

Confirmation Class of 2019

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church

Informational Packet



Confirmation is a sacred time for youth to explore their faith amongst a group of supportive peers and adults. Let's take this leap of faith together!

*"Faith is the assurance of things hoped for,
the conviction of things not seen."
-Hebrews 11:1*

Dear Youth & Parents,

12/9/18

We are excited to take this leap of faith together!

Wishing you blessings this Advent season!! I am excited to share that Confirmation 2019 is coming up (this coming January – May) and it would be a joy to have you participate in the class! Every other year, 8th – 12th grade youth are invited to begin this semester-long journey toward confirmation. Omar Bolivar, Margaret Tierney, Paul Tierney and I will be teaching and this is definitely one of our highlights at GCPC!

Our Confirmation theme this year is “Leap of Faith.” It will be a sacred and exciting time to dive deeply into the questions and possibilities of the Christian faith. We will be creatively exploring what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ and learning about how this commitment can be expressed through active participation in the Church. Our youth will be invited to reflect on where they are on their faith journeys as we leap into vital topics, such as the life of Jesus, the power of the Holy Spirit, the healing work of God, and our call as Christians to “do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God” in this pluralistic and divided world. We celebrate the fact that our youth come to their faith from different places, families and experiences. Honest questions and explorations are crucial to their lives of faith, so we welcome and encourage these conversations in community.

The confirmation process is a meaningful commitment which is lived out through weekly Sunday morning classes (9:15-10:15am), participation in worship, community service, prayer, intergenerational conversations and questions, mentorship and relationship, and a confirmation retreat and celebration. The confirmation process is designed to help youth as they discern their faith and once the program is completed, they may decide at some point to become members of GCPC.

Please sign up for Confirmation digitally or by filling out the last few pages of this packet. Please sign up by Sunday, December 16th if possible. We hope that you will join in the fun!

Grace and peace,
Samantha

2019 Confirmation Teachers:

Rev. Samantha Gonzalez-Block, sgblock@gcpcusa.org

Margaret Tierney, margarettierney6@gmail.com

Omar Bolivar, omarbolivar@gmail.com



Confirmation Information

Theme: Our theme this year is 'Leap of Faith.' Together, we will be leaping into our faith together: asking questions, supporting one another, wrestling with difficult and important topics, and growing side by side. Confirmation is not the finish line, but a significant step in our life-long journeys of faith. No matter where our youth are on their faith journeys, they will be supported and welcome.

Important Dates:

Sundays Jan 6 – May 20, 9:15-10:10: **Confirmation Class**

Fri. March 1- 3: **Confirmation Retreat**

Sat. May 18, 5-6:30pm: **Confirmation Dinner** *(with youth, mentors, parents/families)*

Sun. May 19, 9:15am – 11:45am: **Confirmation Sunday**

Youth Attendance: Confirmation requires the commitment and care of each participant. Youth should plan to attend all classes and activities on-time, and miss no more than two classes (exceptions can be made for special circumstances on an individual basis). If youth miss a class or any "Sky Dives", they should speak with Samantha about a make-up time and complete the "Sky Dive". Besides class, they should plan to attend the retreat, Confirmation Sunday and the Confirmation Dinner. There will also be a few meaningful outside excursions/service projects with the youth group (TBA).

Confirmation Teachers: This year's confirmation teachers will be Rev. Samantha Gonzalez-Block, Margaret Tierney, Paul Tierney and Omar Bolivar. They plan to utilize a student-centered learning style, where they will be engaging the youth (in small groups and as a big group) in meaningful and fun conversations and activities. They will be a source of support and a listening ear to the youth throughout their confirmation journey and beyond.

Parents/Family: This is a family process. Parents are expected to engage with their youth as they go through the confirmation class. Youth will have many questions about faith. They will also be asked to talk through some of the "Sky Dives" with family members. Parents should make sure to bring youth to class on-time (and to any other confirmation activities). Families are invited to attend Confirmation Sunday/Confirmation Dinner in May.

Mentors: Each youth will be assigned an adult mentor from GCPC based on their area of interest at GCPC. Mentors are conversation partners for youth throughout this experience and beyond. Youth should meet with their mentors at least once outside of class (perhaps for a meal, activity, service project) and accompany their mentor to one of the council/committee meetings. Mentors will be invited to class on occasion and to the Confirmation Dinner/Confirmation Sunday.

Community Service: Youth are expected to engage in community service (this can be with or apart from youth group) and then reflect on one act of service through an essay, poem, visual, or other creative medium.

Worship: Youth should be in worship on Sundays. They are asked to participate in worship at least once. This can be as a liturgist, sound assistant, usher, etc. They also must turn in four worship worksheets (once a month). Worship worksheets contain a few reflective questions to answer during worship.

"Sky Dives": Youth are asked to complete all weekly "Sky Dives": these are take home challenges to be turned in at the start of Confirmation class on Sundays. Each "sky dive" will be a fun and creative way for youth to explore scripture and the topics that we are discussing in class. They will also complete a Statement of Faith at the end of Confirmation, where they will articulate what their beliefs at this point on their faith journeys.

Some Topics Covered: The Trinity (God, Jesus, Holy Spirit), Worship and Sacraments (Baptism, Communion), God's Word (the Bible), Presbyterian History and Polity, Christian living (prayer, mission, etc.), Interfaith Dialogue, Personal Belief (Faith statements).

The completion of confirmation: The evening before Confirmation Sunday, youth and their families, mentors, and teachers will have a dinner to celebrate the completion of the class. On Confirmation Sunday, we will recognize the youth before and during worship. This year, we are doing things a bit differently and youth will be invited to become "confirmed"/join the church at any point once completing the class. Youth who have not yet been baptized will need to be baptized before joining.

Concerns & Questions: If parents or youth have any questions or concerns along the way, they should not keep these things to themselves. They should speak directly with any of the confirmation teachers, who will do their very best to address any needs.

Working Schedule

January

Sunday, Jan 6, 9:15-10:10am

Sunday, Jan 13, 9:15-10:10am

Sunday, Jan 20: No class (Youth Group Winter Mission Trip)

Sunday, Jan 27, 9:15-10:10am

February

Sunday, Feb 3, 9:15-10:10am

Sunday, Feb 10, 9:15-10:10am

Sunday, Feb 17, 9:15-10:10am

Sunday, Feb 24, 9:15-10:10am

March

***Friday, March 1 – Sunday March 3** (Confirmation Retreat)

Sunday, March 10, 9:15-10:10am

Sunday, March 17, 9:15-10:10am

Sunday, March 24, 9:15-10:10am

Sunday, March 31, 9:15-10:10am

April

Sunday, April 7, 9:15-10:10am

Sunday, April 14: No class (Spring Break)

Sunday, April 21: No class (Easter)

Sunday, April 28, 9:15-10:10am

May

Sunday, May 5, 9:15-10:10am

Sunday, May 12, 9:15-10:10am

***Saturday, May 18, 5:00-6:30pm** Confirmation Dinner

Sun. May 19, 9:15-10:10 & 10:45: Confirmation Sunday

****Please note:** There will be a few more meaningful youth group outside excursions/service projects that we will ask the youth to attend (TBA).*



Registration Form Page 1

Confirmation class of 2019

Please intend to turn in this Registration form and Covenant to Rev. Samantha's mailbox by Sunday, December 16th.

Youth Name:

Age/Grade:

Email:

Cell phone:

Parent(s) Name(s):

Email(s):

Cell phone(s)

Please indicate attendance for the following important dates:

Confirmation Retreat (March 1-3) ____

Confirmation Dinner (May 18) ____

Confirmation Sunday (May 19) ____

Any other notes to share:



Registration Form Page 2

MENTORS

Each Confirmation youth will be assigned a mentor. This year, we will connect our youth to mentors involved in areas of church life that are of interest to your youth. To help with this process, please select which three areas would be most of interest to you (please list them in order of preference (1 - 1st choice, 2- second choice, 3 - third choice)).

- ☐ Environment (Garden Team, Green Team)
- ☐ Immigration (Sanctuary Team, Padrino Team)
- ☐ Racial Justice (PART: Power and Race Team)
- ☐ Service (SERVE Council, Guatemala Sister Church, Ministry Partners)
- ☐ Property & Safety (Property Council)
- ☐ Worship (Worship Council, Sound Booth, Choir)
- ☐ Finance & Stewardship (Finance Council, Stewardship Committee)
- ☐ Education (Children, Youth & Families Committee, Adult Education Committee)
- ☐ Other



Registration Form Page 3

Youth Covenant

With God's guidance and love,

I, _____, commit to being part of the Confirmation class of 2019 at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church.

* I promise to attend all activities, the retreat, and Sunday School classes each week (unless communicated with and agreed upon by Rev. Samantha).

* I will take all assignments seriously, as well as fully and respectfully engage in conversations with my peers, mentors, parents, and teachers.

* I will not miss more than two classes and make up any missed "sky dives".

* I will actively pursue a deeper faith, while being honest about my feelings, thoughts, beliefs, doubts, and questions along this journey.

* I will pray for myself and for my peers as we seek to grow in faith together and support one another. I will express any concerns to my confirmation teachers.

Signed: _____

Parent(s) Covenant

As a parent(s) with God's guidance and love,

I(We), _____, will encourage, nurture, challenge, and pray for my(our) youth as he/she participates in Confirmation.

* I promise to help make sure that my youth attends all activities and classes on-time and encourage him/her to thoughtfully complete all related assignments (unless communicated with and agreed upon by Rev. Samantha).

* I will support my youth throughout this sacred process, and listen to his/her feelings, thoughts, beliefs, doubts, and questions.

* I will express any concerns that arise to the confirmation teachers.

* I will continue or begin my own pursuit of a deeper faith for myself and my family, as my youth does the same.

Signed: _____/_____