

## *Can Confirm! Introduction*

Hi! I'm glad you've decided to be part of Confirmation. I had a great time getting to know you a bit last year at our retreat and first classes. I'm sorry it's been so complicated for us to get together much since then. I do want us to take a few weeks now to work through Confirmation, even if we're not all together at the church building very often. I'm hoping it won't be too much longer before we can get together for another retreat, road trip, or other fun, and to share how we're doing with our faith and following Jesus.

For now, we've got six weeks of Confirmation stuff. Confirmation is about God caring about you now and helping you grow into who God is calling you to become. It's about you getting better at saying what you believe about God and figuring out what you don't believe or what questions you have. It's about what you plan to do about what you say you believe, taking responsibility for your relationship with God and this community of faith you belong to—Memorial United Methodist Church. And it's about God and the Church having an opportunity to affirm who you are.

Confirmation, with a capital "C," is the first time you publicly "confirm" your faith in God and take responsibility for being a member of the church. But it's just one step along the way of your faith journey. Don't expect to learn everything there is to know about God or the United Methodist Church. Just expect to learn a bit more about how to keep on learning, keep on believing, and keep on growing in your faith and commitment. You'll learn through worship, doing a few assignments, and sharing conversation and activities with your family, the other students, members of the church, and me. I hope you'll dig in deep, ask questions, and share what you're thinking and feeling.

You won't pass or fail this, but I do expect you will give it your very best effort. It'll be up to you, with God's help, to decide by Feb. 7, whether you're ready and willing to be confirmed, to take this next step on your faith journey. Depending on how we're doing worship by then, we'll either record you being confirmed for on-line, or do it in person Feb. 14. After that, it'll still be up to you to keep learning and growing, to take the next step and the next one after that. I hope we'll still be doing that together for a while yet.

So, let's get started. Be sure to worship on-line, with your family if you can (any time each week is fine). Get started on the seven assignments. Check the "Confirmation" tab on our website: [www.gladstonechurch.org](http://www.gladstonechurch.org) to find the assignments and other resources. And let me know if you have any questions or want to talk about anything. Best to call or text me at 734-646-6922 for a quick response, or email [pastor@gladstonechurch.org](mailto:pastor@gladstonechurch.org) if you can wait, maybe a day, for a reply.

May God be with you,

Pastor Cathy Rafferty