

The Old Meeting House Confirmation 2011-2012

EXPECTATIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR CONFIRMATION

- To play, laugh and enjoy our year together.
- Behave in a manner that is truly respectful of others and ensures the safety of the group.
- Attend at least a majority of our meetings together.
- Before March 11 read, with a mentor, the Gospel of Luke.
- Serve as a mentor to our younger OMH youth once a month during Sunday School.

The following is a list of rules we expect the youth to abide by at every meeting and church-sponsored trip. We ask that you talk to your child about each one before s/he joins us on this journey.

1. Sexual activity, smoking, alcohol consumption, drug use, weapons, and violent behavior are strictly prohibited during any Youth Group meeting or trip.
2. If Advisors suspect a youth of possessing cigarettes, drugs, alcohol or a weapon they will ask for permission to search the youth's belongings. If permission is denied, parents will be called and the youth will be sent home.
3. If necessary, all medication must be turned over to the Advisors prior to meetings. Please provide clear instructions on dosage and timing of all medication.
4. During activities, the group is to stay together at all times. Youth are not to wander away from the group at any time, and they are expected to observe boundaries established by the advisors.
5. As confirmation is a time of true community and retreat, the use of electronic devices such as MP3 players, I-pods, and cell phones will be allowed only at specific times, with specific permission. This will be discussed at the beginning of our time together. If used at other times, they will be confiscated for the duration of our trip.
6. Meetings with mentors should occur in public places, such as before/after regular Confirmation meetings, at a coffee shop or local library.
7. As mentors to the younger children in Sunday School, youth will be expected to act in a manner respectful to the OMH and its teachers and children.

** If a youth violates any of these guidelines we promise to love him/her, care for him/her, and forgive him/her. However, if infractions occur we will call the parent/guardian, and ask you to come pick him/her up immediately.

I have read these guidelines and agree to abide by them all.

Youth Signature _____

I hereby give permission for my son/daughter _____ to attend Confirmation this year, including all offsite retreats.

I have reviewed the expectations and guidelines with my child, and I agree that I will pick up my child upon request.

Signed _____ Date _____

Phone Numbers where you can be reached: Day _____

Night _____

Email _____

Youth Email _____

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

All meetings, unless otherwise noted, will take place at the Parish House from **4:30-6**. This was the time chosen by the youth as being the best for homework and sports obligations. If you require assistance getting your child to/from the gatherings, please contact Brian Vachon at 223-7930 or brianvachon@comcast.net. We will ask that you sign a permission form, allowing us to transport your child.

We realize that not everyone will be able to attend each meeting, and that not all meeting times are convenient. We ask that, over the course of the year, youth attempt to attend the majority of gatherings. This is important not only for group cohesiveness, but also because the material builds throughout the year.

Our regularly scheduled meetings will be:

- Sunday, October 9th 4:00-6:00 *This meeting will include an additional informational meeting for parents during the first half hour. Please make every effort to be there, or to arrange for a separate time to talk with Brian, Sarah or Elissa*
- **FALL RETREAT Saturday, October 22nd, 9:00 am – 6:30 pm.** Location TBA.
- Sunday, November 13th, 4:30-6 pm
- Suggested Mentor Meeting: November, to discuss Luke Chapters 1-10***
- Suggested Mentor Meeting: December to discuss Luke Chapters 11-13, Review 1-3***
- Saturday, December 17, late afternoon. Christmas party/mission wrap-up. Details TBD.
- Sunday, February 5th, 3 pm – cooking for the Good Samaritan Haven, at the home of Brian Vachon.
- Sunday, February 12th, 4:30-6 pm
- Wednesday, February 22nd, 7 pm: Ash Wednesday service
- Suggested Mentor Meeting: February to discuss Luke Chapters 14-24***
- Sunday, March 11th, 4:30-6 pm
- Thursday, April 5th (Maundy Thursday) Time tbd
- Sunday April, 15th, 4:30-6 pm
- Saturday May 5th, (Confirmation rehearsal) Time tbd.
- Sunday, May 6th, (Confirmation Sunday) 8 am!

*** *At their own convenience, youth are asked to schedule at least three meetings with their mentor, to discuss the Gospel of Luke. (See next page)*

In addition to these meetings, there will be supplemental gatherings throughout the year, in order to plan for special services, come together as a large group with our mentors, and broaden our exposure to other traditions and ideas.

Youth are asked to begin their participation as members of the OMH community by mentoring the younger grades once a month during their Sunday School time. Assigned dates are below, and if any changes need to be made, youth will be responsible for coordinating with each other for their replacement. (Julia may opt out, as she already works regularly with CE program)

1/29	Jillian & John	4/1	Jillian & John
2/5	Tuller & Carly	4/8	Easter
2/12	Ethan & Julia	4/15	Tuller & Carly
2/19	Sophia	4/22	Ethan & Julia
2/26	Rachel	4/29	Sophia & Rachel
3/4	Jillian & John		
3/11	Tuller & Carly		
3/18	Ethan & Sophia		
3/25	Julia & Rachel		

THE MENTORING RELATIONSHIP

The mentoring relationship during the confirmation year is essential. It is through this relationship that youth come to know the church more intimately, and begin to find a place within it for themselves *as adults*.

While we use the language of mentor/mentee, we ask everyone to keep in mind that a life of faith is never finished – adults are no more likely to have the “right” answer than youth (particularly because there are very few ‘right’ answers – only, perhaps, ‘better’ questions). At the end of their year Confirmands will not have finished any journey. Rather, we hope they will be better equipped for the rest of the adult journey that awaits them. The most beneficial mentor/mentee relationships will be ones that are open to the possibility (likelihood) that the youth is able to offer as much insight into a life of faith as the adult.

To facilitate this relationship, we ask that the mentoring pair read through the Gospel of Luke. Each mentor/mentee pair will be given a copy of N.T. Wright’s *Luke For Everyone* Bible Study Guide. The book cost is \$10; donations to cover part of the cost of the book are welcomed, but not required in the event of hardship. If you would like to order additional copies for your pairing, please let Elissa know. Books will be available for pick-up at our October 9th session.

In order to make the reading feel more manageable, below you will find a suggested timeline for reading Luke (don’t put it off until March!):

October: Chapters 1-4

November: Chapters 5-10 (Meet with mentor in November to cover chapters 1-10)

December: Chapters 11-13, review 1-3 (Meet with mentor in December for holiday festivities, and to cover chapters 11-13 and 1-3)

January: Chapters 14-18

February: Chapters 19-22

March: Chapters 23, 24 (Meet with mentors in February/March to cover chapters 14-24)

In addition to these meetings, we suggest getting together with each other at a few other points during the year. Elissa, Brian, Sarah and David will always be available if you are in need of ideas.

Some suggestions include:

- SIT TOGETHER IN CHURCH!
- Attend religious services outside of our tradition (Yom Kippur is October 8, Islamic new year is 11/26, etc)
- World Climate Day activities (Many events on state lawn 2-6 pm this Saturday) (*Discuss the relationship between faith and politics/activism*)
- Chicken Pie Supper! (*Discuss the relationship between community/meals and faith*)
- Finding something to do together for the silent auction (*Discuss the relationship between service and faith*)
- Attend OMH work bee and/or blessing of the animals together
- Attend mentee athletic/artistic events (*Discuss the relationship between church and ‘normal’ life*)
- Prepare a meal/volunteer at food pantry
- Attend Patti Casey concert at OMH on 11/10 (*Discuss the relationship between arts and faith*)
- Attend local holiday concerts together

There really is no prescribed idea or boundary to the mentoring relationship, because our faith life fully includes all of our everyday living. The only thing we ask is that all meetings be held in a public forum. Under no circumstances should a mentor and mentee go anywhere alone. Issues of transportation are to be discussed between parent and mentor.