

First Presbyterian Church  
Savannah, Georgia

## 2021 Confirmation Program

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

February 14 at 1:00 p.m. by Zoom

### Orientation

Parents and confirmands in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade discuss the course of study. (Parents and confirmands in 7<sup>th</sup> grade attended last year's orientation.)

February 21

### Session 1: You Are What You Wear

Baptism gives us a new identity and tells us to whom we belong. We are identified by who we wear, not what we wear when we put on Christ. What does it mean to wear his virtues—compassion, humility, and gentleness as described in Colossians 3:12-17?

February 28

### Session 2: How Do You Spell Presbyterian?

The word “Presbyterian” tells us about how we organize ourselves toward God’s purposes. The word comes from the Greek and means “elders”. We are a church governed by elders who have been elected by the congregation to represent them. We believe the church is called by God and guided by the Holy Spirit.

March 7

### Session 3: What Is Reformed Theology?

Presbyterians read the Bible and understand God’s dealings with people in distinctive ways. This lesson will help us explore some of the Presbyterian distinctions that are based on Scripture and are influenced by the teaching of the 16<sup>th</sup> century reformer, John Calvin.

March 14

### Session 4: Where Is God When It Hurts?

We know in the future God will create a new heaven and new earth, but right now we need hope and guidance about how to live in this fallen world. Even when things go wrong in our lives, God can take everything and redeem the situation and our lives.

March 21

### Session 5: Extravagant Love

This lesson explores the Christian understanding of sin. We understand sin to be not simply certain behaviors but also a condition of the heart. Our sinful condition is an attitude that says we can live our lives without reference to God. The good news is that Jesus came into the world to rescue us from sin.

March 28

### Session 6: Speak Lord, for Your Servant Is Listening

The idea of vocation is central to our calling as Christians. God calls all of us to lives of service in a variety of vocations—some are called to be ministers of Word and Sacrament, others serve God by using their gifts to be teachers, physicians, and business people.

Easter, April 4

No Class

April 11

### Session 7: We've Got the Spirit!

Some familiar images for the Spirit include wind, flame, and dove. The Holy Spirit makes Jesus as present to us as his physical presence was to the disciples. Our study catechism declares the Holy Spirit is the divine person who enables us to love, know, and serve Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit makes the Bible come alive for us.

April 18

Session 8: Can You Hear Me Now?

Prayer involves both addressing God and listening for God's word within our hearts. Prayer brings us into communion with God. The more our lives are rooted in prayer, the more we sense the joy of God's grace. We will study the model prayer that Jesus gave to his disciples in Matthew 6:9-13 that we call "The Lord's Prayer."

April 25

Session 9: Going Out!

Christians seek to apply their faith commitments in their daily lives. God calls us to love our neighbor and serve those in need. We will look at our particular gifts and interests and how God wants to use each one of us in meaningful ministry.

May 2

Session 10: Decently and In Order

We will continue to learn about some of our Reformed/Presbyterian ways of being Christians as we talk about our form of government, history, and worship life.

May 9 at 9:30 a.m.

Session 11: Grace and Gratitude

The Christian life begins with receiving the grace of God revealed in Jesus Christ. Then we respond with thanksgiving for all God's gifts. When we acknowledge Jesus as Lord of our lives, then all of our priorities are ordered by his Lordship. We don't obey God in order to earn God's love, but we obey God out of gratitude for all that God has done for us. That is the basis for a life of service and stewardship.

May 18

Session 12: Review

We will review the whole course, talk about the statements of faith that will be shared with the Session, and prepare for the Service of Confirmation.

May 17

6:30 p.m., Confirmands will meet with the Session (decision about in-person or on-line) and discuss their course of study and read a brief statement of faith that each confirmand has written. The Session will then vote to receive students of the Confirmation Class into church membership.

May 23

Day of Pentecost

11:00 a.m., Service of Confirmation during morning worship.

12:00 p.m., Celebration at church or in the park where confirmands are guests of honor.