

Confirmation – Fall '17 – January '18
Desert Foothills UMC
Components of the Confirmation Process

1. Worship

- Students are encouraged to attend worship weekly. We are asking students to complete a "Worship Note" two times a month. Blank notes will be in the Narthex brochure rack (by the Conference/Choir room). The students will answer the questions and place notes in the purple file marked "Confirmation notes" in the box outside the Youth office.

- We encourage students to participate in worship leadership during confirmation & hopefully beyond. They can participate in "5th Sunday" (October 29 & December 31) where youth serve as ushers, greeters, readers, communion servers & media shout helpers OR they can volunteer for one of these roles on a monthly basis. Students can sign up for "5th Sunday" on the bulletin board outside the Youth room or contact Ellen at Dwight.d@cox.net

"...we can't keep on the path with Christ without the help and support of other Christians. Without hearing the Word read and preached, without gathering with other Christians ... We grow cold and the fire and flame of love grow cold and we die spiritually. We may still believe, but we stand outside the covenant in our practice."

--Rev. Dan Benedict, General Board of Discipleship.

2. Service

Each confirmand is asked to participate in at least three Community Service projects from September, 2017 – January, 2018. Please note the service projects can take place at DFUMC or elsewhere. There are several opportunities to serve at DFUMC including: UMOM Walk (9/23); Homeless Zip-kits (9/24); Shred-a-thon/Food Drive (10/21); Serving a meal to Homeless at the Prescott retreat (11/11); Foster Care Meal set-up (11/19); Feliz Navidad project (12/2); Tempe 1st UMC Homeless Ministry Project (1/15) & more. The confirmands are asked to complete a short "Community/Mission Service Note" for 3 projects. Blank notes will be in the Narthex brochure rack, near the Conference/Choir room. Students will place completed notes in the purple file marked "Confirmation notes" in the box outside the Youth office.

Putting our faith into action is at the very heart of our Christian calling. John Wesley described this work in simple, practical terms: "Do all the good you can, in all the places you can, to all the people you can."

3. Weekly Small Group Meetings

Students are encouraged to regularly participate in at least one small group at Desert Foothills UMC. These opportunities are Sunday School (Sundays from 10:30-11:30 AM) & DFY (Sundays 5 - 6:30PM). See the Church Calendar for additional small group options.

The small group promotes a sense of belonging and community -- participation can begin a pattern that can be continued for a lifetime.

4. Sunday Sessions

Six Sunday afternoon/evening sessions are scheduled from 9/3/17-1/8/18. Each class covers a specific theme. Class leaders will include the Pastor, Youth Leader & Guest Speakers. Please supply a sack supper for your student. There will be a way to "make up" a session if one is missed – which may involve reading, discussion & a short write-up about the topic (depending on the week). If you know in advance your student will miss a session, please contact Ellen at Dwight.d@cox.net

5. Parent/Family Participation

- We are encouraging parents to share their own faith story with the confirmands. Parents are asked to write/type-up answers to the following questions:

-Why is our family United Methodist?

-What is our Faith Family Tree? (Grandparents and relatives)

-What was life like for you when you were your student's age? (in general & related to faith)

Please turn in to Ellen by Sunday, September 10. Ellen's email = dwight.d@cox.net

This is not meant to be arduous – 1 or 2 sentence responses are fine.

- This year we would like Confirmation families to read the Gospel of John together. We have the Youth Serendipity Bibles available for loan for those who are interested. These Bibles have built-in questions from which you can select to promote discussion.

FYI - There are 13 “?” boxes” & 21 chapters in the Gospel of John and there are 21 weeks of Confirmation from September-January.

- Please pray for your Student & the Leaders throughout the process.

6. Confirmation Overnights

Two overnights are scheduled – the September 16-17 overnight at DFUMC and the November 10-12 retreat in Prescott. While we have no charge for the overnights, donations are gladly accepted to defray the costs:

- 2 meals for the September/Phoenix overnight (~\$15/person total - suggested)

- travel meals (2 fast food meals – Subway?) (~\$15/person total suggested)

- 5 meals during our stay in Prescott (mix of fast food & DIY - \$25 total suggested)

- Donation for the church where we are staying in Prescott (~\$20 suggested)

- Teambuilding/fun activity - Teambuilding Challenge Course (\$25)

For your reference, the suggested amounts come to \$100/person. If you want to provide the optional donation, make checks to DFUMC – mark *Confirmation* clearly. Please give checks to Ellen or place in the offering.

7. Faith Community Visits

Students participating in confirmation are encouraged to attend other faith communities (such as a Jewish synagogue, Catholic Church, or other Faith Community). Our current plan is to attend some of these different services during the November Retreat. Students will be provided worship notes to complete and turn in.

8. Story/Prayer Share

In early January, the confirmands will share with the congregation a prayer or a prayer method they have found meaningful. On Confirmation Sunday, the confirmands will share their faith story project (this can be a poster, power point, skit, sermonette, an art piece, video, etc...) with highlights from their confirmation journey &/or Christian walk to include: a meaningful bible verse(s)/story(ies) and its significance; an important concept they have learned and a prayer (their own or a one they have learned.)

Volunteers Needed

-Parents to coordinate and bring a meal to church on September 16 (receipts to Ellen)

-Chaperone/Drivers for Prescott Retreat

-Extra set of hands for service projects like Zip Kits on September 24

-Chaperone/Drivers for “field trips” (Sept. 23 UMOM Walk, November Foster set-up, January Helping the Homeless Project in Tempe and projects yet to be scheduled)

-Do we want a Confirmation Celebration? (potluck, party, cake between services)? If the answer is yes – we need planners and implementers.

-Other volunteer opportunities are sure to come up – we will let you know ;)