



# Confirmation: A Parent Guide

First Congregational UCC  
Eau Claire, WI

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

This book contains an overview of the confirmation program of study offered at  
First Congregational UCC in Eau Claire, WI.

This handout is intended to be a reference for parents.

Record keeping will be done in the larger Confirmation Workbook given to each child.  
(green cover with binding)

© 2005-9 First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Eau Claire, WI

No portion of this program may be copied without  
permission from the church office.

715.834.2668

[www.firstuccea Claire.org](http://www.firstuccea Claire.org)

## Confirmation Leaders: 2009-2010

Susan Barber-Lindquist	835-4946	<a href="mailto:BarberLindquist.Susan@mayo.edu">BarberLindquist.Susan@mayo.edu</a>
Marti Hardy	839-9707	<a href="mailto:mhardy@ecasd.k12.wi.us">mhardy@ecasd.k12.wi.us</a>
Vicki Hendrickson	838-0999	<a href="mailto:vhendrickson@chartercom.com">vhendrickson@chartercom.com</a>
Toby Jacobson	210-9263	<a href="mailto:tplusj@yahoo.com">tplusj@yahoo.com</a>
Karen McMahon	836-9743	<a href="mailto:mcmahonck@att.net">mcmahonck@att.net</a>
Heather Ann Moody	210-5028	<a href="mailto:moodyha77@gmail.com">moodyha77@gmail.com</a>

### Church Staff:

Youth Coordinator:

Chad Murray 828-9741 [Chadm@firstucceauclaire.org](mailto:Chadm@firstucceauclaire.org)

Religious Education Director

Jill Christopherson 834-2668 [jillc@firstucceauclaire.org](mailto:jillc@firstucceauclaire.org)

Minister

Rev. Mark Pirazzini 834-2668 [pastor@firstucceauclaire.org](mailto:pastor@firstucceauclaire.org)

Jan Smith, Secretary

834-2668 [jans@firstucceauclaire.org](mailto:jans@firstucceauclaire.org)

## Questions and Answers about Confirmation

### **1. *When does Confirmation begin?***

Confirmation is a process that begins when you decided to baptize your child/baby, and includes their entire time of church growth: worship, Sunday School, Bible School, youth activities, church camp, and specialized instruction with parents and pastors. Formal confirmation teaching begins in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and continues through HS, or when the confirmation goals are achieved.

### **2. *How long does Confirmation last?***

Confirmation is a life-long event. Even adults are constantly growing and developing their faith and relationship to God and Jesus. Confirmation students will be recognized over their confirmation years as they progress in their journey of faith. The final step is the Confirmation Ceremony when all who are completing their program are recognized by the church members as new adult church members. Some churches call this "Affirmation of Baptism" - in other words, the child is old enough to say they want to be a member of the congregation and grow within the church family. Our actual confirmation program can happen anytime from eighth grade to senior year in high school, and is up to each individual family when to begin, and how "fast" or "slow" to go through the process. There is no right or wrong way.

### **3. *What is the basic course of study?***

5 Core Values plus electives allow the confirmand to complete his/her study on an individual basis that is flexible and allows time for other activities. When schoolwork is especially demanding, we give the confirmand the ability to take time off to focus on those goals and return to confirmation work when their schedule allows. We also give the family the flexibility to finish the entire program in 8<sup>th</sup> grade if the confirmand wishes.

### **4. *How do we view Confirmation requirements?***

There are Core Values, which are "mandatory" areas of study and "electives" which the confirmand can "pick from". Together they make up the entire program.

### **5. *What if a student enters the program late?***

It is never too late to "do confirmation".

### **6. *How do we keep track of our son/daughter's progress?***

We have made a confirmation workbook. If the confirmand reads each page and follows the directions, it is impossible to miss anything. **Your job as a parent is to oversee their record-keeping, but it is their responsibility to record in the book, NOT the parents.**

Throughout the year, the confirmands will meet with their leaders on a Sunday evening and go over their progress, discuss how to reach certain goals and share ways they have been successful in achieving the goals. This time will be a time of networking and the leaders will record their progress in a master record, and then send you a note on their progress.

**Meetings for Confirmands:** In Ingram Hall - all are Sunday evenings, includes dinner

September 27, 2008: 6pm to 8pm

February 21, 2010: 6pm to 8pm

October 18, 2008: 6pm to 8pm

March 21, 2010 6pm to 8pm

April 18, 2010

**Other dates to make note of now:**

See attached yearly schedule of events.

### **7. What happens when a student finishes?**

Although your faith continues to grow and change during your lifetime, the confirmation progress is celebrated in our church in the spring with a recognition Sunday in May. All confirmands who have completed their goals will be recognized annually. In addition, we may be recognizing them during the process or at least making the congregation aware of who they are - reminding the congregation they are also there to support the journey of these young adults.

### **8. What is needed from parents?**

We simply need your commitment to the process. This means helping your child keep track of their progress, **reminding them, when necessary, to work on their goals** and being a role model by attending church regularly yourself. We also welcome parental involvement (in the form of confirmation leaders, chaperones, and help with youth activities for confirmation students). These adults keep track of the children's progress, and may schedule one or two activities annually for the kids to do as a group.

## **The Actual Program, Explained:**

### **Core Value 1: Worship, Part A in Workbook**

---

*Goal: Worship is the "work of the people". Worship allows confirmands to experience the church family and church traditions in a way no other experience provides. Worship is an integral part of broadening and defining your faith.*

All Confirmands will complete the following exercises during their confirmation year(s):

1. Attend **four** services (regular or holiday services at our church) and list the following:  
List the Scripture text (Chapter, verses of Bible) and the main points of the sermon. Describe the points that s/he agreed with and answer the question: In what way does this scripture speak to your life?
2. Attend **three alternate worship services**. Students should retain a copy of the bulletin and answer the questions: What did you note that is different in this worship service from First Congregational UCC? What ways did you feel welcomed into the worshiping community? What things would you want to introduce into the worship at First Cong UCC?

Use **Worship A Worksheet** in your child's workbook to complete the above. You can make copies of the original. Four copies are provided for their four reports.

---

## Core Value 1: Worship, Part B

---

Complete *one* of the following four options. Your child must pick one of the Options, and then complete ENTIRE AREA under their selection. Knowing their personality, you can help them choose the best "fit" and then monitor their progress:

Option 1: Serve Communion at one worship service. (must arrange ahead of time).

Usher on 2 Sundays. (Adult ushers will orient, must arrange ahead of time).

Observe the tellers as they count offering on one Sunday.

Option 2: Read the scripture and liturgy for one service. (must arrange ahead of time for all these)

Greet attendees at one of the three entrances for the 10:00 AM worship on two Sundays.

Serve Communion at one worship service.

Option 3: Perform in a play, musical or Christmas pageant for one church service.

Develop and lead a children's sermon or skit. (one)

Assist with worship announcements for Youth events. (one or more)

Option 4: Develop 2 power point presentations of the announcements for 10:00 AM worship.

Receive training to operate the sound board for Sunday morning worship. Help operate the board with supervision.

Your child should use **Worksheet Worship B** in the workbook to complete/document their progress.

---

## Core Value 2: Christianity and the United Church of Christ

---

Goal: *Students will complete a study of the reformation, history of the United Church of Christ and an overview of other Christian denominations.*

Students will complete this portion through either the Fall Pepin Retreat or the workshop offered in the Spring by Chad Murray. It is our plan to make the dates and times known as soon as possible.

Use **Christianity Worksheet**, in your Workbook to document this. Chad Murray can sign off.

---

## Core Value 3: Service

---

*Goal: To participate in mission or community service individually or alongside youth and/or adults. During confirmation year(s), the confirmand will choose and **complete 3 experiences with different agencies** using the Service Worksheet in the Confirmation Workbook:*

*See workbook for specific ideas or criteria:*

1. Beacon House (Interfaith Hospitality) volunteer
2. Bolton Refuge House - see workbook for ideas
3. Ragtime Festival - help youth group serve meals and food concessions.
4. Load a Truck Sunday
5. Relay for Life
6. Crop Walk
7. Habitat for Humanity
8. Nursing Home volunteer
9. Additional volunteer opportunities are eligible with prior authorization by a confirmation leader. There are many. Some may be extensive enough to count as two experiences.

Your child should use **Core Value Worksheet 3**, in the workbook to document the specifics of the three experiences.

---

## Core Value 4: Commitment and Congregational Connection

---

*Goal: To have a role and responsibility working alongside adults at church, learning how people of all ages affect your spiritual journey. To create or deepen the feeling of belonging by getting to know our church community as a place where you are respected, valued, safe and loved. During confirmation year(s), the confirmand will choose and **complete 3 of the following experiences: (no repeats)***

Clean the church - see workbook for specifics.

Choir - Become a member of the choir for the school year.

Small group, youth group or covenant group (Attend 50% of meetings over a year).

Children's religious education

Assist in the nursery during the school year **OR** Help with VBS

Youth delegate: Take a leadership role in the Youth Ministry Task force for the school year.

Kitchen Help - see workbook for specifics

Adopt a nursing home or homebound senior. (not relative) - arrange with Mary Barnes

Visit them once/month for one year.

Your child should use **Core Value 4 Worksheet**, to document your completion of the above.

---

## Core Value 5: God's Word

---

*Goal: To increase the understanding and message of the Bible, to encourage the confirmand to ask questions, and to familiarize the confirmand with using the Bible in everyday life.*

Students must complete at least two Bible Studies. The student may join an adult Bible study, join a peer led Bible study, participate in a Bible study led during youth group, or propose other opportunities. The studies must include one covering Old Testament material and one covering a Gospel (New Testament). When it is completed the student will answer questions listed in the workbook. The answers will indicate reflection and understanding of the material studied.

**Use Worksheet 5: God's Word** on page 10 to complete this core value.

Bible Studies Scheduled this year: We will be offering one OT and one NT this year. If you want your child to finish next May, **THEY MUST COMPLETE BOTH OF THESE STUDIES**. Summer studies will also be available if interest is shown. In addition, no make-up sessions will be given.

The confirmation team will send an e-mail out as soon as we have teachers and dates.

---

### *The Electives:*

*In addition to the Core Values, Confirmands will choose **two** elective areas of focus from the list below and complete the workbook pages and programs outlined in them:*

#### **Music**

*This elective will allow kids who love music to excel and have an outlet to share their passion with the congregation:*

Example: youth musical, special solos, etc. or being a member of choir. OR Accompany angel choir or other small choir OR commit to being the Gathering Place music leader for Workshop Rotation OR become a member of the Music Committee OR attend a Christian concert as part of youth group. (see workbook for criteria).

#### **World Religions**

*Students interested in history and diversity can broaden their understanding of other people's worship and religions:*

Write a report that compares our religion (UCC) to other Protestant religions, Catholicism and 2 other (2) world religions (non-Christian).

OR

Attend a special service in a non-Christian based church (High Holy Days in a temple, Ramadan Services in a Mosque, etc.) and report back to the youth group on it.

---

#### **Extended Trips**

---

*Confirmation Workshops or Mission Trips or even Mission weeks allow a teen to immerse himself/herself in reflection and shaping his/her statement of faith.*

Examples: Madeline Island, Biloxi, Revamp, etc.

## **Healing/Ministry**

*Learn about other ways to help people. Learn about other ways to do a better job of reducing your own stress and taking care of the body and mind God gave you.*

---

Work at the free clinic downtown for evening, shadowing a nurse or physician at the clinic OR Participate in Laying of Hands Worship OR attend a yoga class session, OR take a massage class. Demonstrate to youth group what you learned.

## **Art**

*Individual artwork can assist a teen in expressing his/her spirituality.*

Must be approved prior to project by Confirmation Leader. Ideas: mural, Bulletin Cover, help with props.

## **My Church**

*Learn responsibility to both the congregation and to the building. We are fortunate to have a historic church and must remember to treat it with respect.*

Helping fix things under adult supervision. OR Helping Lay Life in Kitchen, OR Assisting with funeral, Senior Luncheon (vacations and summers) OR Behind the Scenes: Helping in office or Helping clean things for staff.

## **Drama**

*Individual participation based on unique project or tapping into a play already planned for part of curriculum.*

---

## **LIST OF CONTACT PEOPLE TO ARRANGE EXPERIENCES:**

To greet:	See attached sheet for contact information or contact Jan Smith in church office: 834-2668 or <a href="mailto:jans@firstucceauclaire.org">jans@firstucceauclaire.org</a>
Counting offering:	Shirley Crouse: 835-5862
To help w/communion:	Cathy James: 852-0149
To be liturgist:	Sue Smith: 926-5107 or <a href="mailto:dnsusmit@frontiernet.net">dnsusmit@frontiernet.net</a>
To help in kitchen:	Penny Koloff: 834-2454
To help around church:	Brent, our custodian: <a href="mailto:brentp@firstucceauclaire.org">brentp@firstucceauclaire.org</a> and copy your request to help to Jan Smith also ( <a href="mailto:jans@firstucceauclaire.org">jans@firstucceauclaire.org</a> )
To usher:	Call Leader of Date you are interested in (see next page)
Team 1	Captain Doug Lundholm (715) 832-2611 <a href="mailto:dlundholm@charter.net">dlundholm@charter.net</a>

Team 2	Captain Bob Grosenick	(715) 836-7509	<a href="mailto:grosnick@sbcglobal.net">grosnick@sbcglobal.net</a>
Team 3	Captain Al Mazorol	(715) 720-9353	<a href="mailto:amazorol@charter.net">amazorol@charter.net</a>
Team 4	Captain Ben Proctor	(715) 835-1785	<a href="mailto:janproctor123@aol.com">janproctor123@aol.com</a>
Team 5	Captain John Baltes	(715) 835-4295	<a href="mailto:jjbaltes@webtv.net">jjbaltes@webtv.net</a>

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
 310 Broadway Street, Eau Claire, WI 54703 / Phone 715.834.2668  
**USHER TEAMS SERVICE ASSIGNMENTS**

Service Dates		Time	Holidays/Events	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	Team 5
<b>2009</b>								
July	07/05	Sunday	10:00 AM	Communion		X		
2009	07/12	Sunday	10:00 AM			X		
	07/19	Sunday	10:00 AM				X	
	07/26	Sunday	10:00 AM					X
August	08/02	Sunday	10:00 AM	Communion	X			
2009	08/09	Sunday	10:00 AM		X			
	08/16	Sunday	10:00 AM			X		
	08/23	Sunday	10:00 AM				X	
	08/30	Sunday	10:00 AM					X
September	09/06	Sunday	10:00 AM	Comm/Labor Day Wknd	X			
2009	09/13	Sunday	10:00 AM		X			
	09/20	Sunday	10:00 AM			X		
	09/27	Sunday	10:00 AM				X	
October	10/04	Sunday	10:00 AM	Communion				X
2009	10/11	Sunday	10:00 AM		X			
	10/18	Sunday	10:00 AM		X			
	10/25	Sunday	10:00 AM			X		
November	11/01	Sunday	10:00 AM	Communion			X	
2009	11/08	Sunday	10:00 AM					X
	11/15	Sunday	10:00 AM		X			
	11/22	Sunday	10:00 AM			X		
	11/25	Wednesday		Thanksgiving Eve Worship	← Volunteers Needed →			
	11/29	Sunday	10:00 AM			X		
December	12/06	Sunday	10:00 AM				X	
2009	12/13	Sunday	10:00 AM					X
	12/20	Sunday	10:00 AM		X			
	12/24	Thursday	5:30 PM	Christmas Eve		X		
	12/24	Thursday	8:00 PM	Christmas Eve			X	
	12/27	Sunday	10:00 AM				X	
<b>2010</b>								
January	01/03	Sunday	10:00 AM	Communion				X
2010	01/10	Sunday	10:00 AM		X			
	01/17	Sunday	10:00 AM		X			
	01/24	Sunday	10:00 AM			X		
	01/31	Sunday	10:00 AM				X	
February	02/07	Sunday	10:00 AM	Communion				X
2010	02/14	Sunday	10:00 AM		X			
	02/17	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday		X		
	02/21	Sunday	7:00 PM			X		
	02/28	Sunday	10:00 AM				X	
March	03/07	Sunday	10:00 AM	Communion				X
2010	03/14	Sunday	10:00 AM		X			
	03/21	Sunday	10:00 AM		X			
	03/28	Sunday	10:00 AM	Palm Sunday/Communion		X		

# LIST OF CONTACT PEOPLE FOR GREETING

For Fall

Date	Committee Responsible	Member Contact	Phone
13-Sep	Spiritual Life	Ruth Crouse	833-0621
20-Sep	Stewardship	Judy Beeksma	838-9339
27-Sep	Facilities	Gib Magaw	833-8302
4-Oct	Finance and Budget	Carl Brown	838-4187
11-Oct	Lay Life and Fellowship	Penny Kolloff	834-2454
18-Oct	Mission Ed and Social Con	Gail Barnes	835-6181
25-Oct	Personnel	Jackie Hoeft Proett	878-4045
1-Nov	Religious Education	Liz Falkner	835-8909
8-Nov	Spiritual Life	Ruth Crouse	833-0621
15-Nov	Stewardship	Judy Beeksma	838-9339
22-Nov	Facilities	Gib Magaw	833-8302
29-Nov	Finance and Budget	Carl Brown	838-4187
6-Dec	Lay Life and Fellowship	Penny Kolloff	834-2454
13-Dec	Mission Ed and Social Con	Gail Barnes	835-6181
20-Dec	Personnel	Jackie Hoeft Proett	878-4045
27-Dec	Religious Education	Liz Falkner	835-8909

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE CALENDAR

<b>September</b>	<b>February</b>
9 – MS Youth Group begins; confirmation meeting parents	6 – Service Blitz
19 – Memory Walk	7 – Souper Bowl of Caring/Family Worship
20 – Lay Life Potluck	21 – Confirmation Meeting
27 – Confirmation Meeting	
<b>October</b>	<b>March</b>
11 – CROP Walk	5-7 – MS REVAMP (Minneapolis)
18 – Confirmation Meeting	14 – Potluck
23-25 – Pepin Retreat (fulfills UCC component)	20 – Feed My Starving Children
25 – Pumpkin Caroling	21 – Confirmation Meeting
25-31 – Beacon House	
<b>November</b>	<b>April</b>
20-22 – MS Retreat @ Pilgrim Center	18 – Confirmation Meeting
22 – Fruit Ingathering	
<b>December</b>	<b>May</b>
5 – Birthday for Jesus, Hanging of the Greens	2 – Confirmation, Load a Truck
6 – Grandma’s Attic	
12 – Youth Service Babysitting (11am-5pm)	
13 – Grandma’s Attic	
<b>January</b>	
3 – Taking Down of the Greens	
8 – Ragtime	
24 – Potluck	