

Hello, parents. Here is a summary of the last confirmation classes. Some confirmands were unable to attend the Sunday, 1-14-18 session, so an additional session covering the same material was held on Sunday, 1-21-18.

Activities List Follow Up

This list was created to help confirmands to keep track of the projects they work on. Confirmands were asked if they were OK with the list, the number and variety of opportunities, etc. They said yes, the activities were workable. Keep up the good work!

Discussions on this month's Letters

Prayer

Pastor David asked the confirmands their thoughts on prayer. Their thoughts were that prayer was a conversation with God. He reiterated that this conversation does not have to be formal and it involves both speaking and listening. He noted the different postures we can take while praying (kneeling, bowing, hands towards heaven, etc). It is important to pray what is in your heart. Pastor Bill added that some of the Bible's Psalms have an angry, honest tone.

Grace

One confirmand remarked that God's grace was confusing, and it definitely can be. We discussed the story of the Prodigal Son: the younger, wayward son who squandered his inheritance was lovingly welcomed back by his father; the older, dutiful son who remained at home working hard was never given a lavish party by his father. But the older son never realized how much his father loved him! His father was always there, ready to give him good things. As indicated in Words for the Journey, grace is a gift from God. Our response to that wonderful gift propels us towards service. Without grace, religion just becomes a routine of keeping rules and appearances.

Worship

Worship involves:

Praise: through thanksgiving, music

Confession: through prayer

The Word: learning from the Bible

Benediction: don't keep the goodness inside the church

Pastor David noted that people have different reactions when they step into the Sanctuary. Some felt different, as they were stepping into God's place. Some feel safe, comfortable, changed.

Pastor Bill led a tour of the Sanctuary. He pointed out the following highlights:

“Christian” doors whose panels show the cross

Clear windows, indicating transparency in what we do

An open Bible to show reliance on God's word

An empty cross, indicating that Christ has risen

The Church

An informative pamphlet entitled “About the United Church of Christ” was handed out to each confirmand. Pastor David stressed that our church leadership is the reverse of the Catholic church. Thinking of a triangle, the Pope is at the pointed top and the local congregations are at the bottom. Our leadership structure is an upside-down triangle, with ministers at the pointed bottom, because they answer to the authority of their congregations.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on **Sunday, February 11, 2018, from 11:30am to 12:30pm in SCC's Green Chair Room.**

Please read Letters 15 and 16.

By popular demand, there will be Dunkin Donuts!