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Page 2
Welcome to Confirmation

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

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

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

What is Confirmation?

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

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

Welcome to a spiritual adventure seeking to follow Jesus Christ!
Calendar of Events 2019
Class Sessions are held in the Conference Room
Sundays • 8:30 - 9:40am

Aug 23-24 Confirmation Retreat @ Covenant Harbor (required event)
(estimated cost $175)
Aug 25 Confirmation Family Meeting @ 8:45am in Conference Room

Sept 1 No Class (Labor Day Weekend)
Sept 8 Chartering Day, Class #1—What is Confirmation?
Sept 15 Class #2—How Do We Know and Trust God?
*Confirmation Class attends JHF Kick-off @ 4:00pm
Sept 22 Class #3—What is Sin and How Do We Turn from It?
Youth Ministries Family Meeting @ 11:15am in Conference Room
Sept 29 Class #4—Who is Your Lord?
Oct 6 Class #5—Who is Your Savior?
*Class attends 10:00am worship—World Communion
*Covenant Partner Meeting @ 11:15am in Conference Room
Oct 13 Class #6—What Does It Mean to Be a Disciple of Jesus?
Oct 20 NO Class
Oct 27 Covenant Partner Breakfast A in Fellowship Hall

Nov 3 Class #7—What Does It Mean to Show Christ’s Love?
Nov 10 Class #8—Will You Devote Yourself to the Church’s Teaching?
Nov 17 Youth Sunday (No Morning Class)
*Class attends 10:00am worship together
Nov 24 Class #9—Will You Devote Yourself to the Church’s Fellowship?
Dec 1 No Class (Happy Thanksgiving)
Dec 8 Class #10—Will You Devote Yourself to the Breaking of Bread?
Dec 15 Covenant Partner Breakfast B in Fellowship Hall
Dec 22/29 No Class (Merry Christmas! & Happy New Year!)

Becoming an Active Member
The church nurtures those baptized as children and calls them to make public their personal profession of faith and their acceptance of responsibility in the life of the church. When these persons are ready, they shall be examined by the Session. After the Session has received them as active members they shall be presented to the congregation during a service of public worship. In that service the church shall confirm them in the baptismal identity. They shall reaffirm the vows taken at Baptism by
a. professing their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
b. renouncing evil and affirming their reliance on God’s grace.
c. declaring their intention to participate actively and responsibility in the worship and mission of the church.

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

Book of Order W-4.2033
Youth who have not been previously baptized in a Christian church may be baptized on Confirmation Sunday. Youth who do not choose to make their public profession of faith at this time may be recognized and affirmed for their months of hard work.

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

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

BOOKS of the BIBLE

Calendar of Events 2020
Class Sessions are held in Conference Room
Sundays • 8:30 - 9:40am

Jan 5  Class #11—Looking Behind, Looking Ahead
Jan 12 Class #12—Will You Devote Yourself to the Prayers?
   *Class attends 10:00am worship—Baptism of Our Lord
Jan 19  Covenant Partner Breakfast C in Fellowship Hall
Jan 26  Class #13—Faith Statement Workshop

Feb 2  Class #14—Are You Ready to Cross Over?
Feb 9  Covenant Partner Breakfast D in Fellowship Hall
Feb 16  NO Class (Presidents’ Day Weekend)
      *Faith Statements are due for first reading
Feb 23  No Class (JHF winterXtreme retreat)
      *Faith Statements returned by Kara for editing

Mar 1  Class #15—We Are Presbyterians
      *Final Draft of Faith Statements are due!
Mar 8  12:30-3:00pm—Confirmation Luncheon in Fellowship Hall
      *Confirmands Share Faith Statements with Session
      *Session receives Confirmands into Church Membership
Mar 15  9:00am—Confirmation Sunday (gather in Fellowship Hall)
       10:00am—Confirmation Class Recognized in Worship

Fri PM (TBD) Confirmation Requirement: Worship at a Jewish Temple

May 3  Confirmation Reunion! Confirmation & SHF Pancake Breakfast
**Leadership**

Confirmation 2019-20 will be coordinated by the Associate Pastor for Youth Ministries, Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein. Other leaders will include Pastors, Small Group leaders, and Covenant Partners. The Small Group leaders will be working with the confirmands weekly. Covenant Partners will work directly with the youth they are partnered with to schedule times to meet for projects and discussion, as well as attend the four Covenant Partner Breakfasts.

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

**Curriculum**

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

The PC(USA) has released a new Confirmation Curriculum after a 5 year study called The Confirmation Project. We will be using this curriculum to guide our classes this year. I trust that this thoughtful curriculum will educate, challenge, and inspire our students.

Resources that give direction to our class sessions include:

- The Bible (CEB-Common English Bible) provided by FPC
- Big God, Big Questions (Westminster John Knox Publishing) provided by FPC

**Memorization Work**

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 commandments

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

Exodus 20:1-17 & Deuteronomy 5:6-21
The Study Catechism (Confirmation Version): Questions 68—94

Expectations of Confirmands

- Open your heart and mind to the work of the Holy Spirit and God’s voice in your life.
- Attend the Confirmation Retreat in its entirety (estimated price $175).
- Attend the Special Week-end Event in its entirety (estimated price $155).
- Attend Sunday morning class, arriving on time, and not missing more than three times.
- When not able to attend class, complete the “at-home” project and return it the next Sunday.
- Follow the class rules for appropriate behavior and interaction.
- Thoughtfully choose a Covenant Partner and be open to building a relationship with him or her.
- Complete all assigned projects on or before listed due dates.
- Attend JHF a minimum of four times during Confirmation process.

Expectations of Parents

- Pray for & encourage your youth during this time of faith exploration.
- Worship with your youth on Sunday mornings following class.
- Be open about sharing your own faith with your youth.
- Model a life of Christian discipleship for your youth.
- Bring your youth to scheduled classes, fed and energized to learn.
- Complete “at-home” assignments with your youth if they have to miss a class session.
- Encourage and equip your youth to complete required assignments and meet designated deadlines.
- **NEW THIS YEAR:** Volunteer for at least 2 Confirmation Parent Volunteer Opportunities. These will include such things as: bringing snacks for class, coordinating Covenant Partner Breakfasts, chaperoning the Chicago Service Event, driving students to the Temple Worship Service, and more. A sign-up will be available at the Parent Info Meeting on August 25, 2019.
Love God with all your SOUL ● Worship

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

- As a confirmation class, attend worship together on World Communion Sunday (Oct 6, 2019), Youth Sunday (Nov 17, 2019) and Baptism of the Lord Sunday (Jan 12, 2020).
- Attend four worship services with your Covenant Partner at First Presbyterian Church after each breakfast. During ALL FOUR SERVICES, take sermon/worship notes, discuss them with your partner after worship, and turn them in to Kara.
- As a confirmation class, attend worship at a Jewish Temple. This date will be set by Temple Or Shalom, Vernon Hills, IL. I will communicate with families as soon Or Shalom sets the date.

Love God with all your MIND ● Study

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

- Class Attendance: It is expected that the students will attend all of the classes that are scheduled missing no more than three.
- Memorization Work: Over the duration of the class it is expected that the students will memorize The Lord’s Prayer, The Books of the Bible, The Ten Commandments, The Apostles’ Creed.
  - These Memorizations will be reviewed in class and leaders will note their completion.

Approved Service Opportunities

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

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

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

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

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

- Do you have an idea for a project or a passion for a specific organization?
  Wonderful! Please talk with Kara to have your project approved.
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 (3:00-4:00PM) at Green Oaks
3rd Sunday of each month (2:15-2:45 PM) at ManorCare
4th Sunday of each month (2:30-3:00 PM) at Libertyville Manor
Vicky Nicholson (vnicholson@boxp.net)

The Deacons lead monthly worship and/or communion services at area
nursing homes. You can assist with: greeting the residents, sharing your
musical talent, or reading scripture.

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

Meals specifically formulated for malnourished children are hand-packed
then shipped to nearly 70 countries around the world. Shifts are
ordinarily two hours in length. For every four 8th graders there must be
one adult. $5 donations are not required but are appreciated.

Love the Lord with all your HEART • Fellowship

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

- Junior High Fellowship (JHF) meets from 4:00 to 5:30 on Sunday
  evenings in the Youth Lounge. It is our hope that 8th graders will
take an active role in this part of the life of our church. The kick-off is
on September 10 and attending an additional three times is the
minimum requirement.

- Covenant Partners. Studies have shown that youth need to have at
least five meaningful relationships with adult church members to feel
like they are a part of the church. At FPC, we believe that every youth
deserves to know there are people at this church who love them and
support them. **Covenant Partners must be selected by Sept 22, 2019.**

Love the Lord with all your STRENGTH • Service

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

- One REQUIRED large group service project will be done as part of
  the Confirmation Service Event this date is TBD and will be chosen in
correlation with Confirmation families (Estimated price: $150).

- One small group service project will be scheduled in order to build
  community within the small group and provide service to others.

- One service project will be agreed upon and scheduled with your
  Covenant Partner. Suggestions can be found on page 12-13.
Covenant Partners

Guidelines for choosing a Covenant Partner

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

**Partners MUST be chosen by September 22, 2019. Students are expected to choose their own partners. Only in exceptional situations will Kara help a student by providing suggestions of adults to contact.**

Expectations of Covenant Partners

- Attend the Covenant Partner orientation on October 6, 2019 @ 11:15am.
- If at all possible, attend the Worship Service at the Jewish Synagogue (date TBD)
- Attend the Confirmation Luncheon, March 8, 2020 @ 12:30pm.
- Pray for your Confirmand.
- Present the Christian life in a positive light by your own example.
- Attend the four Covenant Partner Breakfasts with your Confirmand, using the time to ask good questions that encourage conversation (Talk Points will be provided) and to confirm completion of assigned projects.
- Worship with your Confirmand at least four times, discuss sermon/worship notes together, fill out the worksheets and turn them in by their due date.
- Complete one service project with your Confirmand, fill out worksheets and turn them in by their due date.
- Assist your Confirmand in memorizing the four memorization projects, fill out the worksheets, and turn them in by their due date.
- Encourage your Confirmand to attend youth group and fulfill the confirmation and youth group attendance requirements.
- Encourage your Confirmand in this time of faith exploration by occasionally, writing notes, e-mails or text messages.

Special Gatherings and Deadlines

Four times during the year we will have special Covenant Partner Breakfasts. These breakfasts are held in the Fellowship Hall from 8:30-9:40am. This is an opportunity to not only have fellowship with one another but to share with your peers thoughts and reflections on your various Confirmation experiences. Your Covenant Partner is invited and expected to attend all of the special gatherings with you. All due dates for service projects, memorization projects, sermon notes, and worship attendance requirements correspond with the dates of the gatherings:

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<td>Oct 27</td>
<td>Breakfast A</td>
<td>Reformation</td>
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<td>Dec 15</td>
<td>Breakfast B</td>
<td>Worship/Sermon</td>
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<td>Jan 19</td>
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<td>Feb 9</td>
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In addition to the above requirements, the following events are MANDATORY:
- the Confirmation Retreat—August 23-24 (estimated cost $175).
- Winter Service Retreat: Friday-Saturday (estimated cost $155).
- at least three additional JHF weekly gatherings or special events (i.e. the Fall Lock-Out and/or Winter winterXtreme Retreat @ Camp Timber-lee).

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