**Confirmation Schedule 2023/24**

**Parent/Youth Orientation and Acolyte Training***Wednesday, August 30 6-8p
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 17 10-11a*

*Youth Center*

Confirmation family group will meet together for the first time to get to know each other via games and discussion. 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)

**Bible Essentials**

*Wednesday, September 27 6:30-7:45p*

*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)

**Bible Sunday**

*Sunday, October 8 11a*

*Sanctuary*

Confirmands will join the Kindergarteners and Third Graders to receive their Confirmation Bibles during a worship service. (1 session)

**Halloween Party**

*October 15 4-7p*

*Youth Center*

Confirmands will continue to get to know and build relationships with other youth in the larger Manchester Youth program. (1 session)

**Middle School Retreat**

*November 3-5 (Friday night to Sunday morning)*

*Off-Site – Camp Moval*

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)

**Apostle’s Creed**

*Wednesday, November 15 6:30-7:45p*

*Youth Center*

Youth will join Middle School Meet-Up for a discussion over the Apostle’s Creed. (1 session)

Not required but encouraged: youth and parents are strongly encouraged to join us at the Community Meal to enjoy the very tasty annual Thanksgiving Dinner. Register online by the Sunday before.

**Faith Exploration Weekend**

*December 1-2 (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, staff, and Social Principles. This is an overnight at church and it has play time and discussion time built in. (4 sessions)

**Missions**

*Sunday, December 17 2-5:30p*

*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)

**Sacraments, Vows, and Theodicy**

*Sunday, January 7 9a – 12p*

*Youth Center*

Confirmands will learn and discuss the two United Methodist Sacraments, baptism and communion, and the Vows they will eventually take to confirm their baptism, profess their faith in Christ, and join Manchester UMC. They will take Communion at the 11:00 worship service. In addition, they will learn about theodicy, or why bad things happen in a world with a good God. (3 sessions)

**Middle School Lazer Tag Lock-In**

*January 26-27 (Friday night to Saturday morning) 8p – 9a*

*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 14 6:30-8p (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**

**Serve at Night at the Bistro**

*March 1 or 2 (evening – time varies based on role)*

*Fellowship Hall*

Confirmands will experience the joy of service and be a part of making our once yearly fundraiser a success. Parents are invited to purchase a seat, a table, or serve in an adult role. (1 session)

**The Lord’s Prayer**

*March 13 6:30-7:45p*

*Youth Center*

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

**Decision Day**

*April 7 1p-6:15p*

*Youth Center*

Confirmands will learn that God is an active person in their lives who desires relationship. They will hear from adults in recovery 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 Celebration and Picnic**

*April 28 4-7p*

*Fellowship Hall and North Parking Lot*

Confirmands will join with the rest of the youth to recognize Seniors and celebrate the end of the school year. Parents will join with other youth parents for the first hour and then join their youth for a picnic after. (1 session)

**Confirmation Ceremony**

*May 19 9a-11a* ***OR*** *10a-12p*

*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 May 19. 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 Worship services (4p, 9a, or 11a)
* Attend 5 Sunday Squads (9a **OR** 11a)
* Attend 2 Middle School Meet-Ups (in addition to the three required ones)
* Serve in worship 4 times
	+ The easiest way to do this is to sign up for the Youth Worship Team. On the first Sunday of the month, youth will volunteer on a Sunday morning in a capacity they feel called. This could be acolyting, lay reading, ushering, serving donuts, etc. More details about this program will be coming soon.

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!

All events are required. Youth are allowed to miss 5 sessions total. (Note that some gatherings consist of more than one session.) Youth must complete make-up work for any session missed. If a youth misses due to illness, they will be required to complete make-up work, but that miss will not count towards their total.