

first united methodist church
Richardson

**Confirmation
Information Booklet
2026-27**

Contact Information

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What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is a time for students to explore and grow in their Christian faith as they prepare to publicly affirm their baptismal vows and commitment to follow Jesus. Through learning, discussion, service, worship, and community, students engage with the foundations of the Christian faith and United Methodist tradition while considering what it means to live as a disciple of Christ. Confirmation is not a sacrament, but rather a Christian practice that offers students the opportunity to make their faith their own.

The Confirmation journey culminates in a worship service where students publicly profess their faith and become members of First United Methodist Church Richardson.

What is the Confirmation class or program?

The purpose of a confirmation class or program is to prepare the person to respond to God's grace and to take up the responsibilities of Christian discipleship. This preparation is not just informational, but formational. The class will cover what it means to be a Christian, what we believe as a church, how we are to live our lives, what our church history and heritage are and more! Our church believes seventh graders are old enough to contribute to the life of our congregation and to live out their faith in the world.

What is the Confirmation Worship Service?

The purpose of the confirmation service is to give the person the opportunity to *respond to God's call to discipleship* and to *publicly respond and profess the faith*.

Do you have to be baptized to be confirmed?

Yes, because you are a Christian disciple first and then a member of a church. If the student has not yet been baptized and plans to be confirmed, the student may be baptized during any church service. Infant dedication is not the same as the sacrament of baptism. Baptism must have been administered in a congregation recognizing that it is the act of God through the grace of Jesus Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit. Please contact Claire Methvin in the church office, cmethvin@fumcr.com or 972-996-0122, to discuss and schedule. The confirmation curriculum will cover the topic of baptism in the spring and our church offers baptism classes led by ministers each month. We also offer an Easter Eve baptismal service that your student may participate in.

Confirmation Curriculum

Every week, the curriculum will provide students with practical tools to help them grow in their faith. Each lesson is designed to help students explore and respond to a common, foundational question about faith, with a new question introduced each week. If you have an older child who has completed confirmation in the past, you may notice that this is a new curriculum. This change is part of our ongoing effort to strengthen the Confirmation experience and deepen its impact on our students.

Below are some of the questions that confirmands will explore throughout the year:

- What is Confirmation?
- What is Grace?
- What is God Telling Me?
- How do Science and Faith Interact?
- How am I Supposed to Live my Life?

Confirmation Expectations:

- **At least 85% attendance (22 classes) at Sunday morning Confirmation classes** at 9:45 – 10:45 a.m (we understand special holidays, blended families, athletics, and scouts, but appreciate knowing your student's situations) .
- **At least 85% attendance (22 days) in Sunday morning worship** (make sure your student registers their worship attendance each Sunday).
- **Participating in Worship at least once in Modern or Traditional Service** (this could be greeting, serving communion, reading the Scripture, leading the Lord's Prayer or Apostle's Creed in either – opportunities will be communicated throughout the year) Confirmands will have special opportunities to serve in worship on November 8, 2026 and March 7, 2027.
- **Participation** in alternative worship opportunities (visits to other churches and religious spaces, etc.)
- **Eight hours of mission/volunteer time** within the church and/or in the community (see options and suggestions). Average of 1 hour a month.
- **Memorization** of Bible passages. (see memorization list)

As you can imagine, Confirmation requires commitment on the part of the parent as well as the young person; this process is designed to help young people prepare for the important decision of Christian discipleship and professing membership. At Confirmation Worship each seventh grader will have the opportunity to profess his or her personal decision; participation in Confirmation classes does not imply that one must be confirmed. Such a decision is quite personal, aided by thoughtful prayer and conversation with parent(s).

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact a member of the Youth Ministry team.

Confirmation Important Dates

August

2	Youth Open House
7-9	Really Living Retreat
16	Journey Youth Choir Kick-Off
23	Icecreamapalooza

September

13	Confirmation Sunday School Begins/UMYF Kickoff
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November

8	Confirmands Serve in Worship (Traditional and Modern)
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January

15-17	Confirmation Retreat (runs parallel to Chi Alpha Retreat)
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March

7	Confirmands Serve in Worship (Traditional and Modern)
27	Easter Eve Baptism Service

April

4	Confirmation Worship Rehearsal
11	Confirmation Brunch/Confirmation Worship Service

MANDATORY DATES

Confirmation Worship Rehearsal:

Sunday, April 4, 12pm

Confirmation Worship Service & Membership Recognition:

Sunday, April 11, 5:00 pm

(Confirmation Brunch on April 11 at 9:45am)

Please also refer to our website at www.fumcr.com/confirmation

Confirmation Memory Work

Committing Scriptures and other resources to memory is a way to internalize the wonderful promises of God. Students will review in class throughout the year.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen. **Know by: October 18**

Jeremiah 17:7-8

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. **Know by: November 15**

Micah 6:8

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? **Know by: January 24**

Mark 12:29-31

Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." **Know by: February 14**

United Methodist Youth Fellowship Benediction (Numbers 6:24-26)

May the Lord Bless you and keep you, May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen. **This will be learned in class.**

Confirmands in Worship

We would like for the Confirmands to participate in a worship service at least once this year. These are many ways in which a Confirmand can be a part of worship service, either as needed or on a regular basis. Confirmands can participate in either Traditional or Modern services. Confirmands will have special opportunities to serve in worship on November 8, 2026 and March 7, 2027.

Worship Participant: Traditional or Modern

Throughout the year of Confirmation, our kids will have the opportunity to participate in the worship service either in traditional or modern. They can volunteer to lead the Lord's Prayer, the Apostle's Creed, read the Scripture, serve Communion, or other things as needed. Opportunities will be published as the year progresses. Confirmands will have special opportunities to serve in worship on November 8, 2026 and March 7, 2027.

Greeters

The goal is simple - make people feel welcome at our church! You will be paired with an adult to welcome worshippers to morning services. It's important that you smile, look people in the eye, give them a firm handshake, and say "Good Morning!" Keep in mind that as a greeter, you help our guests form their first impression of grace and are a reflection of our church. Contact Bethani Blair, bblair@fumcr.com for more information.

Journey Youth Choir

Journey Youth Choir is made up of 7th through 12th graders and rehearses on Sundays from 3:45-5:15 p.m. The choir occasionally sings in various worship services, but most often is the lead choir for the 8:45 service in the Sanctuary. If you are interested, please contact Lauren Harrison, lharrison@fumcr.com. You can register at fumcr.com/music_youth

Church and Community Volunteer Ideas

Confirmation 2026-27

Church:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Service hours</u>
Pancake Flip	October 4, 2026	1-5
Fall Family FunFest	October 25, 2026	1-3
Confirmands in Worship	November 8, 2026	1
Advent Workshop	November 29, 2026	2
Confirmands in Worship	March 7, 2027	1
Easter Egg Hunt	March 21, 2027	1-2
Greeter Assistant w/ Adult	Contact Bethani Blair	.5
Usher Assistant w/ Adult	Contact Bethani Blair	.5
Youth Choir	Contact Lauren Harrison	3

Community:

- Make treats for someone on the CARE list or a church staff person - 1 hour
Contact Karen Varner, kvarner@fumcr.com
- Visit a member of the church in Nursing Care - 1 hour
Contact Karen Varner, kvarner@fumcr.com
- Volunteer with Network of Community Ministries
- Random Acts of Kindness: Do something nice for someone and don't let them know (but you have to tell us all about it!) 30 minutes to 1 hour awarded depending on the act.
- School: Honor Society, or other special committees in school that work for the benefit and welfare of the student body and staff. This task must last the entire school year. 1 hour
- Pet sit or babysit for family or neighbor without taking compensation of any kind. 30 minutes to 1 hour will be awarded depending on the act.
- Help a neighbor: Take newspaper to front porch OR help set out trash/re-cycling on a consistent basis without taking compensation of any kind. 30 minutes to 1 hour awarded depending on the act.
- Miscellaneous opportunities throughout the year. *Contact Kim Curtis, kcurtis@fumcr.com*

Prayer Partners

Prayer Partners are paired with a confirmand to provide consistent encouragement, prayer, and a compassionate adult presence throughout the confirmation year (September–April). They support their confirmand spiritually by praying for them and sending three letters of encouragement throughout the year.

Prayer Partners are also invited to attend key moments in the confirmation process, including one of the first confirmation classes, the Confirmation Brunch, and the Confirmation Worship Service. These shared experiences offer meaningful opportunities to celebrate and walk alongside the confirmand as they affirm their faith and become members of FUMCR.

A Note to Parents/Grandparents...

Family members are the number one faith influence in a child's life and are just as much Confirmation teachers as the volunteers and the pastors. Confirmands are expected to be at their class and to events in a timely manner. Do not allow your Confirmand to miss Confirmation without good reason. Please make Confirmation a priority in your family's life this year. Confirmation is what you make it. If it is important to you, it will be important to your child.

Weekly Emails to Keep You Up to Date

Weekly emails will be sent to each Confirmand family, keeping you up to date on upcoming activities and expectations for the next week. These emails are very important to keep you informed and your Confirmand involved. If you would like to have this information sent to an email address other than what you listed on your registration, please update your email address with Kim Curtis at kcurtis@fumcr.com. The weekly emails will be sent from kcurtis@fumcr.com; to help prevent these emails from going to your spam folder, please add this address to your email contacts.

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