

Confirmation 2023-2024 Big Picture

MISSION

To give students (and parents and Fellow Travelers) space to develop Christian discipleship that lasts a lifetime.

VISION: E³

Experience.

Jesus revealed who he was and what God's Kingdom was about with show and tell. We will get our hands dirty with experiences that can grow our faith as disciples. These experiences include, but aren't limited to: life stories, acts of kindness, relational service, and spiritual disciplines.

Explore.

Jesus was a person of questions: He asked questions, and people asked him questions. He wanted to mine for the heart of the matter with people. We're going to do that. We will strive for a culture of questions, conversation, doubt, and discovery.

Express.

Throughout Jesus' ministry and after his time on earth, ordinary people made extraordinary expressions of their belief in him. They did it in words and actions. They did it with the power of the Holy Spirit. We will build towards expressions of faith that last a lifetime.

VALUES

Safe space

Honesty

Respect

Listening

Questions

Growth

Giftedness

Hands-on learning

Service

Fun

Core Commitments

Worship Every Sunday

Students and their parents are expected to participate in worship every Sunday (if in town and healthy). This isn't to create burden or red tape. It's to create a sense of rhythm and immersion in the Confirmation experience—to prepare students for a lifetime of discipleship.

Confirmation Learning Sessions

Students are expected to participate in all Confirmation learning sessions (if in town and healthy), as outlined in the schedule below.

Cornerstone Youth

Students are invited and encouraged to join in Cornerstone Youth from 6:00 to 8:00 on Sunday evenings. Several activities have been planned to connect confirmation learning sessions with Cornerstone activities on select Sunday evenings.

Service Opportunities

We will have at least two missional service opportunities during the program. On October 22nd, students will participate in St. Mark's annual Mission in Action Day. The first weekend in December is St. Mark's largest outreach event, Holy Walk. Students should plan to participate in the event on Friday and Saturday evening. We'll share more specific details about these opportunities as we get closer to the scheduled dates. We will also look for additional missional service opportunities during the course of the year.

Retreat

There will be a full-day confirmation retreat on Saturday, March 9th (location TBD). More details will follow as the date approaches.

Growing with God

For many years, Growing with God has been an important part of the confirmation experience, led by Greg Binder. During the retreat, students will plant and begin nourishing seeds. Students will then be responsible for caring for the seeds until they are ready to be planted and shared with the students and families of East 10th Street UMC. Students will sign up to care for the plants during and following confirmation and will be encouraged to attend the final planting in May.

Confirmation Sunday

Confirmation Sunday is March 17th. Students will be asked to participate in parts of both the 9:40 and 11:00 services (students will need to arrive no later than 9:00 that morning). Student's families can attend either or both services in support. A walk-through/rehearsal will be held on Saturday before Confirmation Sunday.

SCHEDULE

Any changes to the schedule will be emailed to parents and posted on the Confirmation page on St. Mark's website at www.stmarkscarmel.org/confirmation.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Activity/Topic</u>
August 27	5 – 6 pm	SMUMC – Cornerstone Commons	<i>Parent (students welcome!) info meeting; Students are invited and encouraged to attend Cornerstone Youth from 6-8 pm following the meeting!</i>
September 10	5 – 8 pm	SMUMC - Cornerstone Commons	<i>Gather for an introduction to the 2023-2024 Confirmation year and to get to know one another better. From 6-8 pm, we'll join with Cornerstone Youth for a fun evening!</i>
September 17	11 am - noon	SUMUMC – Room M*	Meet Your Bible
September 24	11 am - noon	SUMUMC – Room M*	The Story of God
October 1	6 – 8 pm	SMUMC - Cornerstone Commons	<i>Gather with Cornerstone Youth for a fun evening. Details to come!</i>
October 8 & 15		No confirmation; fall breaks	
October 22	8 am – noon	Mission in Action Day	<i>All confirmation students will join together in St. Mark's annual Mission in Action Day to serve one of St. Mark's missional partners.</i>
October 29	11 am - noon	SUMUMC – Room M*	Holy Trinity
November 5	4:45 – 8 pm	TBD	<i>Relationship: Broken (4:45 – 6) then join with Cornerstone Youth for fun fall activity!</i>
November 12	11 am - noon	SUMUMC – Room M*	Israel: God's Chosen People
November 19	11 am - noon	SUMUMC – Room M*	Jesus: God with Us
November 26		No confirmation; Thanksgiving	
December 3		No confirmation; Holy Walk	<i>All confirmation students will take part in St. Mark's Holy Walk Through Bethlehem on Friday and/or Saturday, December 1 & 2. Specific areas of participation will be discussed closer to the event. Holy Walk is St. Mark's largest community outreach event and is a very exciting weekend for the entire community.</i>

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Activity/Topic</u>
December 10	9:45 – 10:45 am	SUMUMC – Room M*	Relationship: Broken (<i>students and families are encouraged to attend the St. Mark's Christmas cantata at either the 8:15 or 11:00 service</i>)
December 17	4:45 – 8 pm	TBD	The Promise of the Resurrection (4:45 – 6) then <i>join with Cornerstone Youth for a Christmas gathering!</i>
December 24, 31; January 7		No confirmation; Christmas break	
January 14		No confirmation; MLK weekend	
January 21	11 am - noon	SUMUMC – Room M*	What's Yet to Come?
January 28	11 am - noon	SUMUMC – Room M*	What is the Church?
February 4	11 am - noon	SUMUMC – Room M*	Prayer: Talking with God (4:45 – 6) then <i>join with Cornerstone Youth for a fun evening!</i>
February 11	TBD	Youth pizza fundraiser	<i>Confirmation students will plan to participate in the Cornerstone Youth pizza sale this morning.</i>
February 18		No confirmation; Presidents Day weekend	
February 25	11 am - noon	SUMUMC – Room M*	Partnering with God's Mission
March 3	4:45 – 8 pm		Inviting Others into God's Story (4:45 – 6) then <i>join with Cornerstone Youth for a fun evening!</i>
March 9 (Saturday)	9 am – 9 pm	Confirmation Retreat – location TBD (no confirmation class March 10)	Why the Church? (with additional retreat activities)
March 16	6 – 7 pm	SMUMC Sanctuary	Confirmation Ceremony Rehearsal
March 17	8:45 am - noon	Confirmation Sunday!	<i>Students should plan to attend both the 9:40 and 11:00 am services as portions of the Confirmation Ceremony take place in each service.</i>

**Room assignment may change depending upon class size.*

Additional Information

Fellow Travelers

As part of the Confirmation program, adult church members will serve as Fellow Travelers (mentors/encouragers) for our students. **You and your son/daughter may request a specific person to serve as Fellow Traveler. I will need that name as soon as possible.** If you don't have a preference, I will pair students with Fellow Travelers.

Walk Up Songs and Confirmation Video

Students will be asked to select a "theme song" that will be played when they are introduced on confirmation Sunday. Students – please think about and select a song for our first session on January 8th!

As part of the introduction on Confirmation Sunday, we'll play a "then and now" slideshow/video of the confirmation students. Please provide a few pictures of your son/daughter as a baby or toddler for the video. Studio pictures are fine, but casual or fun pictures are even better!

Please upload photos via the link on the Confirmation page on the St. Mark's website (www.stmarkscarmel.org/confirmation) as soon as possible but no later than February 15th.

Thank you for your commitment to our 2023-2024 Confirmation class! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Karla at kelliott@stmarkscarmel.org or (317) 846-4912, ext. 216.