

Purpose: A mentor comes alongside a youth confirmand as they explore their faith through the confirmation process. A mentor acts as a positive role model and shares their faith with the confirmand for the duration of the process.

Who can be a Mentor?

- An active member of Centreville UMC who is at least 21 years of age or older.

What is a Mentor?

- A mentor is an adult Christian who is a spiritual friend and advisor to one or more confirmands.
- A mentor is a mature Christian who is willing to and able to talk to youth about their own journey of faith, beliefs as a Christian, and experience of God.
- A mentor models the living of the Christian life for the confirmand. Ideally, when a confirmand has a question about a situation in their lives and asks how a Christian should respond, they should be able to look to their mentor as an example and a safe person to whom they bring their questions.

Mentor basics:

- Pray for your confirmand.
- Help your confirmand make the transition from being a child to a young adult member of our congregation: supporting your confirmand's present involvement and encourage future involvement in worship, study, prayer, and service.
- Relate to your confirmand in a caring, responsible way.
- Help your confirmand apply the lessons taught in confirmation class to their lives.
- Share your own spiritual journey with your confirmand.
- Help your confirmand discover the talents that God has given them.
- Be a good listener and friend.

Responsibilities of a Mentor:

- Be in prayer with and for your confirmand.
- Be a positive Christian role model.
- Meet with your confirmand four times for approximately an hour during the confirmation process.
 - At least one meeting in between the opening retreat and Session 5 on March 17
 - At least one meeting should involve doing a mission project together.
- Be present at the following Confirmation Events
 - Both Day Retreats (Feb. 12 and May 7)
 - Session 5 (March 17)
 - Commissioning Rehearsal (May 14)
 - Commissioning Service (May 15)

What to talk about?

- Who is God for you?
- What is prayer? Why and how do you pray?
- What is your confirmand studying in class? What is their understanding of it? What is your understanding?
- Last week's sermon or Biblical text.
- What are they confused about? What would they like to know more about?

Suggestions of how to get started:

- Be supportive of the Confirmation process.
- Get acquainted and spend time together outside of confirmation class (with their parents informed consent)
- Explore mutual interests (sports, music, ect.)
- Talk about your families (parents, siblings, etc.)
- Talk about your church background.
- Read and discuss a story about Jesus (or other Biblical story) together.
- Talk about what confirmation means.

Other Suggestions:

Not all four meetings need to be discussions. You may want to spend time together doing one of the following activities:

- Attend another church activity (like special worship service or game night) together
- Introduce them to your hobbies and interests/ ask to be introduced to theirs.
- Attend a school band or sporting event and buy them a meal afterwards.

For the safety and security of the confirmand and yourself:

- *Never* meet alone or behind closed doors.
- *Do not* drive them anywhere unless another adult is in the car.
- Keep a record of any emails, text, or messages sent through social media.

Mentors do not need to:

- Have all the answers.
- Have scholarly knowledge of scripture or Christian theology
- Be perfect

Mentors and Confirmands do need to:

- Invest in this process together.
- Have fun while doing it!

Any question about the Confirmation and Mentor programs may be directed to our Director of Youth ministries, Sean Gray, at sgray@centreville-umc.org or our Associate Pastor, Marti Ringenbach, at mringenbach@centreville-umc.org.