

COMMUNITY UMC CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2020

MATTHEW CARBONE PAIGE DONOHUE

ANNA LONGENBER COLE MITCHELL

INTRODUCTION

THE CONFIRMANDS READ THEIR FAITH STATEMENTS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER

Loving God, help us to remember what we have learned through the confirmation process. Help us to live our lives according to the beliefs we proclaim and the vows that we affirm today. Strengthen our faith and help it to grow and mature. Inspire us to cherish the relationships we have built with you and our fellow confirmands. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Liturgy of Confirmation and Reaffirmation of Faith

Brothers and sisters in Christ: Confirmation is an important step in the faith journeys of these four young persons before you. We celebrate together with them the many months of learning and reflection about God's love and grace. We learned what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ. This is not the end of a journey. It is, instead, one important step on a lifelong journey. After baptism as infants, Matthew, Paige, Anna, and Cole, were nurtured in faith and love by their families and by fellow Christians. Today, these young persons profess their faith for themselves, reaffirming the vows of their baptisms. This is a sacramental act. Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we are initiated into Christ's holy church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the spirit. And this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

Through confirmation, and through the reaffirmation of our faith, we renew the covenant declared at our baptism, acknowledge what God is doing for us, and affirm our commitment to Christ's holy church.

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

(The candidates stand before the congregation with their parents and mentors.)

**Lay Leader: I present to you these candidates for confirmation:
Matthew Carbone, Anna Donohue, Paige Longenberger, and Cole
Mitchell**

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

Pastor: On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you:

Will you turn away from the powers of sin and death?

Confirmands: I do!

Pastor: Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

Confirmands: I do!

Pastor: Will you proclaim the good news and live as disciples of Jesus Christ?

Confirmands: I do!

Pastor: Will you receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

Confirmands: I do!

Pastor: According to the grace given to you, will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?

Confirmands: I do!

Pastor: As members of this congregation of the United Methodist Church, will you commit yourselves to participate in its ministries and mission?

Confirmands: I do!

Pastor: Will you love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love your neighbors as yourselves?

Confirmands: I do!

TO PARENTS

Pastor: Will you support these persons in Christ's holy church, that by your teaching and example they may be guided to accept God's grace for themselves, to profess their faith openly, and to lead a Christian life?

Parents: I will!

TO SPONSORS

Pastor: Will you sponsor these candidates to support and encourage them in their Christian life?

Sponsors: I will.

TO CONGREGATION

Pastor: Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

***Congregation:* We do.**

Pastor: Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these persons now before you in your love and care?

***Congregation:* With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the examples of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

Pastor: Truly, the Spirit of the Lord is in this place.

***Congregation:* We rejoice that the Spirit of God is among us!**

Pastor: Almighty God, you gave us new birth by baptism into Jesus Christ. Our new life in Christ will never die. Today we mark a new milestone in the lives of these four young persons. We ask your continuing guidance for them and for all of us.

***Congregation:* Your healing waters flow over us. Your Spirit embraces and inspires us. Spirit of fire, Spirit over the waters, Spirit of holiness! We praise you!**

Pastor: Merciful God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon this gift of water. Let it be a vivid symbol and reminder of grace declared to us in our baptism. For you have washed away our sins and you clothe us with righteousness throughout our lives that, dying and rising with Christ, we may share in his final victory. We pray that you will strengthen and inspire these four young persons to live in ongoing loving relationship with you by the power of the Holy Spirit.

(Pastor Jane will call each confirmand forward with their family and mentor).

(Matthew, Anna, Paige, Cole), You are a beloved child of God. Remember your baptism and be thankful. You have committed yourself to faithfully follow Jesus Christ and strive to live a holy life. May God's Spirit inspire and guide you.
Amen.

COMMISSIONING

Matthew, Anna, Paige and Cole, you have each been called to join in the ministry of all Christians, reaching out in love in the name of Jesus Christ. You have heard the call and you have each responded to God's gracious offer of love and forgiveness. You belong to God. You are precious. God cares for you. Now, take upon you the responsibilities of being a follower of Jesus. Strive in all that you say and do to let the light of Christ shine through you. May God bless you and protect you.

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

Members of the household of God, I commend these young persons, Matthew, Anna, Paige and Cole, to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love.

May the God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace. Amen.