

SPOTLIGHT ON CONFIRMATION CLASS - FROM PASTOR MARC

This year, our Christian Education committee is proud to showcase our 2020/2021 confirmation class led by Pastor Marc, Carrie Ann Sharitt, and Carla Blackmar Rice. Confirmation class, which ordinarily includes students from 6th to 9th Grade introduces our youth and young people to the basics of what it means to be Presbyterian.

These classes range from learning what Presbyterians believe, to learning about church government, to unpacking and discussing some of the big concepts in the Christian faith: from “Who is God?” to the role of Scripture, to stewardship and so on, and so on.

This year’s confirmation class includes Lydia Bartel, Bryson Fears, Elsa and Finn Friede, Spencer Lykins, and Oliver Rice. While each of the students have enjoyed different topics and discussions over the course of confirmation, most seem to agree that their favorite part of the class is hearing different perspectives and points of view from their classmates.

“I’ve enjoyed a lot of the conversations,” Oliver Rice (6th grade) said, “a lot of them made me think. I thought our conversation on stewardship was really interesting. I liked the idea that everybody has a set of gifts that they can use to make the world a better place...I like the idea of helping people.”

Bryson Fears (8th grade) agreed. “The class is really a chance to strengthen my relationship with God and with other people I’m doing [the class] with,” he said, “ I really like learning more about [my classmates] and taking the journey with them, taking it step by step, and knowing that I’m not alone in it.”

Lydia Bartel (9th grade) shared that she has really enjoyed some of the more complex theological discussions such as the role of grace, but she has also appreciated learning more about Presbyterian polity. “I didn’t know behind-the-scenes things,” she said, “like what elders did. The Presbyterian Church is such a democracy. I didn’t know any of that. It’s a more technical and deeper understanding of how our church works.”

Spencer Lykins (8th grade) shared that he also particularly enjoyed Carla Blackmar’s lesson stewardship because it got him thinking about the ways that God can use our gifts. “We all have a purpose in life that God gives us,” Spencer said, “and God can use that to help other people.” He also has some words of advice for younger kids who may be eyeing confirmation in a few years. “Try and

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participate to talk as much as you can, and listen to what other people have to say.”

Confirmation Sunday is currently scheduled for Sunday, May 23rd during worship. As our confirmation class comes to a close, and our students begin to contemplate the prospect of what being confirmed might really mean for them, it is our hope that you will join us in praying for this unique class of young people as we celebrate their remarkable journey together.