show your interest* by asking some questions, but try not to make demands.
- *Share feedback* from your child with Rev. Nicole. Occasionally, check in privately with the mentor and see how the relationship is going.
- *Help your child remember* when their next visit with their mentor is scheduled. Help them use a calendar or day planner to keep track of visits with their mentor, as well as other activities going on in their life. Try to be as flexible as possible with the scheduling of activities.
- *Give your child's mentor copies of school calendars* so that they know about time off for holidays, opening and closing days of the school year, special events, and other considerations.

- It's always a good idea to *provide your child's mentor with emergency contact information* for someone with a phone, just in case something happens and the mentor cannot reach you.

- *Let Rev. Nicole or your child's mentor know if there has been a change or incident in your child's home life that the mentor should know about.* Did you two have a particularly bad fight recently? Has there been a death in the family? Are there financial stresses in the household right now? Is one of their siblings in need of extra attention right now? This kind of information will help Rev. Nicole and the mentor to more effectively support your child. You may also want to make some suggestions about how the mentor can be supportive in these situations.

- *Be prepared in the back of your mind for the inevitable end to the mentoring relationship.* Every mentoring relationship ends at some point. Some mentoring programs are designed so that the mentor and mentee are together for a limited time. If the relationship is strong and life remains relatively stable for the mentor and your child, it may not end until your child graduates from high school. The fact that your child's mentor has gone through a recruitment, training, and screening process is a good sign that they are committed to staying involved with your child over a significant period of time. Unfortunately, sometimes things change in either the mentor's or your child's life that are out of either one's control, and a relationship may need to end prematurely. Remember that sometimes a mentoring relationship ends in a healthy way for good reasons. For example, your child may get swamped with school activities like band and sports, or the mentor may be busy with a new baby. No matter what the reason, you can be ready to listen and provide extra support when the relationship ends.

- *Remember that the mentor is not going to replace you.* You are still your child's parent, and nothing will ever change that. The mentor can complement and reinforce what you are doing as a parent, helping you be even more effective.

From *Mentoring for Meaningful Results: Asset-Building Tips, Tools, and Activities for Youth and Adults*. Copyright © 2006 by Search InstituteSM; 800-888-7828; www.search-institute.org.

Conversational Jump-Starters

The following conversation starters are adapted from “101 Relational Discussion Starters” by Tony Akers in the Nov. 12, 2000, issue of *Group Magazine*. (Used by permission.) The first group of questions may be easier when you are first getting to know your mentee. After you’ve established trust, you may find the latter questions more effective. A few questions are given under more than one category.

Activities/Interests

- What’s your favorite TV show? What do you like best about it?
- What’s your favorite movie? What do you like best about it?
- Who’s your favorite music artist or group? What makes you gravitate to him/her/them?
- What’s your favorite time of year—winter, spring, summer, or fall? Why?
- Who’s your favorite author? Tell me about the last book you read by that author.
- What’s your favorite day of the week? Why?
- Describe your favorite toy as a child.
- What’s your favorite website? Why?
- What’s your favorite ride at an amusement park? Why?
- What’s your favorite part of a newspaper? Why?
- What’s your favorite thing to wear? Why?
- What’s your favorite fast food restaurant? Why? What’s the most memorable thing that ever happened to you there?
- What’s your favorite time of day? Why?
- What’s your favorite food? Where’s your favorite place to eat it?
- What’s your favorite dessert? Describe a time when you had that dessert as a child.
- What’s your favorite thing to do on an unexpected day off from school?
- What’s your favorite holiday? Why?
- What’s your favorite candy? Why?
- What’s your favorite sport to watch? to play?
- What’s your favorite piece of jewelry? Why?
- What’s your favorite city? Why?
- What’s your favorite hobby? How does that hobby reflect your personality and passions?
- Have you ever caught a fish? If so, tell me about it. If not, would you like to? Why or why not?
- Do you like to cook? If so, what do you like to make? If not, what do you wish you could make for yourself?
- Do you have any musical ability? If so, what do you enjoy about it? If not, what skill would you love to learn?
- When and what have you collected during your life?
- Do you have a bike? If so, what do you like about it?
- Do you belong to any clubs? Why or why not?
- Have you ever grown anything? If so, what?
- Do you have a job? If so, what do you like and dislike about it?
- What makes you laugh? Why?
- Can you swim? If so, describe what it was like to learn how to swim. If not, have you ever been scared of the water? Why or why not?
- When you’re alone, what’s a song you like to sing or hum, and why?

Preferences/Heroes

- What's the best and worst thing about your school?
- What's your best subject in school? Why are you so good at it?
- What's your school mascot? If you could change your mascot, what would you change it to?
- Tell me about the best teacher you ever had.
- What do you like best: rivers, lakes, ponds, or streams? Why?
- Which do you like better — sunrise or sunset? Why?
- What's the best gift you've ever received? Explain.
- What's the best gift you've ever given? Explain.
- Imagine a "best day ever." What kinds of things would you do?
- Do you like cats or dogs better? Explain.
- Do you have a hero? Describe them.
- Would you rather cut grass or rake leaves? Why?
- Would you rather go to the dentist or the doctor? Explain.
- Would you rather have many friends or one good friend? Explain.
- During your free time would you rather be alone or with a group?
- Do you make decisions slowly or quickly? Why?
- Would you rather lead or follow? Why?
- If you were hiking down a path and it came to a "Y," would you take the well traveled path or the overgrown path?
- What adult, other than your parent(s), would you turn to if you needed help? Why?

Personal History/Family

- What's been the highlight of your day or week?
- What's been the low point of your day or week?
- What's the worst injury you ever sustained?
- When and how have you volunteered to help others? How did it make you feel?
- Have you ever been stung by a bee, wasp, or hornet? Tell me about it.
- Have you ever caught a fish? If so, tell me about it. If not, would you like to? Why or why not?
- What's the strangest thing you ever ate?
- Do you have family rules? What are they?
- When your family eats a meal together, what do you typically talk about?
- How does your family celebrate birthdays?
- What chores or responsibilities do you have at home?
- Are your grandparents still living? If so, what do you like best about them? If not, what's your favorite memory of them?
- Do you have siblings? If so, what do you like most and least about them? If not, what do you imagine would be the best thing about having siblings? the worst thing?
- Do you have extended family? If so, do they live close to you or far away? How often do you see them? What's the best time you ever spent with them?
- Do you have a pet? If so, describe one of your most memorable experiences with that pet. If not, what kind of pet would you like to have, and why?
- Have you had a pet that's died? If so, what was the experience like?

- Do you get an allowance? If so, how much, and what are you supposed to use it for?
- If you had one day to live over again, what day would you pick? Why?
- What's something you've seen or done you wish you could get out of your mind?
- Have you ever built anything? What was it? How did you feel when you finished?
- Have you ever grown anything? If so, what?
- Describe the scariest experience of your life.
- Have you ever seen a sunrise? What were you doing, and how did it feel?
- When and what have you collected during your life?
- Have you ever received an award for anything? If so, what was it, and how did it feel to get it?
- Describe your favorite toy as a child.
- Describe a time you felt special.
- Have you ever been in a play? What part did you play?
- Have you ever ridden in a boat? What was it like?
- If you've ever flown in an airplane, describe what it was like the first time you took off and landed.
- Have you ever been to a concert? What did you like and dislike about it?
- Have you ever been "cut" from a team? How did you cope with that?
- What's your greatest achievement?

Dreams/Hypotheticals

- If you could choose a vacation spot anywhere in the world, where would it be, and why?
- What's your dream job? What might be your dream job 10 years from now?
- If you had to be allergic to something, what would it be?
- If money and time were no object, what would you be doing right now?
- What would you do with \$1,000? Why? \$1 million? Why?
- If your house was on fire and you could choose only one thing to save (besides family members), what would it be? Why?
- Have you ever seen a falling star? Did you make a wish? What was it?
- Let's say you were sent to live on a space station for three months and you were allowed to bring only three personal items with you—what would they be?
- If you could buy a car right now, what would you buy? Why?
- If you could be any actor in the world, who would you be, and why?
- If you had one day to live over again, what day would you pick? Why?

Values

- What surprises you most about adults?
- What disappoints you most about adults?
- What's the best and worst thing about church?
- What makes you happy? Why?
- What makes you sad? Why?
- Do you recycle? Why or why not?
- Who's your "faith hero"? Explain.
- Would you tell someone the truth even if it hurt that person's feelings? Why or why not?
- Has someone close to you ever died? How did you handle that?
- If you sat down next to Jesus on a bus, what would you talk about?

Active Listening

Margaret Alter, PhD

In my experience teaching communication skills to parents, teachers, seminarians, and other professionals, I have found that we are a talky culture, and that genuine empathic listening is a remarkably difficult skill to learn. Yet it is particularly Christ-like; Jesus demonstrates it frequently in gospel healing stories. In the story of Bartimaeus in Mark 10, for example, he does not assume he knows what Bartimaeus wants of him; he asks and then listens.

Attentive listening—focusing on the other, quietly listening and perhaps saying “Uh huh” or “I see”—can be very soothing. Just the sense that someone is really trying to hear and understand one’s point of view is grace. For the listener, note that you do not have to agree or disagree. Your role is only to hear the speaker’s point of view. Listening is not about you.

Active (or reflective or participatory) listening deepens this graciousness and tends to be more soothing. Active listening can be done as either paraphrasing or reflecting the feeling you think you are hearing. You as listener use statements, not questions. The statements are tentatively offered.

Listeners should also be aware of what I call “body magic.” We do communicate through our use of space and posture and such. Some factors in “body magic” include: proximity (intimacy is fostered by physical nearness); height (height is equated with power. get to eye level to establish equality); posture (a relaxed, receptive posture is ideal); eye contact (important in euroamerican culture); pace (match the other’s pace or slower); and use of silence.

The intent of active listening is to encourage the person to keep on talking. For example, active listening in a conversation between you and your young friend might go as follows:

14-yr.-old: “I hate my math teacher—Mr. Davis. He is incredibly mean.”

You: (paraphrasing) “You have had it with your math teacher.” (stated tentatively, suggesting that the youth may confirm or deny)

14-yr.-old: “Yes! He is so mean, so mean! (close to tears) He is always embarrassing students who make mistakes in class.”

You: (trying to determine the feeling) “That sounds frightening. You must wonder when Mr. Davis is going to get you.” (or) “You sound worried.”

14-yr.-old: “I wouldn’t talk in class, but he calls on you!”

You: (feeling) “Scary.”

14-yr.-old: “Today he called on me just as the bell rang. I have to be first tomorrow.” You: (feeling) “Big stressor.”

14-yr.-old: “I’m going to know that stuff so well! Mr. Davis really knows math. If you do well in his class, you really know your stuff. Will you quiz me?”

Another example, this time with a peer:

Peer: (grumbling) “Oh, brother! It’s Monday again.”

You: (paraphrasing) “Monday is not your day.” (stated tentatively—or—) “It’s hard to begin a new week.”

Peer: “Oh, not really. It’s just that single parenting is so complicated. Weekends are so busy; I never feel rested.”

You: (trying to determine the feeling) “You sound hassled.”

Peer: “That is certainly true. I need a 13th month to do all the things that don’t fit into 12.”

You: (paraphrasing) “Life is too complicated. Too much to do and too little time.” (trying for the feeling) “Sounds discouraging.”

Peer: “Well, perhaps it is sometimes. It helps to talk about it.”

Active listening is a gift to oneself as well as to one’s loved one. You do not need to agree or disagree. You do not need to know the answers. You do not need to have any clever advice. Listening does not change any of the facts at all. Your greatest task is to master your sense of powerlessness and stay graciously attuned to the speaker. Our task is tenderly to accompany our friend or loved one as God accompanies us.

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Child/Youth/Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy

Abiding by the Child/Youth/Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy

A Child/Youth/Vulnerable Adult Worker, whether on paid staff, contractor or volunteer basis, shall be subject to:

1. FPC Libertyville's receipt of a completed and signed criminal background check authorization form for those 18 and over, prior to working with children, youth or vulnerable adults, and every 3 years thereafter. FPC Libertyville covers the cost of the background checks for all Child/Youth/Vulnerable Adult Workers.

2. FPC Libertyville's receipt, annually of:

- A signed form verifying the Child/Youth/Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy Summary and Acknowledgement has been read.
- A signed copy of the Indemnity and Hold Harmless form, indicating it has been read.

All Child/Youth/Vulnerable Adult Workers, paid, contracted or volunteer, must participate in training sometime within the year prior to working with children/youth and/or vulnerable adults. The training is to be provided by FPC Libertyville and shall cover the Child/Youth/Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy thoroughly as well as methods of abuse prevention and a detailed plan of reporting. FPC Libertyville may contract with others to provide these trainings. These trainings shall further cover:

- How to recognize signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect.
- Mandatory criminal background checks and the security of those files.
- Appropriate boundaries with children/youth and/or vulnerable adults, including use of technology.
- Fire and building safety.
- Information on the Safe Child Response Team

Additionally, Illinois state law requires that all Child/Youth workers complete an "initial mandated reporter training within 3 months of their start of service" (Statute 325 ILCS 5/) and every three years thereafter. This training is provided free of charge through the DCFS website. Once complete, the certificate of completion must be submitted to the appropriate staff person.

Two-Adult Rule

Two unrelated, screened and qualified Child/Youth Workers should always be present in groups of minors.

Open Doors and View Windows

When Minors and Minor Workers are in a room, the door must have a view window installed for the door to be closed. If no view window is installed in the door, the door should remain open at all times.

Privacy Regarding Photos/Videos

Minor Workers should respect the privacy of the Minors to whom they provide care. Responsible use of digital devices and cell phones is required in all situations (ex. Taking age-appropriate photographs and videos; **not** taking photographs and/or videos of minors or vulnerable adults who are not fully clothed.) Minor Workers are not permitted to take photographs and/or videos of minors under their care and/or share them in any way without the written permission of the parent or legal guardian.

Transportation

All adult drivers at youth events must be approved Child/Youth Workers and have proper licensure and insurance on file with FPC Libertyville. All vehicles used must have seat belts for the driver and each passenger. No minor under eighty-five pounds may sit in the front seat of any vehicle. All drivers transporting minors must be over the age of twenty-five and be informed that if their vehicle is used, their insurance would be primary if an accident occurs. If a charter bus is rented, or any outside carrier is contracted, the company hired must ensure criminal background checks on their drivers. No minor may be a driver at any event or activity (this includes golf carts at events.) Anyone who has a conviction within the past 10 years for DUI or driving under the influence of a controlled substance should not serve as a driver for youth events.

One-on-One Interactions

Private one-on-one meetings with a minor or vulnerable adult are prohibited unless absolutely necessary **AND** the parent/legal guardian is notified. Staff Youth Leaders and approved Minor Workers may meet with one or more minors in public places without the presence of another leader. When so necessary or permitted, the following guidelines shall apply to one-on-one interactions:

- a. When meeting one-on-one with a minor, always do so in a public place in full view of others.
- b. Keep doors open.
- c. Avoid all physical signs of affection that can be misinterpreted.
- d. If meeting in a room or office with a minor, leave the door open or move to an area that can be easily observed by others passing by.
- e. In the event a minor initiates an unplanned meeting with a minor leader in a non-public location, the leader shall, as promptly as reasonably possible, move the meeting to a public location, involve a second adult, terminate the meeting, or, in the case of a Staff youth leader, inform a second Staff member of the meeting. Where appropriate, the leader should promptly advise a parent/legal guardian of the minor of the meeting.
- f. Never be the only two in a building – go outside or meet at another time and place or call someone to be with you in the building.
- g. Inform other employees and/or Minor Workers that you are alone with a minor and ask them to randomly drop in. (Ask to be supervised.)
- h. Document and immediately report any unplanned meetings in non-public locations, unusual incidents, including disclosures of abuse or maltreatment, behavior problems and how they were handled, injuries, or any other interactions that might be misinterpreted. Submit this documentation, including name of the minor, the date of the meeting, the place of the meeting, and whether a parent or legal guardian was contacted, to the head of staff within 3 days of the incident.

Code of Conduct

All Youth Workers for any First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville sponsored event must abide by a code of conduct that emphasizes the following prohibited behaviors. Some of these prohibited behaviors include but are not restricted to:

- a. Display of sexual affection toward a youth.
- b. Use of profanity or any inappropriate or potentially offensive language.
- c. Discussion of sexual encounters with or around youth or in any way involving youth in personal problems or issues.

- d. Dating or becoming “romantically” involved with youth.
- e. Using or being under the influence of alcohol, marijuana, or illegal drugs in the presence of youth.
- f. Possessing sexually oriented materials – including printed or online pornography – on church property or property being utilized for a church event.
- g. Having secrets with youth.
- h. Staring at or commenting on youth’s bodies.
- i. Engaging in inappropriate or unapproved electronic communication with youth.
- j. Abusing youth in any way, including (but not limited to) the following:
 - Physical abuse: hit, spank, shake, slap, unnecessarily restraint. (Note: physical restraint to prevent a child from doing something disruptive or dangerous is permitted and may, in some instances, be necessary.)
 - Verbal abuse: degrade, threaten, or curse.
 - Sexual abuse: inappropriately touch, expose oneself, or engage in sexually-oriented conversations.
 - Mental abuse: shame, humiliate, act cruelly.
 - Neglect: withhold food, water, shelter.
 - Permit minors or vulnerable adults to engage in the following: hazing, bullying, derogatory name calling, ridicule, humiliation or sexual activity.

Appropriate Physical Interactions

Appropriate physical interactions showing approval and affirmation may include:

- Side hugs
- Shoulder-to-shoulder or “temple” hugs
- Pats on the shoulder or upper back
- Handshakes
- High-fives and hand slapping and fist bumps
- Verbal Praise
- Pats on the head when culturally appropriate
- Touching hands, shoulders and arms
- Arms around shoulders
- Holding hands for prayer or for escorting young children.
- Youth Workers are encouraged to ask a youth for permission before initiating any physical contact.

At any time, these permissible interactions may be inappropriate if unwanted by the minor or the Minor Worker.

Adults Should Not Under any Circumstances —

- provide youth with alcohol, illegal drugs (including cigarettes), or pornography;
- consume alcohol or illegal drugs or misuse legal drugs in the presence of youth;
- be under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs, or misused legal drugs in the presence of youth;
- engage in illegal behavior or permit other adults or youth to engage in illegal behavior;
- engage in any sexual, romantic, illicit, or secretive relationship or conduct with any youth; or
- discuss their own sexual activities or fantasies with youth.

Responding to Concerns

Anyone who has reason to suspect that child abuse has taken place at church, or that a child from the church may have been abused in another setting, should inform a pastor immediately. Any mandated reporter (including the pastor so informed) who has reason to suspect that child abuse has taken place shall report it to the appropriate civil authority.

*Adapted from *Called to Right Relationships: Policies, Standards and Resources for Ensuring that Our Congregations are Safe Places for All God's People*, published by the Diocese of California, San Francisco, 2008 (www.diocal.org). Used by permission.*

Worshipping Community Name	Service Time(s)	Location Name	Location Address	Website
Loyola Taizé worship	in the fall, Wednesdays, 8:00 PM in-person	Madonna della Strada Chapel	6453 N Kenmore Ave, Chicago, IL 60660	https://www.luc.edu/campusministry/sacramental life/eucharist/
Hindu Mandir of Lake County	Sunday 6:30-8:00 PM (Ganesh) in-person	Hindu Mandir of Lake County	20444 W. Peterson Road, Grayslake, IL 60030	https://www.hindumandiroflakecounty
	Monday 6:30-8:00 PM (Shiv) in-person	Hindu Mandir of Lake County	20444 W. Peterson Road, Grayslake, IL 60030	
	Tuesday 6:30-8:00 PM (Ram/Hanuman) in-person	Hindu Mandir of Lake County	20444 W. Peterson Road, Grayslake, IL 60030	
	Wednesday 6:30-8:00 PM (Vishnu Sahasranamam) in-	Hindu Mandir of Lake County	20444 W. Peterson Road, Grayslake, IL 60030	
	Thursday 6:30-8:00 PM (Sarva Dev) in-person	Hindu Mandir of Lake County	20444 W. Peterson Road, Grayslake, IL 60030	
	Friday 6:30-8:00 PM (Lalitha Sahasranamam) in-person	Hindu Mandir of Lake County	20444 W. Peterson Road, Grayslake, IL 60030	
	Saturday 9:00-11:00 AM (Balaki Suprabhatam) in-	Hindu Mandir of Lake County	20444 W. Peterson Road, Grayslake, IL 60030	
Friendship Presbyterian Church	Sundays, 10:00 AM in-person	Friendship Presbyterian Church	5150 N. Northwest Highway, Chicago, IL 60630	http://fpcchicago.org/?fbclid=IwAR3RWti5nZKQyg7zxILwIV_LHlaqf0YSfk5DeNWjQ
Congregation Or Shalom	Fridays, 7:00 PM in-person	Congregation Or Shalom	21 W. Hawthorn Parkway, Vernon Hills, IL 60061	https://www.orshalomlc.org/
The Sign of the Dove Church	Sundays, 10:00 AM in-person	The Sign of the Dove Church	424 10th Street, Waukegan, IL 60085	https://www.thesignofthedove.org/visit
Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church	Sundays, 9:00 AM in-person	Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church	1400 O'Plaine Road, Libertyville, IL 60048	https://www.saintdemetrioslibertyville.com/
Trinity United Church of Christ	Sundays, 7:30 AM in-person	Trinity United Church of Christ	400 West 95th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60628	https://www.trinitychicago.org/
	Sundays, 11:00 AM & 6:00 PM online	Trinity United Church of Christ	https://trinityunitedchurchofchrist.online.c	

ALWAYS DOUBLE-CHECK WORSHIP TIMES

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 •

2nd Sunday of each month (1:30-2:15 PM) at Green Oaks Senior Living (14595 W. Rockland Road, Libertyville)
3rd Sunday of each month (1:30-2:15 PM) at Sedgebrook (800 Audubon Way, Lincolnshire)
Lennie Blair (lblair@boxp.net) or Deb Tischendorf (debtisch12@gmail.com)

The Deacons coordinate monthly worship and/or communion services at area senior living facilities. You can assist with: greeting the residents, sharing your musical talent, or reading Scripture.

• 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 students there must be one adult. \$\$ donations are not required but are appreciated.

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

Wednesdays/ 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)

Many neighbors in Lake County are unhoused. Starting in October members of First Presbyterian volunteer to staff the PADS site located in our Fellowship Hall. Opportunities include:

Site Set-Up Volunteers (5-6 PM)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4BA8AF23A5FA7-pads10>

Shift Volunteers (5-8 PM)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4BA8AF23A5FA7-pads10>

Food Volunteers (Prepare and pack 40 lunches)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4BA8AF23A5FA7-pads9>

date	start time	end time	JHF event
9/10/2023	6:00 PM	8:00 PM	combined fall kick-off
9/17/2023	4:00 PM	5:30 PM	
9/24/2023	4:00 PM	5:30 PM	
10/1/2023	4:00 PM	5:30 PM	
10/8/2023	4:00 PM	5:30 PM	
10/15/2023	4:00 PM	5:30 PM	
10/22/2023	4:00 PM	5:30 PM	
10/29/2023	6:00 PM	8:00 PM	Fall Fest at Townander's barn
11/5/2023	4:00 PM	5:30 PM	
11/12/2023	4:00 PM	5:30 PM	
11/19/2023	4:00 PM	5:30 PM	
11/26/2023	4:00 PM	5:30 PM	NO JHF
12/3/2023	4:00 PM	5:30 PM	
12/10/2023	4:00 PM	5:30 PM	
12/16/2023	7:30 AM	9:30 AM	Mobile Food Pantry
12/17/2023	4:00 PM	5:30 PM	Xmas Party
12/24/2023	4:00 PM	5:30 PM	NO JHF
12/31/2023	4:00 PM	5:30 PM	NO JHF
1/7/2024	4:00 PM	5:30 PM	NO JHF
1/14/2024	4:00 PM	5:30 PM	NO JHF
1/21/2024	4:00 PM	5:30 PM	
1/28/2024	4:00 PM	5:30 PM	
2/4/2024	4:00 PM	5:30 PM	
2/11/2024	TBD	TBD	winterXtreme retreat 2/9-2/11
2/18/2024	4:00 PM	5:30 PM	NO JHF
2/25/2024	4:00 PM	5:30 PM	
3/3/2024	5:00 PM	7:00 PM	Note time change for combined JHF/SHF!
3/10/2024	4:00 PM	5:30 PM	
3/16/2024	7:30 AM	9:30 AM	Mobile Food Pantry
3/16/2024	9:30 AM	11:30 AM	Youth Sunday Rehearsal
3/17/2024	4:00 PM	5:30 PM	NO JHF
3/24/2024	4:00 PM	5:30 PM	NO JHF
3/31/2024	4:00 PM	5:30 PM	NO JHF
4/7/2024	4:00 PM	5:30 PM	
4/14/2024	4:00 PM	5:30 PM	
4/21/2024	4:00 PM	5:30 PM	
4/28/2024	4:00 PM	5:30 PM	
5/5/2024	4:00 PM	5:30 PM	
5/12/2024	4:00 PM	5:30 PM	

* A lock-in and/or lock-out will be planned and take the place of 1/2 of these dates.

date	start time	end time	SHF event
9/10/2023	6:00 PM	8:00 PM	combined fall kick-off
9/17/2023	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	
9/24/2023	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	
10/1/2023	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	
10/8/2023	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	
10/15/2023	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	
10/22/2023	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	
10/29/2023	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	Fall Fest at Townander's barn
11/5/2023	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	
11/12/2023	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	
11/19/2023	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	
11/26/2023	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	NO SHF
12/3/2023	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	
12/10/2023	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	
12/16/2023	7:30 AM	9:30 AM	Mobile Food Pantry
12/17/2023	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	Xmas Party
12/24/2023	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	NO SHF
12/31/2023	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	NO SHF
1/7/2024	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	NO SHF
1/14/2024	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	NO SHF
1/21/2024	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	
1/28/2024	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	
2/4/2024	TBD	TBD	Stronghold retreat 2/2-2/4
2/11/2024	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	
2/18/2024	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	NO SHF
2/25/2024	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	
3/3/2024	5:00 PM	7:00 PM	Note time change for combined JHF/SHF!
3/10/2024	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	
3/16/2024	7:30 AM	9:30 AM	Mobile Food Pantry
3/16/2024	9:30 AM	11:30 AM	Youth Sunday Rehearsal
3/17/2024	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	NO SHF
3/24/2024	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	NO SHF
3/31/2024	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	NO SHF
4/7/2024	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	
4/14/2024	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	
4/21/2024	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	
4/28/2024	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	
5/5/2024	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	
5/12/2024	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	

* A lock-in and/or lock-out will be planned and take the place of 1/2 of these dates.

date	lesson / session	topic	location	notes
8/25/2023			Covenant Harbor	CONFIRMATION RETREAT
8/26/2023			Covenant Harbor	CONFIRMATION RETREAT
8/27/2023			Fellowship Hall	PARENT/GUARDIAN AND MENTOR MEETING
9/17/2023	1	Introduction to Confirm not Conform	Youth Education Room	
9/24/2023	2	Where Do You Stand: The Gospel According to Whom	Youth Education Room	
9/24/2023			Fellowship Hall	MENTOR TRAINING 12:30-1:30 PM
10/1/2023		FIELD TRIP?		this is a great day to go on a field trip to one of the two different places of worship you need to visit
10/8/2023	3	Where Do You Stand: Meet Your Mentor	Fellowship Hall	mentors attend
10/15/2023	4	Heretics R Us	Youth Education Room	
10/15/2023		CnC Café	Dougherty Room	a dedicated space and time for mentors and confirmands to meet from 9:00-10:00 AM
10/22/2023	5	Scripture: A Mad Dash through a Good Book	Youth Education Room	
10/22/2023		CnC Café	Dougherty Room	a dedicated space and time for mentors and confirmands to meet from 9:00-10:00 AM
10/29/2023	6	Teach Us to Pray: The Lord's Prayer	Youth Education Room	
10/29/2023		CnC Café	Dougherty Room	a dedicated space and time for mentors and confirmands to meet from 9:00-10:00 AM
11/5/2023	7	Tradition: The Nicene Creed	Youth Education Room	

date	lesson / session	topic	location	notes
11/5/2023		CnC Café	Dougherty Room	a dedicated space and time for mentors and confirmands to meet from 9:00-10:00 AM
11/12/2023	8	Tradition: Church History Continued	Youth Education Room	
11/12/2023		CnC Café	Dougherty Room	a dedicated space and time for mentors and confirmands to meet from 9:00-10:00 AM
11/19/2023	9	Faith in Action: Pain to Power	Fellowship Hall	mentors attend
11/19/2023		CnC Café	Dougherty Room	a dedicated space and time for mentors and confirmands to meet from 9:00-10:00 AM
11/26/2023		NO PROGRAMMING		THANKSGIVING WEEKEND
12/3/2023		FIELD TRIP?		this is a great day to go on a field trip to one of the two different places of worship you need to visit
12/10/2023	10	Faith in Action: How Can We Help	Youth Education Room	
12/10/2023		CnC Café	Dougherty Room	a dedicated space and time for mentors and confirmands to meet from 9:00-10:00 AM
12/16/2023		Mobile Food Pantry #1	narthex	One of two Confirmation Class service opportunities 7:30-9:30 AM
12/17/2023	11	Faith in Action: The Issue of Power	Youth Education Room	
12/17/2023		CnC Café	Dougherty Room	a dedicated space and time for mentors and confirmands to meet from 9:00-10:00 AM
12/24/2023		NO PROGRAMMING		CHRISTMAS EVE
12/31/2023		NO PROGRAMMING		NEW YEAR'S EVE

date	lesson / session	topic	location	notes
1/7/2024		NO PROGRAMMING		WINTER BREAK
1/14/2024	12	Scripture: The Bible by Heart	Fellowship Hall	mentors attend
1/14/2024		CnC Café	Dougherty Room	a dedicated space and time for mentors and confirmands to meet from 9:00-10:00 AM
1/21/2024	13	Tradition: Our Neck of the Woods	Youth Education Room	
1/21/2024		CnC Café	Dougherty Room	a dedicated space and time for mentors and confirmands to meet from 9:00-10:00 AM
1/28/2024	15	Tradition: The Church through the Year	Youth Education Room	
1/28/2024		CnC Café	Dougherty Room	a dedicated space and time for mentors and confirmands to meet from 9:00-10:00 AM
2/4/2024	16	Tradition: The Priesthood of All Believers	Youth Education Room	
2/4/2024		CnC Café	Dougherty Room	a dedicated space and time for mentors and confirmands to meet from 9:00-10:00 AM
2/11/2024		NO PROGRAMMING		ANNUAL MEETING
2/18/2024		NO PROGRAMMING		PRESIDENTS' DAY WEEKEND
2/25/2024		FIELD TRIP?		this is a great day to go on a field trip to one of the two different places of worship you need to visit
3/3/2024	17	World Council of Religions	Youth Education Room	
3/3/2024		CnC Café	Dougherty Room	a dedicated space and time for mentors and confirmands to meet
3/10/2024		NO PROGRAMMING		PI DAY PIE SALE FUNDRAISER

date	lesson /	topic	location	notes
3/16/2024		Mobile Food Pantry #2	narthex	One of two Confirmation Class service opportunities 7:30-9:30 AM
3/17/2024		NO PROGRAMMING		YOUTH SUNDAY
3/24/2024		NO PROGRAMMING		SPRING BREAK
3/31/2024		NO PROGRAMMING		EASTER
4/7/2024	20	Where Do You Stand: Where Do You Go from	Youth Education Room	
4/7/2024		CnC Café	Dougherty Room	a dedicated space and time for mentors and confirmands to meet from 9:00-10:00 AM
4/14/2024	18	Where Do You Stand: The Power to Choose	Fellowship Hall	mentors attend
5/5/2024			Fellowship Hall	CONFIRMATION LUNCHEON & CONFIRMAND EXAMINATION BY SESSION 12:00-2:00 PM
5/11/2024			Chapel	ICONFIRM REHEARSAL 1:00-2:00 PM
5/11/2024			Chapel	ICONFIRM CELEBRATION 2:00-4:00 PM
5/19/2024			Social Hall	CONFIRMATION REHEARSAL 9:30 AM
5/19/2024			Sanctuary	CONFIRMATION 10:00 AM

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Student Responsibility Handy Checklist

Confirmation Sessions (18 total)

Sundays, 11:15 AM-12:00 PM

- September 17, 2023
- September 24, 2023
- October 8, 2023
- October 15, 2023
- October 22, 2023
- October 29, 2023
- November 5, 2023
- November 12, 2023
- November 19, 2023
- December 10, 2023
- December 17, 2023
- January 14, 2024
- January 21, 2024
- January 28, 2024
- February 4, 2024
- March 3, 2024
- April 7, 2024
- April 14, 2024

Other Important Dates

- Confirmation Luncheon: Sunday, May 5, 2024
12:00-2:00 PM
- iConfirm* Rehearsal: Saturday, May 11, 2024 1:00-
2:00 PM
- iConfirm* Service and Celebration: Saturday, May
11, 2024 2:00-4:00 PM
- Confirmation Rehearsal: Sunday, May 19, 2024
9:30 AM
- Confirmation Service: Sunday, May 19, 2024
10:00 AM

Field Trips (2 minimum)

Your choice

- Field Trip 1 _____
- Field Trip 2 _____
- Field Trip 3 _____
- reporting to Nicole about field trip experiences

Worship Participation / Leadership (2 minimum)

- Youth Sunday, March 17, 2024
- Maundy Thursday, March 28, 2024
- Other: _____
- Other: _____

Community Service (2 minimum)

With Confirmation Class Peers

7:30-9:30 AM

- Mobile Food Pantry, December 16,
2023
- Mobile Food Pantry, March 16, 2024

With Mentor

- Your Choice: _____

JHF/SHF Gatherings (4 minimum)

Your choice

- Date 1 _____
- Date 2 _____
- Date 3 _____
- Date 4 _____
- Date 5 _____
- Date 6 _____

Bible Passage Memorization

At least 10 verses in length

- _____