



July 12, 2019

Dear "New" Confirmation Parents,

We are excited to begin the process of enrolling our incoming confirmation students and arranging faith partners for them. Starting in September, there will be nine great months of opportunities to learn, grow and share our faith as we support our children on this very important phase of their spiritual development. We have enclosed the **Confirmation Program Outline** for you to review the details of our program and the expectations of students and parents.

Please mark your calendar for our Confirmation Orientation on **Wednesday, September 11 at 6 pm**. I look forward to meeting with you to kick off the confirmation year. The enclosed calendar is a first glance at how our schedule is shaping up. A full and up-to-date calendar will be available at Orientation Night. Parents are asked to sign up as leaders, cooks, chaperones, and/or helpers for events throughout the coming year, so be prepared to sign up and bring your calendar along!

To start the process, please complete and return the **Faith Partner Nomination Form** as soon as possible, but no later than **Sunday, July 28**. You will see that there are three slots for you to suggest faith partners. You and your child should spend some time thinking about who might be a good fit and list them in order of preference. Because of the need to provide partners for all students, we ask that you do not contact potential partners directly. We promise to prayerfully consider the best matches for all students based on your choices.

A **Family Communication Planner** is also enclosed. Please return it with your Faith Partner Nomination Form so we know the best way to be in contact with your family. Remember to also include a **picture of your confirmation student**.

Blessings,

Pastor Bill

Enc: Faith partner nomination form; Family communication planner; Upcoming Confirmation Schedule



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*So All May Know Joy*

# Upcoming Confirmation Schedule Highlights 2019-2020

Here's an early notice of the Fall schedule as confirmation gets started this year. Please note the dates and times carefully as several have changed from last year. All confirmation events will be on the website calendar and the new church database called Breeze. A family communication planner is also enclosed.

This form helps us know how to reach you in case of last minute cancellation or schedule changes.

Please make sure to also give us your email address as we send many notices by email.

## **Sunday, September 8 – Sunday School Begins at 9:20 am**

Confirmation students should attend the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade class weekly.

## **Wednesday, September 11 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm**

Orientation night for ALL confirmation students and parents (returning and new) as well as Faith Partners, teachers and Table Leaders. Meet with Pastor Bill and parents will sign up for dates to help with snacks, faith night suppers, driving, and Wesley meals. Registration and payment options for “The Event” & the Confirmation Retreat will also be discussed. Bring your calendars!!!

## **Sunday, September 15**

Confirmation Sunday for the class of 2019

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students should attend worship with your family at 8:15 or 10:30.

## **Wednesday, September 18 from 6:00 – 7:30**

Regular Wednesday evening activities begin with a Faith Night.

Supper will be served (don't forget to bring your free will donation) and you will meet with your faith partner.

## **Sunday, September 22**

7<sup>th</sup> grade faith stepping stone – [Pictures](#) of new students are shown in worship and you are presented with a study Bible. Please plan to attend worship with your family at 8:15 or 10:30.

## **Wednesday, September 25 from 6:00 – 7:30**

First regular Focus Night class.

## **Friday-Sunday, November 1-3**

“The Event” is back this year to the Holiday Inn in St. Cloud. This is a “don't-miss” event. We wanted to give you a heads up on the event and as soon as we have more information on the cost we will forward the information on to you. (Last year it cost \$137.00). Scholarships are available – check with Pastor Bill for details. Registration and fee will need to be turned in by September 22, 2019 as we have a short window of time to register without penalty. Confirmation students are required to attend at least one of the two years in confirmation.

## **Confirmation Winter Retreat (EITHER Saturday Jan 25- Sunday Jan 26 at Koronis OR Friday March 6- Saturday March 7 in Mpls)**

This year we will either be continuing our traditional retreat at the Koinonia Retreat Center in January or joining other UMC youth at the Conference Confirmation Gathering in March. We will let you know as soon as this has been determined. Scholarships are available – check with Pastor Bill for detail. **This is a required event for students and Faith Partners**, so please block off your calendar right away.

## **Saturday – various dates in 2019-2020; 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Wesley Meal served at Wesley Church in downtown Minneapolis. Each confirmation student is required to serve one Wesley Meal a year during confirmation.

August 31, 2019      November 30, 2019      February 29, 2020      May 30, 2020



## Faith Partner Nomination Form for First Year Confirmation Students

Return this form together with a recent picture of yourself  
to the church office as soon as possible, but no later than Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup>

Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent E-mail address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

Have you moved recently? Or do your confirmation mailings need to be sent to more than one home?  
If so, please include information on the back.

### Things to keep in mind when considering potential Faith Partners:

- Faith partners are people with whom you will be having significant conversations about life and your beliefs.
- Faith partners should be active BUMC members over 21 years old.
- A faith partner should be someone with whom you will form a new relationship, not a family member, former teacher, or youth leader.
- A list of current faith partners is provided on the back of this page so that you can avoid selecting persons who are already matched.

### Nominations for my Confirmation Faith Partner:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

- If you have no nominations for us and would like us to pair you up, please check here, complete the questions below and return the form.

My special interests include:

Any special factors to be considered in selecting your Faith Partner?

Remember, we ask that you do not contact potential partners directly. We promise to prayerfully consider the best matches for all students based on your choices.

*Did you remember to include a recent picture of yourself?  
Take a selfie if needed and email it to office@buffaloumc.com*

**Persons Not Available as Faith Partners**  
for 2019-2020

**Church and Confirmation Staff Persons.**

**Those Who Are Already Faith Partners, Including:**

Mike Knutson  
Dexter Lehman  
Gloria Farwick  
Tracy Daleiden

Brian Gilson  
Lori Goth  
Chris Highberg

Julie Bedker  
Barbara Sargent  
Jan Heyerdahl

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**Put additional contact information  
or other special instructions here:**

# Family Communication Planner

2019-2020

Help us know how best to reach you this year. We would like to know whom to call/text and at what number to use if we have a late-breaking announcement. Keep in mind that you may also call the church after 4 pm on Wednesdays if you are questioning weather-related cancellations or check the website for the latest information.

It's important to be connected to the church's database/calendar called Breeze. This will have up-to-date information, all confirmation events and phone numbers for students and leaders for the confirmation program. If you would like to be re-invited to use this, check here.

Please provide an email address for the church office below. We are happy to include more than one address for you!

Students Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ at: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent #1 Name cell number

Email Address(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ at: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent #2 Name cell number

Email Address(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Has your child been baptized?

- Yes
- No