

# CENTRAL UMC CONFIRMATION 2017

Although confirmation is not a sacrament in The United Methodist Church, it is an important marker along our spiritual journeys. At baptism, we are initiated into the new covenant in Jesus Christ and membership in the Church, Christ's body in the world. For many, this happens when they are very young. Others are baptized at the time of confirmation.

We recognize children are members of their human families, but no one expects them to clean their rooms or empty the dishwasher until much later. In the same way, "baptized infants are members of the Church—the family of faith—but are not yet capable of sharing everything involved in membership," *By Water and the Spirit*, The United Methodist Church's official statement on baptism, teaches.

Confirmation is an opportunity to respond to the grace of God available to us, as acknowledged in baptism, and to promise to live as a person of faith. "What God offers us must be accepted in repentance and faith," *This Is Your Baptismal Liturgy* states. "Confirmation and reaffirmation are our responses of commitment, profession of faith, and rededication."

Parents and church leaders often ask what age is most appropriate for young people to participate in confirmation. The issue is not so much about a chronological age, but rather about one's readiness to assume the vows of professing membership.

Confirmation includes three aspects, *This Is Your Baptismal Liturgy* summarizes "a) God confirms the divine promise to those who were too young to grasp what God was doing in their baptism, b) they respond by professing their own acceptance of the grace they have received and their own faith in Christ, c) the Church, as represented by this congregation, confirms the commitments they make."

Confirmation is not a destination. It is more of a way station, a place where we renew our commitment to the journey we have been traveling under the care of others.

## SCHEDULE

### FALL

**Sundays, September 18- November 2 • 10-10:30 a.m. (Sunday School)**

meet on youth floor with all youth for worship, then move into group

### SPRING

**February 3-4 • Confirmation Retreat**

Bennett's River Ranch • taught/led by our staff

**Sundays, February 12-April 2 • 10-10:30 a.m. (Sunday School)**

meet on youth floor with all youth for worship, then move into group

**April 9th • Confirmation Sunday (Palm Sunday)**

8:30 a.m. Confirmation, 9:45 a.m. Brunch, 10:55 a.m. introduction to congregation

*If you have questions, please contact Jonathan at 601-831-8280 or [jonathan@cumcmdn.org](mailto:jonathan@cumcmdn.org)*