

Hello, parents. Here is a summary of the last confirmation class, held on Sunday, February 11 from 11:30am to 12:30pm.

Volunteer Opportunity – Polar Plunge

Taffy Nothnagle visited the class to highlight a volunteer opportunity for the confirmands. The 20th Annual Polar Plunge for Special Olympics will be held on **Saturday February 24 from 9:30am to 1:30pm**. (A volunteer can do a shift of 1-2 hours if he/she cannot commit to all 4 hours), Volunteers are needed to help hand out food to the approximately 1,000 people they anticipate will attend.

If you son/daughter would like to volunteer, please email Alice with their name, date of birth, and contact email address. Thank you!

Discussions on this month's Letters

Confirmation

Pastor David asked what confirmation means to our confirmands. Some of their answers were:

Becoming one with the church

Becoming an adult at your church

Pastor David indicated that confirmation means strength: for our spiritual journeys, our faith, and who we are. It is a rite of passage where we gain our own understanding of God, ourselves, and others.

Communion

Pastors David and Bill taught that Communion is one of the only 2 sacraments in the United Church of Christ. The other is Baptism. The breaking of bread and pouring of "wine" are done in remembrance of Jesus' death and resurrection. It is a way to connect with God and with others.

Pastor Bill pointed out the Catholic Church's belief of transubstantiation, the change of substance by which the bread and the wine offered during communion become the physical Body and Blood of Jesus. In contrast, our belief is that Jesus died once, and we take communion as a reminder of his sacrifice. In the early church, priests used to take communion separately. After the Protestant Reformation, it was a very meaningful change for communion to be taken in pews.

Pastor David mentioned the 5 fingers on a hand can illustrate a prayer for communion:

- 1) Come to me: When we are heavy-laden, Jesus wants us to come to him. In our church, this offer is not just for members.
- 2) Thank you: We are thankful that we have been brought to a banquet table, both for life now and in heaven.
- 3) Forgive me: We are all very human and make mistakes. Confession helps us to identify our failures and to commit to Jesus.
- 4) Help me: We often try to do things with our own strength. We need to ask God for help.
- 5) Go with me: After communion, we should be encouraged and loved in order to go out into the community for good works.

Pastor David also handed out a **Communion is for me** booklet.

Closing Prayer

In his closing prayer, Pastor David again thanked God for all of the confirmands.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on **Sunday, March 4, 2018, from 11:30am to 12:30pm in SCC's Green Chair Room**. Please read Letters 17 through 20: Favorite Bible Stories, the Really Hard Parts of the Bible, The Apostle Paul, and Miracles. This will be Pastor David's last one. He will be transitioning the class over to Pastor Karen, who will become our settled minister on Palm Sunday, March 25. We thank Pastor David very much for his service!

Alice Bellefontaine