

Today, Sunday May 3, 2009, Confirmands will be asked the following questions:

Will you give as much of yourself as you are able, to as much of God as you have come to know? Will you also then strive to continually grow in your knowledge and response to Christ's teachings and to God's emerging will for your life?

Will you be an active member of the United Methodist Church and of this congregation, Christ United Methodist Church, by pledging your prayers, attendance, gifts and service?

At the start of Exploration last fall, Confirmands were given information on what Confirmation Exploration is all about. Following is that information.

CONFIRMATION AND CHURCH MEMBERSHIP VOWS

On Sunday, May 4, 2008, upon completion of this Exploration Confirmation process, you will be offered two profound opportunities:

- 1.) To publicly confess your faith in the Christian way
- 2.) To join the membership of Christ United Methodist Church.

The purpose of this Exploration Confirmation course is to help you begin an examination of your personal faith. You began forming the structures of your faith while still an infant and you will continue to grow in your beliefs as long as you possess self-awareness. The Exploration Confirmation process provides a structure which will not only help you understand what you already believe, but will also provide a context that will assist you to shape your faith journey.

It is the premise of the Exploration Confirmation course that the God we have come to know through the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth is a God intimately and metaphysically involved with every moment of our life. Further, the course is premised on the belief that Jesus has shown us a way of living that can bring us moment by moment into a closer, more perfect relationship with God to the end that our life, the life of those around us and the nature of world itself will be enhanced.

So, the issues and beliefs we will examine over the next eight months are of crucial importance and how you respond to them will affect the rest of your life. Enjoy this exploration. Think critically about the issues presented. Ask questions and boldly push your mentors, your pastors, your parents and me. This is your life you are building. You are the visionary. You are the Explorer!

Exploration

2008-09



Johanna Johnsrud - Trust in God

God grant me the serenity to except the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference.

Colleen Owen - Even though bad things happen to good people, God loves you no matter what. Confirmation helped me find answers to some of the questions I have been wondering about, but I realize that there will always be more questions than answers. Learning about my faith with others my age was a positive experience because I realized that others had the same questions as I did. Asking questions is an important way to continue my faith journey.





Corree Johnson –
Matthew 19:26

"But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, with men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible."

Paige Hazelton – Lamentations 3: 57-58
New Living Translation.

⁵⁷ Yes, you came when I called;
you told me, "Do not fear."

⁵⁸ Lord, you are my lawyer! Plead my case!
For you have redeemed my life.



SOCIAL CREED

We believe in God, Creator of the world; and in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of creation. We believe in the Holy Spirit, through whom we acknowledge God's gifts, and we repent of our sin in misusing these gifts to idolatrous ends.

We affirm the natural world as God's handiwork and dedicate ourselves to its preservation, enhancement, and faithful use by humankind.

We joyfully receive for ourselves and others the blessings of community, sexuality marriage, and family.

We commit ourselves to the rights of men, women, children, youth, young adults, the aging, and people with disabilities; to improvement of the quality of life; and to the rights and dignity of all persons.

We believe in the right and duty of persons to work for the glory of God and the good of themselves and others and in the protection of their welfare in so doing; in the rights to property as a trust from God, collective bargaining, and responsible consumption; and in the elimination of economic and social distress.

We dedicate ourselves to peace throughout the world, to the rule of justice and law among nations, and to individual freedom for all people of the world.

We believe in the present and final triumph of God's Word in human affairs and gladly accept our commission to manifest the life of the gospel in the world Amen.



Brittany Farnsworth – For every action there is a reaction.

Skye Johnson – Isaiah 40:29-31: “He gives strength to the weary and increases to power of the weak. Even you8ths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

Philemon 6: “I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.”



Lexi Grafe –

People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered: Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives: Be kind anyway.

If you are honest, people may cheat you: Be honest anyway.

The good you do today, may be forgotten tomorrow: Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough: Give the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the end it is between you and God: it was never between you and them anyway.

This poem is engraved on the wall of Mother Teresa's home for children in Calcutta



Kayla Fjelsted – When I first started confirmation, I didn't know a whole lot about God and the Bible. My confirmation class has made me realize how big of a role God plays in my life. I've learned that God is always with me, and affects the choices I make. Sometimes I stop and think a little longer about my choices and think about what LOGOS (Love of God, love of others, love of self) means to me. It has given me the chance to explore and develop my own relationship with God. I would like to say thank you to Dave for teaching me everything this year and accepting me into this church family.



Kelly McCallum – Isaiah 60:19-20
New Living Translation

¹⁹ “No longer will you need the sun to shine by day,
nor the moon to give its light by night,
for the LORD your God will be your everlasting light,
and your God will be your glory.

²⁰ Your sun will never set;
your moon will not go down.
For the LORD will be your everlasting light.
Your days of mourning will come to an end.

Tyler Prentice – John 3:16

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish”

‘I believe that God is always with me and that following God and walking the walk leads to joy and peace.

To be a Christian is to love God and others with all your heart and mind; looking to become a better person.’



Ashley Stephenson - What I learned about my faith this year is that I am important to God and to be the best person that I can be by helping people and just being a good friend. God will always be there for me.



Andrea Senst – I came in to Confirmation with one question on my mind: “Will this change me?” And the answer has come out to be ‘yes.’