

## **Confirmation Schedule 2022/23**

### **Bible Sunday**

*Sunday, August 21 11:00 am*

*Sanctuary*

Confirmands will join the Kindergarteners and Third Graders to receive their Confirmation Bibles during the 11:00 Traditional Worship service. (1 session)

### **Parent/Youth Orientation and Acolyte Training**

*Wednesday, August 31 6:00-8:00 pm*

*Youth Center*

Parents and youth together will learn about the program and expectations. Halfway through, youth will go to Acolyte Training and parents will gather for a Meet and Greet. (1 session)

### **Small Group Orientation**

*Sunday, September 11 10:00-11:00 am*

*Youth Center*

Confirmation family group will meet together for the first time to get to know each other via games and discussion. Donuts and drinks will be provided. Parents are invited to the fellowship hour in Fellowship Hall upstairs for coffee and donuts. (This is also an excellent opportunity to get a worship service or Sunday Squad logged.) (1 session)

### **Fellowship Event at Defy**

*Wednesday, September 21 6:00-8:00 pm*

*Off-Site at Defy*

Confirmands will join with the rest of the youth for this fellowship event. More details coming soon. Parents will join a youth parent gathering at Dogwood Social House. (1 session)

### **Bible Essentials**

*October 5 6:15-7:30*

*Youth Center*

Confirmands will join Middle School Meet-Up to learn about how the Bible came to be, how to read it, and what we believe about it. (1 session)

### **Halloween Party and Alumni Night**

*October 23 4-6 pm*

*Youth Center*

Confirmands will continue to build relationships with other youth in the program and hear stories and advice from returning alumni about continuing in the faith through high school and into college. (1 session)

### **Middle School Retreat**

*November 4-6 (Friday night to Sunday morning)*

*Off-Site (location TBA)*

Confirmands will join the rest of the youth and learn about the Trinity and the Holy Spirit. This activity is essential for bonding and forming connections that will endure past Confirmation. (4 sessions)

### **Meet the Staff and Apostle's Creed**

*Fellowship Hall and Youth Center*

*November 16 5:00-7:30 pm*

Confirmands and families will eat at M&M's with the staff of Manchester UMC. At 6:15, youth and families will split. Youth will join Middle School Meet-Up for a discussion over the Apostle's Creed. Parents will join other youth parents for fellowship. (1 session)

### **Faith Exploration Weekend**

*December 9-10 (Friday night – Saturday evening)*

*Church and off-site*

Confirmands will visit the United Hebrew Congregation, the Cathedral Basilica, the Islamic Foundation, get a tour of Manchester UMC, and learn about the United Methodist Church history, structure, and Social Principles. This overnight will also include time at a St. Louis attraction and discussion time where we compare and contrast the different religions. (4 sessions)

### **Baptism Day**

*January 8 1:00pm – 8:00 pm*

*Youth Center and The Pointe*

Confirmands will learn and discuss the Sacraments (one of which is baptism) and Vows (vows where they confirm their baptism) before heading off to The Pointe for a pool party and baptism/baptism remembrance with the rest of the youth group. Confirmation parents will join other parents at The Pointe for a fellowship gathering and summer 2023 preview. (3 sessions)

### **Missions**

*January 22 2:00-5:30 pm*

### *Circle of Concern and Church*

Confirmands will go to Circle of Concern for a tour and to learn about what they do. They will then have a discussion in family groups about the theology and practice of missions and then complete a mission project at the church. (2 sessions)

### **Middle School Lazer Tag Lock-In**

*February 3-4 8:00 pm – 9:00 am*

*Church and The Edge*

Confirmands will join with the rest of the middle school youth for this beloved Manchester Youth annual tradition. (1 session)

### **Ash Wednesday**

*February 22 6:30-8:00 pm (time may change)*

*Sanctuary and Youth Center*

Confirmands and families attend the Ash Wednesday worship service together. After the service, youth and families will split for separate discussions. (1 session)

### **TAKE FAMILY GROUP PICTURES**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*March 15 6:15-7:30 pm*

*Youth Center*

Confirmands will join other youth at Middle School Meet-Up to learn about The Lord's Prayer. (1 session)

### **Decision Day**

*April 2 1:00-6:00 pm*

*Youth Center*

Confirmands will learn that God is an active person in their lives who desires relationship. They will hear from other teens who have leaned on God to help them survive and recover from addiction. They will also work on their Statement of Faith and discern, with help from Beth and their leaders, if they are ready to take the step of Confirmation. (3 sessions)

### **Senior/Leader Celebration**

*April 23 4:00-6:15 pm*

*Youth Center*

Confirmands will join with the rest of the youth to recognize Seniors and appreciate their leaders. (1 session)

### **Confirmation Ceremony**

*April 30 9:00-11:00 OR 10:00-12:00*

*Church*

Youth can choose to be confirmed at either 9:00 or 11:00 am. We will take individual, family, and group pictures in between the services.

### **At Your Own Pace**

Confirmands are expected to participate in the following programs before Confirmation Day on April 30. They can choose any days that work for them. Parents will need to verify these were completed. *This requirement serves the purpose of helping youth find the program they can plug into once Confirmation is completed.* While the minimum is listed, the more they can get there, the more they will connect and get a feel for the best fit.

- Attend 5 Modern Worship services
- Attend 5 Sunday Squads (9:00 OR 11:00)
- Attend 3 Middle School Meet-Ups (in addition to the two required ones)
- Acolyte as scheduled at the Traditional Service (will *likely* equate to around 4 times in a year, depending on the number of Confirmands)

Purple events mark where parents are part of the programming. Parents are not required but are strongly encouraged to attend. Statistically, youth are FAR more likely to live into their vows if their parents are also living into theirs. We want YOU to have a place where you are loved and supported as well!