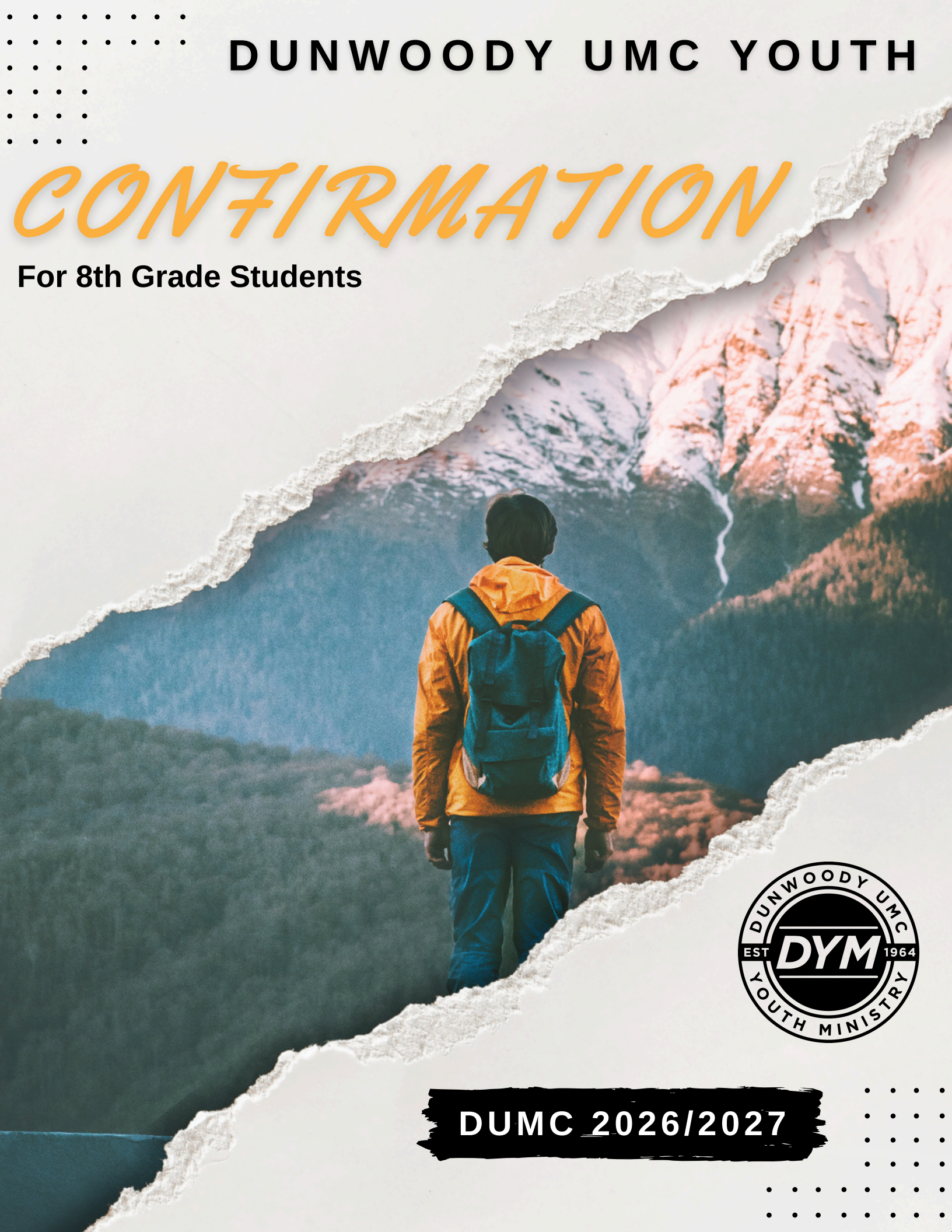


DUNWOODY UMC YOUTH

CONFIRMATION

For 8th Grade Students



DUMC 2026/2027



OUR MISSION: “ TO LEAD STUDENTS INTO A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS ”

Welcome to the 2026-2027 Confirmation program! We are thrilled that your child is part of our class this year, and we look forward to sharing this journey with both them and you. Their Confirmation year could be one of the most meaningful moments in their life—and in your family’s journey. That’s why we want to clearly explain our program and what you can expect this year.



WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?

Confirmation is an intentional spiritual formation program that guides 8th graders through the history, practices, and beliefs of the Christian faith from a United Methodist perspective. 8th grade is an important year at Dunwoody UMC. After this period of formation, led by a team of dedicated leaders, our 8th graders are given the opportunity to personally respond to Jesus' call to live as disciples. The year culminates with the Confirmation Service, where the 8th graders who choose to be confirmed profess their faith, are confirmed into the Christian faith, and welcomed as members of the United Methodist Church.

The word "confirmation" literally means "to make firm." Confirmation is the first public opportunity for a person to affirm their personal response to divine grace and to declare faith in Christ. It is the initial public expression of an individual's commitment to the baptismal covenant. The meaning of confirmation is closely connected to that of baptism. In baptism, the Holy Spirit marks the person as God's own, while in confirmation, the Holy Spirit strengthens them in their discipleship.

The response of faith in Confirmation involves the entire person, including:

1. **Repentance:** Turning from sin and toward faith in God.
2. **Conversion:** The lifelong process of transforming more fully into the image of God.
3. **Decision:** Receiving God's grace and committing one's life to God.

A child who has been baptized as an infant or young child needs an opportunity to personally affirm the faith into which they were baptized and raised, and to then claim that faith for themselves. In Confirmation, we recognize that a child has reached an age where he or she can begin to take responsibility for their own faith. The Wesleyan tradition is clear in insisting that every person must come to accept the salvation offered by Christ for themselves, and that this commitment is to be made publicly.



SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAMMING

Confirmation Class will meet on Sunday mornings at 10:00am (full schedule later in this packet) in the Youth Lounge, then move to the Gym. Lessons will be taught by Youth Staff, Clergy, and Confirmation Coaches. These class sessions include a mix of large group and small group activities.

Confirmation classes provide students with a comprehensive overview of the faith from a United Methodist perspective—covering our identity, history, heritage, practices, and beliefs. Additionally, students will learn what it means to live out the Christian life and participate in the church's mission in the world.

Confirmation centers on spiritual growth. Our faith isn't just about information; it's about being shaped and formed into the image of Christ, which takes time and experience. Confirmation creates a space where children can learn about the faith and understand what it means to decide to follow Jesus. It offers a safe environment of love and acceptance where students are seen, known, and encouraged to ask difficult questions and explore their faith.

One of the most important parts of Confirmation is building relationships—with God, each other, and the adults who assist during our Confirmation year. The great commandment Jesus gave us is to love God and each other. Throughout the year, we aim to fulfill this commandment. We deliberately dedicate time and effort to building trust, relationships, and community.





CONFIRMATION RETREAT SEPTEMBER 26-27, 2026

We will kick off Confirmation with a retreat at Dunwoody UMC on September 26-27 (students go home overnight). During the retreat, we will cover our first lessons, get to know each other as a group, worship together, and have lots of fun! More details about the itinerary will be shared as the retreat approaches. Attendance at the retreat is mandatory - we will cover a lot of important topics and spend crucial time bonding with our groups!

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY - MARCH 14, 2027

Confirmation Sunday offers a time for the child to acknowledge and profess the faith into which they have been baptized. Confirmation Sunday is on March 14. Students will be confirmed at either the 9:00am or 11:15am service, with breakfast for students at 10:10am in the Youth Lounge.

During the Confirmation service, each person stands before the community, answers the historical questions of Christian discipleship to affirm their faith, receives the Holy Spirit's power, and is commissioned for a life of Christian discipleship and service. This makes the individual a "professing member" of the church, dedicated to the journey called discipleship. If their families are not members, they will be encouraged to join the church at this time.

If any students have not been baptized before, they can be baptized on any Sunday before Confirmation Sunday, or at DYM Worship on 2/7/27. We would be happy to discuss baptism with you and set that up.

WHAT ABOUT ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS?

What we do in Confirmation is very important, and each meeting is a crucial part of the process. **Attendance at the retreat is mandatory.** If you cannot attend one of the class sessions due to a scheduling conflict, please contact Jonathan Sanders as soon as possible. Parents are expected to review missed material with their students, and **students may not miss more than two classes.**

STUDENT SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

Part of the Christian faith is service! **Students are required to volunteer at DUMC worship services twice during the Confirmation class.** These volunteer roles may include, but are not limited to, serving as an acolyte, usher, greeter, or nursery volunteer. Students should serve in two different areas and are responsible for arranging their own service times with the corresponding volunteer coordinator.

We are also called to serve outside the church! **Students are required to volunteer with one DUMC Missions or Service project during the Confirmation course.** These opportunities could include meal packing, Night to Shine, Festival Traditions, Great Day of Service, or other church activities. We will share these opportunities as they arise.

- To volunteer as an acolyte, contact Elizabeth Lamback at ehlamback@gmail.com
- To volunteer as an usher or greeter, contact Jenny Rolfes at Jenny.Rolfes@DunwoodyUMC.org
- To volunteer in the nursery, contact Meredith Dunn at Meredith.Dunn@DunwoodyUMC.org

FIELD TRIPS

Part of the Confirmation journey involves learning about other faith traditions and experiencing different styles of worship. Field trips include attending a worship service and learning about that particular service, as well as comparing it to what we are used to. We will visit Temple Sinai on Friday, November 6. More details about the field trip will be shared closer to the date. Attendance at the field trip is highly encouraged.

WORSHIP TOGETHER

There are also multiple styles of worship offered here at Dunwoody UMC, and we want to experience them together as a class to help us understand what worship means and looks like for each of us. **Students and families will attend DUMC's 9 am Modern Service on November 15 and DUMC's 11:15 am Traditional Service on January 3.**



Confirmation Interviews

At the end of the course, participants will have a short conversation with a youth staff member or clergy to ask questions, make sure they understand the vows, and decide if they are ready to profess their faith on Confirmation Sunday. These interviews will last about 20-45 minutes and will be scheduled on select weekday afternoons in February. Details about signing up for these sessions will be provided as we get closer to the interview dates.



AS A PARENT,

What is My Role?

The Confirmation process is a family one, involving parents in many ways. Confirmation is a very important, sacred step in your child's life that calls for your support and participation. We appreciate your prayers and encourage you to continue the conversation at home with your student! Additionally, we hope that if you haven't already, you will find a place here at Dunwoody UMC where you can grow, find community, and worship.



You will also receive “Confirmation News” emails that provide a summary of what we’ve covered in our sessions, what’s coming up, and access to lessons so you can be involved in this journey with your student! There are other ways you can serve in DYM as well, so please reach out to us if you'd like to become more connected to the ministry!



Dunwoody Youth



@dunwoodyyouth



text the message

@dymconfirm to 81010



CLASS SCHEDULE

DATE

LESSON

SEPTEMBER 20

PARENT MEETING

SEPTEMBER 26-27
(RETREAT)

CREATION, SIN, JESUS &
REDEMPTION

OCTOBER 18

GRACE

OCTOBER 25

THE TRINITY

NOVEMBER 1

DISCIPLESHIP

NOVEMBER 6

TEMPLE SINAI FIELD TRIP

NOVEMBER 8

PRAYER

NOVEMBER 15

EVANGELISM & PARENT CHECK-IN

DECEMBER 13

WORSHIP

JANUARY 3

SACRAMENTS

JANUARY 10

STOLES

JANUARY 31

CONFIRMATION JEOPARDY

FEBRUARY 7

FAITH STATEMENTS

FEBRUARY 21

VOWS

MARCH 14

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

WHO ARE OUR COACHES?

Allison Ahern

JJ Ahern

Mary Frances Christiansen

Jennifer Dees

Emily Lane

Jim Lawless

LeClaire Lawless

Anne Reich - Chair

Todd Reich



2026-2027

Confirmation Covenant

Christian Education - Just like in school, studying is important. In this life, we never stop learning; we're always students. Our faith development never stops, either. We know that studying God's word gives us everything we need to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. So, our first commitment is to develop a habit of daily devotion. Devotion time includes solitude, reading Scripture, reflecting on God's word, journaling, and prayer.

Showing Up - Jesus had a small group. Jesus mentored the apostles, who mentored disciples, and on and on...until we get to today. This is how we share the faith - human to human, life to life. It's called discipleship. If we haven't started this yet, we do it in confirmation by showing up and leaning in to hear what God has in store for us. We do this by engaging in Sunday morning worship, acts of service, and working through a call to discipleship. We commit to participating and showing up for the scheduled Confirmation classes, retreat, interviews, and Confirmation Sunday.

Worship - Worship is essential, both in corporate and private settings. In corporate worship, we can grow in community, not only with God but also with each other. This happens when we are faithfully present on Sunday mornings, at DYM Worship, and in small groups or Bible studies. We believe that private worship is where we, individually, connect with God. This can take various forms, often involving us being alone, in prayer, and reading the Scriptures. Some people do this while hiking on a quiet trail, while others prefer to do it at the end of the day. There are many ways to practice worship, but it's important that we do something. We commit to establishing consistent practices of both corporate and private worship.

Service - We believe that there is no such thing as personal holiness without social holiness as well. That means we are servants doing work both inside and outside the church. We are Christians at Dunwoody UMC, but we believe the entire world is our parish. Inside the church, we support our ministries and missions, like DYM, acolyting, and the youth choir. Outside the church, we serve on mission teams and help in our schools, neighborhoods, and communities. We commit to serving our church and community twice during worship services, once during a missions or service project, and whenever else we can.

We pledge as a family to follow through on these promises and the commitment we make to Dunwoody United Methodist Church as we launch into this Confirmation journey together.

Parent's Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Confirmand's Name: _____ **Date:** _____

LET THE JOURNEY BEGIN...

@ Dunwoody UMC

Grow

*Ask
questions*



*Have
Fun*

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:

JONATHAN SANDERS - DIRECTOR OF CONFIRMATION

JONATHAN.SANDERS@DUNWOODYUMC.ORG

JESSICA FERGUSON - DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

JESSICA.FERGUSON@DUNWOODYUMC.ORG