



CONFIRMATION

@ WLUMC

Introductory Packet

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Tom Ebersole, Lead Pastor
Chris Hardy, Associate Pastor
Terry Cooney, Pastor of Visitation
Lisa Hoopes, Lay Pastor
Trisha Rabold, Youth Pastor

Dear Parents,

I am grateful for the chance to walk with your child on this significant step in their faith journey! Confirmation is an important opportunity for students to make a personal affirmation of their faith. They are saying yes to membership at West Lawn UMC, yes to membership in the United Methodist Church and most importantly they are saying yes to a lifetime of faith with Jesus! I look forward to watching all the teens stand in front of the church on Confirmation Sunday. It is the reason I began working with students at WLUMC!

There is a lot to be covered and accomplished between now and Confirmation Sunday. I am hopeful that this packet will help answer some questions, provide some details and serve as a guide for the remainder of the confirmation process. Our goal is to give as much information about upcoming events as possible, but as we all have learned, planning is subject to change in this always changing world. We are also hopeful that students and families will take seriously the events planned, and do their best to attend classes & weekend events.

Specifically, there are three retreats throughout the year (one Fall, Winter, & Spring). These retreats allow students to bond with one another, make their faith more experiential and provides extended time for meaningful conversations about their faith. We want your child to have the best opportunity to grow in their faith and these retreats play a large part in that process.

Students will also have a mentor to meet with them, answer questions and provide a safe space to wrestle through the topics being covered in class. We are hopeful that these meetings will be fruitful times for the confirmands to engage with what they are learning and to solidify what they believe.

The third piece of Confirmation is Sunday morning classes. In an effort to create the best program, and to balance the other 3 weekends away, we have cut in half the time spent in Sunday morning classes. Having done that, we would like to run class from 9am-10:30am. This allows enough time to dig into topics like Spiritual Gifts, Serving at the Local Church, Salvation, Grace, and so many more. Plus, it will give parents time to fellowship with others between 9-9:30am.

Finally, I want to strongly encourage active participation in both the youth ministry and the larger church family. At the end of this process students become full members of the church family. Our hope is that they actively participate and serve in the life of the church both now and moving forward.

I am looking forward to everything the Lord has in store in the coming year and feel blessed to have the opportunity to work with your child this year. If you have questions or need any more info, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly. (Email- trisha@westlawnumc.org , Cell- 484-432-7808)

In Christ,

Trisha Rabold

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

Regular Classes occur on Sunday Mornings- 9:00-10:30am in the Comm. Center Youth Firehouse Cafe.

Date	Time	Location
Sept 10th	4:30-5:30pm	Intro Meeting
Sept 24	Class @ 9:00am	In Firehouse Cafe
Sept 29th-Oct1st	Ignite Retreat	Wildwood NJ
Oct 15th	Class @ 9:00am	In Firehouse Cafe
Oct 27th	5pm	Trip to Local Synagogue
Oct 29th	Class @ 9:00am	In Firehouse Cafe
Nov. 12th	Youth Auction	Community Center
Nov 19th	Class @ 9:00am	In Firehouse Cafe
Dec 10th	Class @ 9:00am	In Firehouse Cafe
Jan 14th	Class @ 9:00am	In Firehouse Cafe
Feb 2-4th	Winter Retreat	Pocono Plateau
Feb 11th	Class @ 9:00am	In Firehouse Cafe
March 3rd	Class @ 9:00am	In Firehouse Cafe
March 10th	Class @ 9:00am	In Firehouse Cafe
March 24th	Class @ 9:00am	In Firehouse Cafe
April 3rd	Class @ 9:00am	In Firehouse Cafe
April 12-14th	Confirmation Retreat	Gretna Glen
April 21st	Class @ 9:00am	In Firehouse Cafe
May 5th	Class @ 9:00am	In Firehouse Cafe
May 12th	Confirmation Sunday	

Fall Retreat- This weekend is organized by the Next Generation Ministries of the Greater New Jersey UM Conference. We will enjoy concerts by Christian bands, time at the boardwalk/ beach, speakers, and two workshop choice times. More details about the weekend can be

found at the event website- <https://www.ignitenj.org/> and our own church registration is on our App & website- <https://subspla.sh/grhs58q/>

Winter Retreat- This Retreat is a favorite of West Lawn Youth, as we head to Pocono Plateau for a weekend of snow tubing, learning, lots of games, and delicious food. Sign Ups will be published later this winter, after details and costs are determined.

Spring Retreat- This weekend is organized Conference wide, and in the past has included Confirmation students from UM churches across the Eastern PA Conference. This has been one of the most important weekends for students to think through their faith along with many others students from various churches. We head to Gretna Glen for outdoor fun, new friends, and again, delicious food.

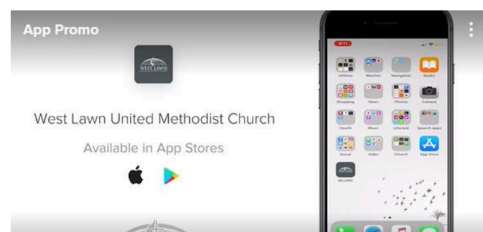
Mentor meetings will happen 8 times throughout the year, and are thus about once a month. They should be scheduled between just the two parties involved at a mutually agreed upon time. We always encourage our same Safe Sanctuary rules to be followed (meeting a semi public place, or if conversations happen over text, the parent should also be included in the text). The church building is an option if various parties do not wish to meet at a restaurant, library, park, or outdoor space at someone's house, etc. Just contact Trisha if you wish to reserve a room at church for a mentor meeting.

Registration -

You can register your child for this year's class through the app or website. Just go to <https://westlawnumc.org/confirmation> or you can use this QR code below. You can find a digital copy of this packet located on the website.

If you do not already have the church App on your smart device, you'll find it very helpful. The Confirmation schedule is located on the Youth Calendar, and we will use the messaging feature to keep you and your teen alerted to upcoming classes, or other announcements.

QR Code for Registration





CHURCH INVOLVEMENT MENU

Being a member of a team means that you rely on others, and they rely on you. It's the same way in the Body of Christ. This portion of Confirmation is set up for you to take baby steps into various areas of the church. Hopefully by the end of Confirmation you'll feel the church supporting you, and know how you've supported others in the Church.

Below is a menu of various ways people are involved at West Lawn UMC. You will need to **complete ONE item from each of the three areas, plus ONE more in any area.**

These items should be completed by Dec 31st 2022. Early in January we will work as a class to create new choices for 2023. Please have the adult supervising you sign off in that square.

Fellowship	Service	Worship
Attend Youth Group twice	Help Serve at a West Lawn Wednesday Dinner	Help serve communion or collect offering -2 times
Help plan and attend a Five Hour Frenzy Fun Night	Help for 3hrs. at a church-wide ministry event; Angel Tree, Consignment Sale, Help Build Hope, Children's Special Event, Craft Bazaar, etc.	Help greet at the beginning of a service - 2 times
Attend a Youth Group Retreat	Help serve food at New Journey Community Outreach, Hope Rescue, or Opportunity House w/ the Youth Group or other WL church group.	Use one of your personal talents in a service- sing, play, pray, read scripture.
Attend a church-wide event this fall/winter- Help Build Hope, Fall Fest, Xmas Tree Lighting, etc.	Serve our younger church attenders... Sunday School, babysitting nights, special kid events, etc. -2 times	Help serve on our A/V Tech team -2 times
Your own idea approved by Trisha	Your own idea approved by Trisha	Your own idea approved by Trisha

Confirmation Information Form

STUDENTS NAME *(First, Middle & Last)* _____

Student's cell NUMBER _____ **Can we text you at this Number?** Yes / No

HOW LONG HAVE YOU ATTENDED WEST LAWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH? _____

WHAT ACTIVITIES DO YOU PARTICIPATE IN, EITHER SCHOOL RELATED OR COMMUNITY RELATED?
(Sports, Music, Drama, Etc.)

WHAT IS ONE EXCITING THING ABOUT SCHOOL THIS YEAR? AND ONE NOT EXCITING THING?

WHAT WAS ONE OF THE MOST MEANINGFUL PARTS OF YOUR SUMMER ?

WRITE A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOUR FAITH: (No pressure, just looking for a starting point about what you believe about God, The Bible, Church, Etc.) _____

WRITE AN INTERESTING FACT ABOUT YOU: _____

Student/Parent Confirmation Covenant

This covenant helps to provide a clear picture of what expectations there are on a student during the Confirmation year. Of course we are willing to extend grace, but wherever possible, we would expect families/students to abide by the following guidelines:

1. Attendance at 80% of class sessions- Attendance assumes participation and completion of all in-class assignments. While we realize that students have busy lives, it is important to have a full understanding of what it means to become a member of the church, and to begin to grow in their faith with others their age. This comes out to missing about 2 classes throughout the school year.
2. Attendance at Sunday morning worship- If you are preparing to become a member of the church, you should expect to regularly attend worship services.
3. Meet regularly (approx. once a month) with an adult mentor- All confirmation participants will meet with his or her mentor for 8 sessions, using the materials provided to the mentor.
4. Attendance at the three scheduled retreats is expected- The Fall Retreat allows students to begin to form friendships and thus jump into faith conversations more easily because of the dedicated longer day format. The Winter Retreat will be a weekend combined with youth from West Lawn and Hopewell UMC, where they can develop their faith in a deeper way while enjoying the opportunities that Pocono Plateau has to offer. The Spring Retreat is for Confirmation students only, and is open to all UMC Confirmation programs across the Eastern PA region. It is more of a culmination of the process, alongside other youth taking the same Confirmation Vows.
5. Participation in other church programs and functions: The Church Involvement Menu helps to guide students on ways to be worship, serve, and be apart of the Body of Christ here at West Lawn UMC with the hopes that they will continue to engage their faith through these various ways here at West Lawn UMC.
6. Attendance at Confirmation Rehearsal and making time to sit down and have a short private discussion with either Pastor Tom or Pastor Chris before making the decision on Confirmation.

Date: _____

Student Signature

Parent Signature