

## Confirmation Mentor Program

Fall 2024

**Program Purpose:** As our confirmation students are preparing to affirm the promises made on their behalf at their baptisms, we recognize the vital time this is in their faith development. The confirmation program includes elements of purposeful worship attendance, study of scripture and our tradition, service projects and fellowship times. Through this mentor program we add an additional element of a purposeful relationship with an adult member of the congregation. Research tells us that if youth are able to identify five adults in the congregation with whom they have a positive, personal relationship, they are more likely to continue their participation in the congregation and continue to engage in the ministries as adults. These relationships offer an opportunity for our youth to see faithful adults who live out their calls from God in many different and wonderful ways and give our youth a way to see their own lives fitting into this wonderful community. Our Confirmation program is traditionally for students in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades and the mentor accompanies them throughout those two years.

**Confirmation Classes with Mentors:** Mentors are asked to attend six confirmation classes during the course of the year. Confirmation class will be held at 9:45 am on Sundays and meet in the ROCK Room. The dates for Fall-Winter are as follows:

September 29

November 10

December 8\*

At each of these class meeting times mentors will be paired off with their mentees and will engage in an activity that will correspond with the coursework that the confirmation students are completing in that unit. Information about these class times will be emailed out prior to the meeting day.

**\*Mentor Breakfasts:** A desire was expressed from mentors who have previously participated in this program that they would appreciate additional time to connect with their mentee in a more informal way. We have since added “Mentor Breakfasts” to two of our Confirmation Classes with Mentors. On the marked above dates we will begin our class time 15 minutes early for breakfast and some conversation activities.

**Mentor Meetings:** Additionally, there will be two meetings for just the mentors to meet – once at the beginning of the year and a second meeting halfway through the year. These short meetings will give an opportunity to prepare mentors for the year ahead, check the progress of the program and to provide support for other mentors. These meetings will be held at 9:45 am on Sunday mornings.

September 15, 2024

**Other Opportunities to Mentor:** You are additionally encouraged to involve your mentee in the life of the congregation. This might include inviting him or her to attend a ministry meeting with you or connecting with the student at a congregational event. Also, you will hopefully find ways to connect with their life outside of the church. If they play a sport or participate in a musical ensemble, encouraging notes or even attending a game or a concert would be a great way to continue to build your relationship. Just knowing that an adult in the congregation cares about them makes a lifelong impact on a student.

**The Rite of Confirmation:** When students are received as members of the congregation through the Rite of Confirmation in the fall of their 9<sup>th</sup> grade year, we include our mentors in the worship in a special way. Each mentor stands and presents their mentee as a sponsor from the congregation. They are then invited to participate in the laying on of hands for their student.