**Confirmation at Knox Presbyterian**

Purpose: The goal of the Confirmation program is, over the course of a year, to walk alongside our 8th graders as they wrestle with what it means to be a Christian, and encourage them to take on their faith as their own. At the end of the year, we invite them to become members of Knox Presbyterian Church.

Structure: Confirmation has three main parts: Sunday Worship and class, Events, and Weekend of Decision.

Sunday Worship: This consists of attending the worship service\* at Knox, generally the 10:30 though we will attend both the 9am and Sat @5 as well. Worship is followed by a meal\* and then class. Class lasts for an hour, beginning with a video, followed by a word or two from Darin, and the last 30-40 minutes are spent in the small group classes, led by Confirmation Teachers. We expect each confirmand to miss no more than 3 Sunday classes.

Events: Several times a year we break from our normal structure in order to have fun together! We have game nights at the church, work on a service project together, go bowling, etc.\* Part of confirmation is developing relationships among the students themselves, and these events are crucial for those friendships. We expect each confirmand to miss no more than 1 event.

Weekend of Decision: **This is the only non-negotiable event of Confirmation**. If you know already your student will be unable to attend, please contact Darin as soon as possible. The date is April 8th-10th. We leave at 5pm on Friday for Stronghold, in Oregon, IL. We spend the weekend there with the directors, teachers, and high school helpers engaged in worship, events, activities, devotionals, etc. The weekend concludes with an opportunity for the Confirmands to say yes to joining the church.

\*The pandemic continues to affect Confirmation. We hope that by Fall, we will be able to hold a traditional confirmation year, but we are willing to make any adjustments necessary to keep our youth safe. Events will be tentatively scheduled, but the specific event may change (though the day of the event will remain unchanged). We strongly encourage all youth to be vaccinated, as well as all adults who wish to help with the program.

Key Dates:

September 12 - First Day of Confirmation! Registration closes

December 12 - Final Day of Fall Semester

January 9 - First Day of Spring Semester

April 3 - Weekend Of Decision Orientation

April 8-10 - Mandatory Weekend of Decision

April 24 - Confirmation Sunday

Volunteer Needs:

 Teachers: Teachers participate in the weekly Sunday meetings. They are given materials and support by Darin at the beginning of the year, and they provide a 30-45 minute lesson on Sunday following lunch and the video. Each class will have multiple teachers so that any particular parent only has to teach every other, or every third week. This is a wonderful opportunity to develop relationships with the confirmands.

 Event Support: During our events, we ask for a few additional parent volunteers to be present. We prefer to let the teachers (above) have the night off, so if you don’t choose to teach, please be available to show up to one or more of the events.

 Food: We serve lunch on each Sunday. One of the Directors will coordinate lunch, and we need parents to volunteer to pick up the food and deliver it to the church at the end of the worship service, as well as to set out napkins, plates, etc., and clean-up at the end. This allows the students and teachers to move right from the service, to lunch, to class, so we can make the most of our morning together.

You can indicate your willingness to help in the aforementioned ways when you register your student for confirmation.

Questions? Contact Darin Nettleton at dnettleton@knoxpres.org