



Zion United Church of Christ

Baroda, Michigan

# Zion United Church of Christ Baroda, Michigan Confirmation Class for 2017-2018 Sunday September 17, 2017

## Welcome

... to the 2017-2018 Confirmation season.

This introductory meeting is being held to outline our 2017—2018 Confirmation program.

Class schedules will obviously need to be flexible...

The calendar on the church web-site will have the most reliable and up to date schedule. I will also include the most current information on the Confirmation tab of the church's web-site.

## Preferred Bibles

We have multiple copies of the TEV (today's English Version) for class use. Translations and paraphrases that are preferred included the New Revised Standard Version, Today's English Version (Good News for Modern Man), Contemporary English Bible, Revised Standard Version, New English, or Jerusalem. Copies of some of the Bibles may be purchased reasonably through American Bible Society. If you are interested in purchasing any of them please speak to Rev. Noffke.

## Themes for the 2017-2018 Confirmation Year

Biblical Usage / Versions / Exegesis - Eisegesis  
God - Creator  
Jesus - Redeemer  
Holy Spirit - Sustainer  
Church History / Web  
Archeological Museum  
Prayer  
Sacraments  
Evangelism - Each one invite one - UCC Website  
Stewardship / OCWM  
Good / Evil - Sin / Forgiveness  
Church Issues  
    Church Government - Constitution BL  
    Sexuality / other issues  
    Biblical Literacy - Inerrancy  
Mission / Service  
Death  
Radical Welcome - No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here. What does this mean?

## Cancellations

If severe weather threatens, I'll try to contact everyone primarily by e-mail. Generally if church and / or Lakeshore schools are in session, we'll hold confirmation. Please use your own discretion about travel if weather looks dangerous.

## Information Disclosure Policy

All data gathered as a part of Confirmation will be kept in the strictest confidence. No e-mails, phone numbers or other information will knowingly be shared with anyone outside the church for any reason without your approval.

This information is gathered for the sole purpose of quick, reliable communication, as well as determining the best direction for programming decisions, and scheduling of events.

## Questions

By all means, please do not linger on them long without asking. Call any time at (o) 269- 422-1590, (h) 269-422-1084 or email me at [cnoffke@ecunet.org](mailto:cnoffke@ecunet.org). If I'm not in, I'll respond as quickly as possible.

## Presentation Sunday & Examination

The format for this event will be based on the size of the class. There will still be a Presentation Sunday, but it will probably be abbreviated in format if our class is small.

The single most important question for each young person to be prepared to answer is: "Are you prepared to take responsibility for your own faith?"

## Safe Space

Because of the complexity of faith development, and the need to encounter, explore, embrace, and perhaps discard a wide variety of faith stances related to some often controversial subjects, all class sessions will operate on a "Safe Space" concept.

This means that no matter what questions or opinions you or your child brings to the Confirmation class setting you will be treated with courtesy and respect, and invited to explore further what your understanding means. .

Because faith issues are of such importance to the development of faith, it is expected that this same courtesy will be extended by you and your child as both they and others encounter new and sometimes uncomfortable understandings of faith issues.

If you have any questions about this concept, please speak privately to Rev Noffke.

## Optional Books

(Recommended but not required)

1. A One Volume Bible Commentary (Interpreter's / Harpers)
2. A Concordance - (Cruden's)
3. A Bible Dictionary (Harpers)

Much of this information is available on-line, through a Google search!

While on-line information is not all equally valid, it is usually a good place to start.

It is in the searching that we discover the context, the purpose and the meaning of our Biblical texts.

## Three Questions!

The three most important questions to ask when we explore scripture is:

- 1) What does it say?
- 2) What does it mean?
- 3) What does it mean to me?

## The Blue Book

The traditional Evangelical Catechism Book (often referred to as the Blue Book) is no longer in print.

It is however in the public domain (no copyright issues are involved in duplicating the book) and is available on the [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org) web-site.

The church office has prepared a printed version which will be made available to you and the young people.

Be aware that it's language is not gender-inclusive.