



THE UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF BEREA

What Every Youth Should Experience

At the United Methodist Church of Berea, every youth should experience loving kindness and grace within our community as they are introduced to God and new life in Jesus Christ. Our mission as a church is to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Young people can, and are expected by the grace of God, to grow in their faith and become true disciples. In addition, we believe that they can and will transform the world, both now and in their future.

The below goals reflect our grace-inspired dreams for each youth in our ministry. These goals are supported by the youth ministries of the church, but not possible without the support and dedication of parents and/or other family members. They are also not possible without the full-inclusion of youth in our church. Youth are encouraged to serve within our congregation and participate in the leadership and vision of the church. After confirmation they are full members of the church and may lead and participate in committees, teams, and Bible studies.

The first section of this document reflects goals that are “measurable” in that we know youth are learning them by asking them about these skills. The second set reflects practices we hope youth are familiar with. Both we believe can be seen by graduation with faithful participation of families and regular attendance in Sunday School and worship. The third section is a full-scope view of our Rites of Passages birth-graduation.

You will then find information on the Confirmation and Launch program. **Confirmation** is a two-year journey culminating with confirmation and membership vows. Confirmation Sunday School classes, retreats, and pastoral consultation. **Launch** is a four-year program that extends the faith formation process after confirmation. Launch has both an independent discipleship piece (tracking and journaling holy living) and mentorship with an adult disciple of our congregation. ***The goal is to encourage youth to be life-long discipleships of Jesus that will transform our world.***

If you would like pastoral guidance in considering next steps for your family’s discipleship, either of our pastors would be happy to talk with you.

Youth/Parenting Formation:

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Time</i>
7-8 th Grade	Confirmation Formation	3 rd Floor	10 am
9 th -12 th Grade	Senior High Small Group	3 rd Floor	10 am
Parents	Parent Support Group	2 nd Floor	10 am

10 Faith-Formation Goals by Graduation

Italics indicate that goals that were set for 5th graders that youth ministry seeks to build upon.

1. Bible Study Skills <i>Basic Biblical Navigation</i> <i>Sacred nature and use of Scripture</i> <i>Core Bible Stories</i>	Identifying type of literature, describing context, and exploring application
2. Life & Teachings of Jesus	Christ's identity, teachings, way of living, effect on others, transformation of our lives.
3. Covenant <i>Place of community in Faith Formation</i>	Understand the concept, meaning for community, living within a covenant community. <i>Intentional intergenerational opportunities to experience a sense of community and connections to how this helps us grow in faith.</i>
4. Church History	Early church history (Paul) and the Methodist Movement.
5. Confirmation process & membership vows	Living the process and living into church membership vows.
6. Uniqueness of United Methodism	Theology, structure, and Faith in Action.
7. Faithful Relationships	God's calling for us as family memberships and community members. Exploring friendship and romantic relationships.
8. Sacrament Formation	<i>Formation around Holy Communion and Baptism.</i>
9. Justice and Compassion Formation	Education on the needs of the world, the practice of compassion, and how to pursue a just world. Included in this goal are opportunities for service, including Youth Work Mission.
10. Spiritual Gifts & Culture of Call	Understanding what they are and identifying our own gifts. Encouraged to attend <i>Explore Institute</i> at Ohio Wesleyan University as juniors or seniors.
11. Methodist Community & Culture <i>Methodist Heritage</i>	Social Principles of the UMC. <i>Story of John Wesley, Love, Grace, Assurance, 3 Simple Rules, Means of Grace, Holy Living.</i>
12. Church Leadership <i>Local Church Heritage</i>	Exploring ways to use gifts in leadership of the church, both local and as a conference. Included here is encouraged participation in Youth Annual Conference.

10 Spiritual Practices by Graduation

These are the same practices we hope for by 5th grade. The prayer is that these practices would deepen, become more formative to the faith of youth, and would serve as a witness to others.

1. The practice of quiet	How to be still and listen for God, and empathetic listening
2. The practice of love	Sharing kindness, encouragement, and gratitude.
3. The practice of Bible-reading/study	Application and reflection on Scripture
4. The practice of prayer	The function of prayer – why pray? Multiple ways to pray.
5. The practice of worship	Difference between prayer and worship, how to worship in community and on their own.
6. The practice of community	Understanding that community experience is an important part of faith.
7. The practice of service	Understanding what service is and why we do it.
8. The practice of forgiveness	Understanding what forgiveness is and everyone's need for it
9. The practice of faith-sharing	Beginning understanding of what it means to share God's love and story.
10. The practice of theology	Learning how to look for God in daily life and talk about God's work and presence.

Rites of Passage

Rite of Passage/Sacrament	Age/Grade Level	Church Participation	Family Participation
Rose on the Alter	Birth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prayer in Worship with flower on alter. Meal support if desired. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family receives book "Parenting with Love & Logic"
Baptism	Infancy & Beyond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sacrament at church Follow-up Counseling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family receives Storybook Bible
Communion	1 st Grade *children may receive communion at ANY age, but this is the year formation will occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communion Workshop – with parents Children participate in helping serve communion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family receives "What is Communion?" pamphlet Family writes letter to their child
Bible Presentation	3 rd Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of Bible Congregation shares favorite passages Sunday School support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family receives resource on how to do family Bible study Family writes letter to their child.
Confirmation	8 th Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation formation 7-8th grade, including retreats Pastoral Consultation Confirmation liturgy Presentation of Passport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family receives "Parenting Teens with Love & Logic", Youth receive a youth study Bible Family writes letter to their youth.
Launching	12 th Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formation begins in 9th grade – including tracking worship, formation, and service participation in a "Passport". Launching ceremony at church including Bible presentation. If remaining local, is encouraged to join a small group and a ministry team. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family receives "The Power of Praying for your Adult Children" Young adult receives Adult Study Bible. Family writes "last" letter to their child.

Confirmation Summary

Confirmation is a two-year journey beginning in 7th grade, culminating in Confirmation at the end of 8th grade, if the student feels ready to make the faith commitment. Confirmation formation prepares students to take the vows of baptism for themselves, and for membership in this congregation, and the United Methodist Church. At this stage in Christian formation, students are encouraged to explore how their faith experience relates to the United Methodist Church in its history, traditions, and doctrine. The curriculum includes church history, doctrine, theology, and personal reflection and application. The experience includes Sunday School classes, retreats, and other faith formative opportunities. For the best experience, we encourage students to be “present” both physically and spiritually at all offerings. If a student does not feel ready to make the commitment of Confirmation, they are still welcome to participate in any and all of the experiences offered for this age group.

Launch

There are about 200 weeks between Confirmation Sunday and Launch Sunday, when we celebrate with your family the graduation of your youth from high school, and youth ministry. At Confirmation, youth will be assigned a mentor that will journey with them through these weeks as they live into their baptismal and membership vows. At Confirmation, youth will also receive a “Passport to Launch” as a journal that will serve as a memory keeper, a prayer reminder, and a tool for you to celebrate what God is doing in their lives. Youth will keep track of their discipleship practices like faith formation, worship, and service. A digital version is available for those who prefer it.

When the 200 weeks are completed, we invite these young adult disciples to celebrate with us in worship with a ritual of sending as we launch them into the world as faithful disciples.

2018/2019 Faith Formation Calendar

(Included are dates for younger child as well for your family calendar planning)

August 19th – Acolyte Formation, 3rd grade and older

September 9th - Rally Day – celebrating the beginning of the Faith Formation year

Please complete a new registration for each child/youth

October 14th – Bible Presentation, 3rd grade

November 11th – Communion Formation, 1st Grade

January 13th – Acolyte Formation, 3rd grade and older

Spring – Dates TBD – Love and Logic Parenting Course

May 19th – Confirmation, 8th Grade

June 9th – Launching, 12th Grade

Sunday School & Small Group

Confirmation 7th-8th Grade

Senior High 9th-12th Grade

Both classes meet each Sunday at 10 am.

Youth Group Rotation:

Meets 5-6:30. Stay up to date with the Remind App (sign up at registration or email Pastor Carrie). Some meetings will be off-site.

- Week 1: “Gather” Devotion and Fun Activity
- Week 2: “Grow” Focused Topical Bible Study
- Week 3: Messy Church & Mentorship (4-6, Mentor time 6-6:30)
- Week 4: “Go” – Work Mission Meeting / Local Service & Justice Formation