

The Divine Comedy:

Notes from Pastor Darryl

June 2019

Sunday, June 9th, is one of my favorite Sundays of the year: CONFIRMATION SUNDAY! This year, we will confirm nine young people, and confer a special recognition on one special one who passed way too soon. Sunday, June 9th, promises to be a service full of magic and wonder, laughter and love.

But as we grow as a community, and many of us come from “unchurched” backgrounds, some have asked, “what is confirmation?” According to the United Church of Christ *Book of Worship*, Confirmation is understood this way:

A person is incorporated into the universal church through the sacrament of baptism. When an infant or a very young child is baptized, the baptismal vows or promises are made by a proxy for the child (usually parents or god-parents).

As a child who was baptized in infancy approaches adolescence, the church offers that person the opportunity to give public assent to the baptismal promises. Confirmation celebrates this occasion of affirmation of baptism in the life of the individual and the local church.

We do Confirmation Sunday a bit differently than most Protestant Churches. So, let me tell you what you can come to expect that day.

- ❖ Our Confirmands will present **THEIR** beliefs about God, Jesus, The Church, Creation, and the Afterlife. We stress **THEIR** beliefs. Some may present a faith that is fairly traditional and orthodox, but others may affirm a faith that is way outside the box.

- ❖ The youth can express their beliefs in a variety of ways, using diverse mediums and media, and that is in concert with how God created them to be. This means that we will see God’s gift of multiple intelligences and emotional intelligences expressed through these amazing, young people.
- ❖ These “Covenants” are an expression of what the Confirmands believe right now. Confirmation is a process, and the service that concludes this part of their spiritual journey, is about affirming their faith as it stands right now. How many of us can claim that our beliefs and faith hasn’t changed, evolved, shifted, or morphed as we aged and experienced life?
- ❖ The Confirmands will also be joining the church that Sunday. Meaning that they now have all the rights and privileges that come with membership. We always celebrate when new people desire to join our church but it is especially wonderful when it is our young people re-affirming their place within our community of faith.

All the Confirmands will present their covenants at the 10 AM Service, and two or three will present their covenants at the 8:30 AM Service. If you see one of our Confirmands, give them a word of encouragement. Tell them that you love them and are praying for them as they take these last few steps in the confirmation process. A lot of hard work and creativity will go into that Sunday – not just by our confirmands but by their mentors as well.

Confirmation Sunday is an important day in the life of these young people and in the life of our church. For it will be a Sunday when we will live out and live in a very real way the words we say each week, “No matter who you are, or where you come from, or where you are in your life’s journey, you’re welcome and loved at KCC!”

Peace. Love. Understanding.

Pastor Darryl