**Confirmation Schedule 2024-25**

*Events in blue indicate parent participation.*

**Parent/Youth Orientation, Small Group Introductions, Bible Sunday, and Acolyte Training***Sunday, August 25 10a-2p
Manchester UMC*9a Orientation: Parents and youth together will learn about the program and expectations.

10a Small Group Orientation: Youth will meet with their small group leaders for introductory activities. Parents will gather separately for a Meet and Greet. (Snacks provided.)

11a Bible Sunday: Youth will receive their Bibles during a ceremony in the worship service.

12:00 Acolyte Training: Youth will learn how to acolyte. Parents activity TBD. (2 sessions)

**Homecoming**

*Sunday, September 8 10a-1p*

*Manchester UMC*

Confirmands and families will attend the service and then the party on the parking lot. (1 session)

**Prayer**

*Wednesday, September 25 6:30-7:45p*

*Youth Center*

Confirmands will join other youth at Middle School Meet-Up to learn about The Lord’s Prayer, the theology of prayer, and how to pray. (1 session)

**Youth Special Event**

*October 6 6-8p*

*Youth Center*

Confirmands will continue to get to know and build relationships with other youth in the larger Manchester Youth program. (1 session) (This may or may not be a Halloween Party.)

**Bible Essentials**

*October 16, 6:30-7:45p*

*Youth Center*

Confirmands will join other youth at Middle School Meet-Up to learn how the Bible came to be and how to read it as United Methodists. (1 session)

**Middle School Retreat**

*November 1-3 (Friday night to Sunday morning)*

*Off-Site – Camp Moval*

Confirmands will join the rest of the youth and learn about the Trinity and the Holy Spirit. This activity is essential for bonding and forming connections that will endure past Confirmation. (4 sessions)

**Missions**

*Sunday, November 17 2-5:30p*

*Circle of Concern and Church*

Confirmands will go to Circle of Concern for a tour and to learn about what they do. They will then have a discussion in family groups about the theology and practice of missions and then complete a mission project at the church. (3 sessions)

**Faith Exploration Weekend**

*December 6-7 (Friday night – Saturday evening)*

*Church and off-site*

Confirmands will visit the United Hebrew Congregation, the Cathedral Basilica, the Islamic Foundation, get a tour of Manchester UMC, and learn about the United Methodist Church history, structure, staff, and Social Principles. This is an overnight at church and it has play time and discussion time built in. (4 sessions)

**Sacraments, Vows, and Theodicy**

*Sunday, January 5 9a – 12p*

*Youth Center*

Confirmands will learn and discuss the two United Methodist Sacraments, baptism and communion, and the Vows they will eventually take to confirm their baptism, profess their faith in Christ, and join Manchester UMC. They will take Communion at the 11:00 worship service. In addition, they will learn about theodicy, or why bad things happen in a world with a good God. (3 sessions)

**Middle School Lazer Tag Lock-In**

*January 24-25 (Friday night to Saturday morning) 8p – 9a*

*Church and The Edge (location subject to change)*

Confirmands will join with the rest of the middle school youth for this beloved Manchester Youth annual tradition. (1 session)

**Apostle’s Creed**

*Wednesday, February 12 6:30-7:45p*

*Youth Center*

Youth will join Middle School Meet-Up for a discussion over the Apostle’s Creed. (1 session)

**Night at the Bistro**

*February 27, 28, or March 1 (evening – time varies based on role)*

*Manchester UMC*

Confirmands will experience the joy of service and be a part of making our once yearly fundraiser a success. Parents are strongly encouraged to purchase a seat, a table, or serve in an adult role. (1 session)

**Ash Wednesday**

*March 5 6:30-8p or 7:00-8:30p (time is set by pastors closer to the date)*

*Sanctuary and Youth Center*

Confirmands and families attend the Ash Wednesday worship service together. After the service, youth and families will split for separate discussions. (1 session)

**FAMILY GROUP PICTURES will be taken this night.**

**Decision Day**

March 23 *1p-6:15p*

*Youth Center*

Confirmands will learn that God is an active person in their lives who desires relationship. They will hear from an adult in recovery who has leaned on God to help them survive and recover from addiction. They will also work on their Statement of Faith and discern, with help from Beth and their leaders, if they are ready to take the step of Confirmation. (3 sessions)

**Confirmation Ceremony**

*April 6 9a-11a OR 10a-12p*

*Manchester UMC*

Youth can choose to be confirmed at either 9:00 or 11:00 am. We will take individual, family, and group pictures in between the services.