



Welcome to Confirmation Class 2016-2017!

Confirmation is an important part of the journey of faith. Through the confirmation process, a year-long exploration of scripture, service, and church teaching, young people at Hitchcock are invited to reflect on the significance of faith in their lives. We do this in light of the Hitchcock Presbyterian Church's mission statement, which testifies to where we stand, "*in the presence of God*", and who we are called to be, "*the presence of God in the world*". During this time of really taking ownership of the faith that has been passed to them from their parents, confirmation students are encouraged to engage their questions about faith, discern the meaning of discipleship, and grow in the Spirit.

Each student will be paired with a mentor, who will provide encouragement, prayer, and insight into faith from their own experience. Mentors accompany students to participate in a worship service from another faith tradition and also help confirmation students complete the faith projects. Presentations of the faith projects to family and the Session are given at the Confirmation Dinner on May 10.

At the end of the course, students will have a deeper understanding of their Christian faith and, we hope, be ready to affirm their desire to continue their journey as part of the family of faith at Hitchcock Presbyterian Church.

Fall 2016 Assignments – In preparation for the class in the Spring, please complete the following activities:

- Luke's Gospel Study & Prayer Guide (a *daily* devotion);
- 3 Worship Notes (a worksheet completed by "taking notes" at the worship service);
- Volunteer 3 Sundays at Sunday School or other service project;
- Attend (with your mentor) a worship service from another faith tradition.

Class Schedule (on the following Sundays, 9-10am in the Library)

March 5: You Are What You Wear

Main Idea: Your baptism marks your entrance into the family of God, as you are clothed in Christ, and is the beginning of your lifelong journey.

Questions to explore: What kinds of relationships exist in the body of Christ? What are the things that Paul says we should put on? What does this metaphor/analogy mean in our lives? How might you be described if you were wearing Christ? Is there a risk in this?

March 12: How Do You Spell Presbyterian?

Main Idea: The church is called to God's purposes in the world and organizes itself to fulfill those purposes.

Questions to explore: How would you go about organizing a church structure? Is the structure top-down (hierarchy)? Is there government by the people (democracy)? Is the power of decision making shared? If so, how are the responsibilities divided between the ordained and non-ordained members?

March 19: Where is God When It Hurts?

Main Idea: God governs, supports, and redeems creation, so that nothing in our lives is ever wasted.

Questions to explore: Why do things go wrong? Where is God when they do go wrong? What is the meaning of God's providence in the face of suffering and pain?

March 26: Extravagant Love

Main Idea: There is no Savior like Jesus and no salvation like the one Jesus offers.

Questions to explore: Who is Jesus? What was/is his message? Is Jesus fully God and fully human?

April 2: We've Got the Spirit!

Main Idea: The Holy Spirit makes Jesus as present to us as his physical presence was to the disciples.

Questions to explore: Why does the Holy Spirit matter? How do we pay attention to the Holy Spirit?

April 9: Can You Hear Me Now?

Main Idea: Prayer involves both addressing God and listening for God's word within our hearts. The Lord's Prayer serves as a model for praying.

Questions to explore: What is prayer? Why do we pray? How do we pray?

April 16: - No Class, Happy Easter!

April 23: Going Out!

Main Idea: When we pray, "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven," we are asking God to use us as instruments to fulfill God's purpose.

Questions to explore: Are we the answer to God's prayer? What issues and problems do you feel passionate about? Is God calling you to be part of the solution?

April 30: Grace and Gratitude

Main Idea: We obey God's law out of gratitude, confident that God gives us the grace to grow in love and knowledge daily.

Questions to explore: What is grace, and where does it come from? What is our response to grace? Do we live with an attitude of gratitude?

May 10: Confirmation Dinner & Faith Project Presentations at 6:30 p.m. (LCH)

May 14: Confirmation at 10:30 a.m.