

Exploring ...
Wondering ...
Choosing ...
Doing ...

These words describe the Christian life.

The purpose of the Confirmation process is to help young people aged 12 and above, prior to September 1, 2010 and in at least the 7th grade, test their faith, learn of their heritage (Bible, history, local roots), and to move to new positions of faith and life - to develop knowledge and skill. ***Faith formation*** is the best term to describe this process, not confirmation.

Confirmation is a rite of the church. ***Faith formation*** is what happens over time through the intentional teaching efforts of the church, the worship of the congregation, the witness of Christian persons, and the work of the Holy Spirit.

St. John's United Church of Christ invites you to look at the church over the next two years to see what it is and what it has to offer. This ***faith formation journey*** is intended to help you make the conscious decision that the church is where **you want** to be as you grow and mature into a Christian young adult.

In this process you will have the opportunity to

- work with an adult mentor
- engage in witnessing and service
- go on field trips and retreats
- participate in Sunday School and worship
- Reflect on your journey and keep a journal

The teaching-learning model assumes that all persons involved will be learners - actively exploring faith and its meaning in the lives of each participant. It also assumes that the whole of congregational life will contribute to the teaching and learning process. The Bible will be used, studied, and most importantly, encountered.

One of the goals of faith formation is discipleship, to follow in the footsteps and service of Jesus Christ. Discipleship is a way of life. Education for this way of life needs to be personal and positive, experienced and practiced, rooted in the shared faith of church members. One way to further discipleship is to foster partnerships in faith. You are therefore required to seek the aid and support of an active member of the congregation who is a committed Christian, someone who has the maturity and life-experience to be an effective advisor and teacher, someone who can be effective with you, to be your mentor.

If you think you are ready to begin your Faith formation journey with us, please complete the registration form and bring it, email it or send it to the church office as soon as possible. (You can also call the church office to register.)

Shalom,

Pastor Karl W. Jones, Jr.,
your partner on the journey

REGISTRATION FORM

Return this form to St. John's UCC or email the information to
stjohnssecretary@hometownu.com no later than July 15, 2010.

Please Print

Student Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age: ____ Last school grade completed: ____

Date and place of Baptism: _____

Parents Names: _____

In case of emergency, contact: _____

phone: _____

Parents participation and help is always needed and appreciated! Please check here if you would be willing to help in any way so that we may contact you to determine your area of interest. _____

St. John's United Church of Christ
257 W. Walnut Street
Kutztown, PA 19530
610- 683-8531

CONFIRMATION COVENANT

I affirm my desire to enter this process of faith formation. Therefore, I covenant to -

1. Attend:
 - a. All class sessions, retreats, and field trips;
 - b. Worship at least 3 times a month;
 - c. Sunday School at least 3 times a month (unless there are special programs)
2. complete all assigned work in a timely manner. If a class is missed, assignments must be turned into the pastor/mentor prior to the next session.
3. serve as an acolyte.
4. participate in at least one other activity or program of the church, such as youth choir, youth group, a mission activity, helping with the Strawberry Festival, candy sales, or Energy Festival, etc.
5. have a growing relationship with an adult mentor. The mentor will attend Confirmation classes and events when necessary so that the church has “two-deep” leadership. It shall be the mentor’s responsibility to monitor worship attendance.

I also understand that –

1. Parents have an important role in the Confirmation process. Therefore,
 - a. worship by parents and other family members is strongly encouraged.
 - b. Attendance by parents at all Confirmation meetings is required.
 - c. All the parties of the process (pastor, confirmand, parents, and mentor) will be involved in periodic reviews.
2. the pastor and/or mentor will check my work periodically. This could include quizzes and an end of Confirmation “faith sharing exercise.”
3. There will be a required final retreat, which mentor and confirmand both will attend.

In recognition of this covenant, parents, confirmand, pastor and mentor sign this covenant.

Confirmand

Parents/Parent

Pastor

Mentor