



Merge Confirmation 2023



Merge Confirmation Calendar - 2023

9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Sundays // Upstairs Magnolia

Week 1 THE CHURCH Jan. 22

Week 2 METHODISTS Jan. 29

Week 3 THE BIBLE Feb. 5

Week 4 THE HOLY TRINITY Feb. 12

No Confirmation Feb. 19

Week 5 J E S U S Feb. 26

CONFIRMATION RETREAT March 3-5, Warren Willis

No Confirmation March 12 (Spring Break)

Week 6 GRACE March 19

Week 7 SALVATION March 26

Week 8 WORSHIP April 2

No Confirmation April 9 - EASTER

Week 9 THE VOWS April 16

Week 10 DRESS REHEARSAL April 23

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY April 30

11 a.m. in the Sanctuary (Traditional Service)

It is highly encouraged to not miss any classes or the retreat, however we do realize that things come up. We ask that ***the students do not miss more than two sessions***. Make up times and/or resources will be available for sessions missed. Please communicate in advance for any known days that the student will miss, otherwise we realize that illness and emergencies do happen.

Contact – Chris Temple, Dir. of Youth Ministries

ctemple@hydeparkumc.org

813.253.5388, ext. 1301

Hydeparkumc.org/Confirmation

Expectations for Merge Confirmation:

- **Attend or makeup all sessions.**
 - *We will announce make up sessions or we will give homework assignments that we expect to be attended or completed.*
- **Attend the Retreat.**
 - The retreat at Warren Willis is a spectacular moment for the Confirmation journey. In many cases it is a turning point, or time of realization that becomes all the more noteworthy in why we do confirmation. I highly recommend and encourage you to have your student attend. There will be a make-up class for the retreat, however the experience and connections made cannot be replicated after.
- **Be respectful during sessions.**
 - This is a very important process that can have a life-long impact.
 - If the student shows disregard or allows themselves not to be engaged in the topics and subject matter, we will schedule a conference with the parents/guardians to discuss.
- **Faith Friends are mandatory and critical to the growth on this journey.**
 - There is probably someone you know who can step up.
 - *If not, our church has people who want young people to achieve this personal faith. If you need assistance, please contact Chris.*
 - Try to find a Faith Friend *before Jan. 22.*
 - We are relying on parents / guardians to help this relationship be consistent and meet the expectations of what we are looking for in a Faith Friend.
- **Parent / Guardian participation is important.**
 - Please have open conversations with our take home sheets and lesson material. This is a great way to reveal emotions, aspects and perception from both sides. You just may learn something!
- **Consistent attendance is important.**
 - This is vital.
 - From staying up late on a Saturday, rainy Sunday mornings where you want to sleep in, or friends wanting spontaneous trips to the beach; they are going to look at your final reaction.
 - If they see that other things hold priority more than this journey and decision, they will follow in thinking that it may not be that important.

What is a Faith Friend?

We would like to see your confirmand succeed, and for many students that takes surrounding themselves with inspiring and motivating people.

A Faith Friend is someone known to your family who will walk with your student through the Confirmation experience. This can be a close family friend, a favorite Sunday school teacher, a coach etc. We only ask that they be the same sex as your child, not a relative and involved in a local church. This person will be responsible for contacting your student once a week (email, text, phone call), praying for them and encouraging them through this journey and beyond.

The Faith Friend 3 Steps Criteria:

1. **Read over the weekly lesson review** that we will send via e-mail (they will be sent the Monday after their class). Make brief contact with your confirmand once a week. This can be by phone, email, or text. The purpose of this contact is to encourage the confirmand and be available to answer any questions they might have about their confirmation experience or the week's lesson. Use the email that I send as a springboard for conversation.
2. **Pray daily for the confirmand.** Prayer is powerful! Take time each day to pray for the student. Just to know that the role of a mentor is praying for them is huge!
3. **Attend the Confirmation Sunday** service at 11 a.m. Sunday, April 30.

Depending on the Faith Friend and the student's schedule, it is encouraged that they get together for an outing. Lunch, coffee or another activity. The time taken to meet in person for conversation may mean the world to your confirmand.

In my communication with the Faith Friends, I will be making suggestions for their mentorship and encouragement. This gathering is very special (especially near the end of the experience).

We will need the name and contact information of the Faith Friend your family selects by the time of our first class on Jan. 22.



2023 MERGE CONFIRMATION FAITH FRIEND FACT SHEET

Your Name: _____

Your Confirmation Friend: _____

Best Number to Contact: _____

Cell Provider: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

What is the best way to contact you with weekly updates? _____

What are you looking forward to with being a Faith Friend: _____



MERGE CONFIRMATION CHECK LIST

___ Register student at hydeparkumc.org/confirmation

___ Complete 2023 Merge-Parent Consent

___ Find a Faith Friend and turn in their contact information to Chris

___ Pay \$125 for the Warren Willis Confirmation Retreat

___ Schedule a one on one meeting or activity for the Faith Friend and confirmand to gather before Confirmation Sunday

___ Save the Date for Confirmation Sunday – 11 a.m. April 30 in the Sanctuary