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First Church, Simsbury
An Open and Affirming Congregation
of the United Church of Christ

Dear Parents,

August, 2016

I have some exciting news! Your child has approached the age when we invite families to enroll their children in Confirmation! I write to share information about the 2017 Confirmation Class in hopes that your child will join!

Confirmation at First Church is an intentional time of exploring what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. We do this in large and small groups through fellowship, conversation, study, mission work, worship, and more. The goal is for your child to grow in the knowledge that he or she is a magnificent creation of the Divine, deeply loved by God, and to understand that God's love extends beyond him or herself to all creation and all people. By the end of the Confirmation process, we hope your child will desire to follow in Christ's way and choose to officially join First Church.

From my vantage point, Confirmation is a real thrill. I have the opportunity to witness young people's hearts and minds open as they make their way through the Confirmation process. But I'm not the only one who has witnessed this transformation take place. A student from a previous class said, "Confirmation was amazing, I got so much out of it and I didn't want it to end." And from a parent, "Having my child go through Confirmation gave me a new understanding of what church is about. I was filled with so much joy on Confirmation Sunday!"

Here are the steps for learning more and registering...

- 1) Read through the enclosed Confirmation Goals & Objectives sheet, and the Confirmation Schedule. **If you have any questions, or would like additional information of any kind, please contact me. You can email at kweikel@fccsimsbury.org or call at 860-651-3593.**
- 2) **Mark your calendar for September 18th from 5-7pm for our Students and Parents Potluck and Information Meeting.** At this meeting, we will go through the particulars of the Confirmation process.
- 3) If you know right now that you would like your child to be a part of the 2017 Confirmation Class, please complete the enclosed Information and Enrollment forms and return them to the church. You can drop the forms off at the main church office, scan, and email them to Cathie Behrens (cbehrens@fccsimsbury.org), or mail them to 689 Hopmeadow St., Simsbury. **Registration will close on September 21st, after the Students and Parents Potluck and Information Meeting.**

To help us plan for the Potluck and Information Meeting on September 18th, please tell us by September 12th how many from your family will be attending. You can do this by emailing Cathie Behrens in the church office at cbehrens@fccsimsbury.org. In an effort to make the meeting more convenient for you, all family members are invited to the potluck. Younger siblings are invited to the youth room after dinner for an appropriate movie with supervision. Also, please bring something to share according to your last name.

- A-D, Salad/Fruit
- E-G, Dessert
- H-Z, Main Course
- I will provide drinks, plates, cups, napkins, and silverware

Finally, I would like to encourage your child to think about his or her friends and whether one or more of them would be interested in participating in Confirmation. We believe the Confirmation experience to be life-giving and eye opening, and we want to make Confirmation available to as many young people as possible. Do not hesitate to share my contact information generously.

I am looking forward to seeing you on **September 18th**! Please do not hesitate to contact me in the meantime with any questions you might have.

Peace to you, Rev. Kevin