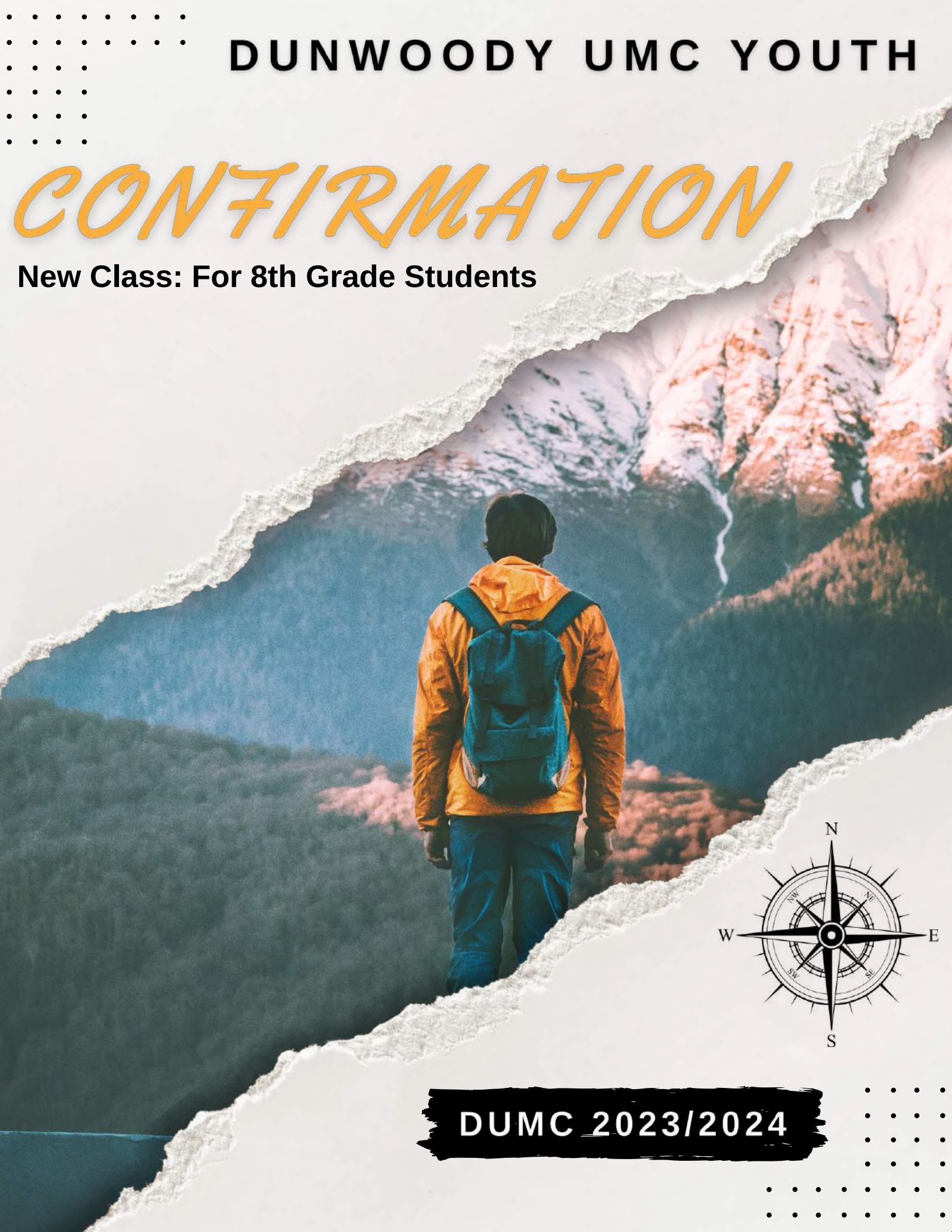


DUNWOODY UMC YOUTH

CONFIRMATION

New Class: For 8th Grade Students



DUMC 2023/2024



WELCOME!

Welcome to the 2023-2024 Confirmation program! We could not be more excited that your child is a part of our class this year, and we look forward to this journey with them and with you. Your child's Confirmation year has the potential to be one of the most significant events in their life—and in the life of your family. That's why we want to better explain what our program is and what to expect this year.



WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?

Confirmation is an intentional spiritual formation program that takes 8th graders through the history, practices, and beliefs of the Christian faith from a United Methodist perspective. 8th grade is an important year at Dunwoody UMC. After this period of formation, led by a team of dedicated leaders, our 8th graders are given the opportunity to personally respond to Jesus' call to live as a disciple. The year culminates with the Confirmation Service, wherein the 8th graders who have chosen to be confirmed profess their faith, are confirmed into the Christian faith, and welcomed as members into the United Methodist Church.

The word "confirmation" literally means "to make firm." Confirmation is the first public occasion in which a person affirms his or her personal response to divine grace and proclaims faith in Christ. It is the first public expression of the individual's affirmation of baptismal covenant. The meaning of confirmation is closely related to that of baptism. In baptism, the Holy Spirit marks the person as God's own. In confirmation, the Holy Spirit strengthens the person in his or her discipleship.

The response of faith in Confirmation involves the entire person including:

1. **Repentance:** Turning from sin and toward faith in God.
2. **Conversion:** The lifelong process of transforming more fully into the image of God.
3. **Decision:** Receiving God's grace and committing one's life to God

A child who has been baptized as an infant or a young child needs an opportunity to personally affirm the faith into which they were baptized and raised, and to then claim the faith for themselves. In Confirmation, we acknowledge that a child has reached the age when he or she can begin to assume responsibility for his or her own faith. Wesleyan tradition is clear in insisting that every person must come to accept for him or herself the salvation offered by Christ and that this commitment is to be made publicly.



SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAMMING

Confirmation Class will meet on Sunday mornings at 10:00am (full schedule later in this packet) in the Youth Lounge, then move upstairs to the Epworth Room. Lessons will be taught by Youth Staff, Clergy, and Confirmation Coaches. These class sessions are based on a mixture of large group and small group experiences.

Confirmation classes give the student a systematic overview of the faith from a United Methodist perspective— our identity, history and heritage, practices, and beliefs. In addition, the student will learn what it means to live the Christian life and be involved in the mission of the church in the world.

Confirmation focuses on spiritual formation. Our faith is not just about information. It's about being molded, shaped, or formed into the image of Christ, and this takes time and experience. Confirmation provides a setting where children can be prepared to understand the faith and what it means to make the decision to follow Jesus. Confirmation provides a safe environment of love and acceptance where students are seen, known, and encouraged to explore the faith by asking hard questions.

One of the most important things we do in Confirmation is build relationships—with God, each other, and the adults who help throughout our Confirmation year. The great commandment that Jesus gave us is to love God and each other. In all we do during the year, we try to fulfill this commandment. We intentionally spend a lot of time and effort building trust, relationships, and community.



CONFIRMATION RETREAT

OCTOBER 13-14, 2023

We will kick off Confirmation with a retreat at Dunwoody UMC, October 13th-14th. At the retreat we will cover our first lessons, get to know each other as a group, worship together, and have tons of fun! More details about the itinerary will be released as we approach the retreat.

CONFIRMATION BANQUET

FEBRUARY 24, 2024 - 5:30-7:30PM

Before students are Confirmed and join the church, we want to celebrate them and their families! On Saturday, February 24th, we will practice for Confirmation Sunday the next day, then have a celebration banquet for students and their families. Registration for the banquet will open on December 3rd, and close on January 7th.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY - FEBRUARY 25, 2024

Confirmation Sunday provides the setting and opportunity for the child to acknowledge and profess the faith into which they have been baptized. Confirmation Sunday is February 25th. Students will be confirmed at either the 9:00am or 11:15am services with breakfast for students at 10:10am in the Youth Lounge.

During the service, the individual stands before the community, responds to the historical questions of Christian discipleship to affirm their faith, receives the power of the Holy Spirit, and is commissioned for a life of Christian discipleship and service. This results in the person becoming a “professing member” of the church, committed to the journey we call discipleship. If their families are not members, they will be encouraged to join the church at this time too.

If any students or their parents have not been baptized before, they can be baptized on Confirmation Sunday (or any Sunday before that). One of our clergy would be happy to discuss baptism with you and set it up.

WHAT ABOUT ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS?

What we are doing in Confirmation is very important, and each meeting is a vital part of the process. **Attendance at the retreat is required.** If you are unable to make one of the class dates because of a schedule conflict, please reach out to Jonathan Sanders as soon as possible. Parents are expected to cover material from missed classes with their students, and **students may not miss more than two classes.**

STUDENT SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

Part of the Christian faith is service! Students are required to volunteer in DUMC worship services twice during the course of the Confirmation class. These volunteer roles could include, but are not limited to, serving as an acolyte, usher, or greeter. Students are responsible for arranging their service times themselves with the corresponding volunteer coordinator.

- To volunteer as an acolyte, contact Elizabeth Lamback at ehlamback@gmail.com
- To volunteer as an usher or greeter, contact Jenny Rolfes at Jenny.Rolfes@DunwoodyUMC.org

FIELD TRIPS

Part of the Confirmation journey is learning about other faith traditions, and experiencing different styles of worship. We will take two field trips this year, which will include attending a worship service and learning about that particular service and the similarities and differences from what we are used to. We will visit Temple Sinai on Friday, November 10th, and Impact Church on Sunday, January 14th. More information about these field trips will be released closer to the dates.

CONFIRMATION INTERVIEWS

At the end of the course, participants will have a short conversation with a member of the youth staff or clergy to answer any questions that the participant has, to ensure that they understand the vows, and to discern if they are ready to make a profession of faith on Confirmation Sunday. These interviews will take about 30 minutes and will be held on **weekday afternoons between February 5th and February 21st**. Details about signing up for these spots will be released as we approach the interviews.

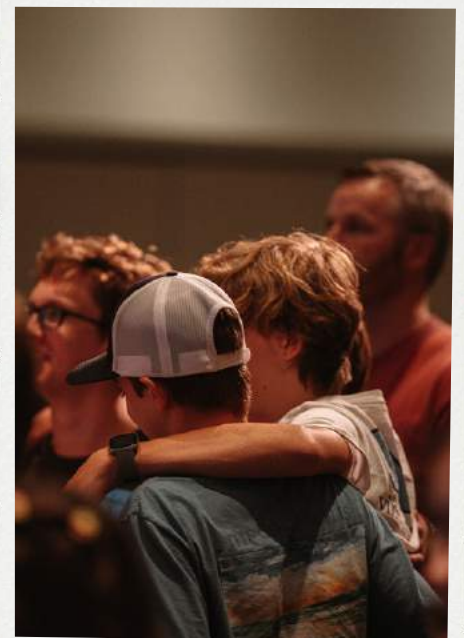
AS A PARENT,

What is My Role?

The Confirmation process is a family one, involving parents in several ways. Confirmation is very important, a sacred step in the life of your child, one that requires your support and participation. We'd love your prayers, as well as your witness to your student by continuing the discussion at home! Also we hope that you, if you haven't, will find a place here at Dunwoody UMC where you can grow, find community, and worship!



You will also receive "Confirmation News" emails giving you a brief summary of what we have covered in our sessions, what is coming up, and access to lessons so that you can be a part of this journey with your student! There are other ways you can help serve in DYM as well, so please reach out to us if you would like to get even more connected to the ministry!



Dunwoody Youth



@dunwoodyyouth



text the message
@dymyouth22 to 81010

CLASS SCHEDULE

DATE

LESSON

SEPTEMBER 17TH	PARENT MEETING
OCTOBER 13TH-14TH (RETREAT)	CREATION, SIN, JESUS, & REDEMPTION
OCTOBER 22ND	THE TRINITY
OCTOBER 29TH	GRACE
NOVEMBER 5TH	WESLEY & METHODISM
NOVEMBER 12TH	WAYS OF DISCIPLESHIP
NOVEMBER 26TH	PRAYER
DECEMBER 10TH	EVANGELISM
DECEMBER 17TH	PARENT CHECK-IN
JANUARY 7TH	SACRAMENTS
JANUARY 21ST	WORSHIP
FEBRUARY 4TH	VOWS & WHAT'S NEXT?
FEBRUARY 11TH	CONFIRMATION JEOPARDY
FEBRUARY 25TH	CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

2023-2024

Confirmation Covenant

Christian Education - Just like in school, study is important. In this life, we never stop learning, we're always students. Our faith development never stops either. We know that studying God's word gives us everything we need to know to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. So our first commitment is to develop a habit of daily devotion. Devotion time includes solitude, reading Scripture, reflecting on God's word, journaling, and prayer.

Showing Up - Jesus had a small group. Jesus mentored the apostles, who mentored disciples, and on and on...until we get to today. This is how we share the faith - human to human, life to life. It's called discipleship. If we haven't started this yet, we do in confirmation by showing up and leaning in to hear what God has in store for us, and we do this by engaging in Sunday Morning Worship, acts of service, and working through a call to discipleship. We commit to participating and showing up to the scheduled Confirmation classes, retreat, interviews, and Confirmation Sunday.

Worship - Worship is vital, both corporate and private worship. In corporate worship we are able to grow in community not only with God but with each other. This is done when we are faithfully present on Sunday mornings, at DYM Worship, and in small groups/Bible Studies. We believe that private worship is where we, individually, commune with God. This is done in various ways, but oftentimes it incorporates us being alone, in prayer, and reading the Scriptures. Some people do this as they go take a hike on a quiet trail while others find their time at the end of the day. There are multiple ways to do this but it is important that we are doing something! We commit to adopting consistent practices of both corporate and private worship.

Service - We believe that there is no such thing as personal holiness unless we have social holiness, too. That means we're servants doing work inside and outside the church. We're Christians at Dunwoody UMC, but we believe that the entire planet is our parish. Inside the church we support our ministries and missions, like DYM, acolyting, and youth choir. Outside the church we serve on mission teams and do things in our schools, neighborhoods, and communities. We commit to serving our church and community twice during worship services, and whenever we can outside of worship.

We pledge as a family to follow through on these promises and the commitment we make to Dunwoody United Methodist Church as we launch into this Confirmation journey together.

Parent's Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Confirmand's Name: _____ **Date:** _____

LET THE JOURNEY BEGIN...

@ Dunwoody UMC

Grow

*Ask
questions*

*Have
Fun*

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:

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JESSICA.FERGUSON@DUNWOODYUMC.ORG