

## **COMMUNITY UMC CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2022**

**JAMES BRANCH**

**EVA LONGENBERGER**

**FRANK PADAVAN**

**KATIE PADAVAN**

### **INTRODUCTION**

*THE CONFIRMANDS READ THEIR FAITH STATEMENTS AND*

*THE LORD'S PRAYER*

**ALL:** *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 NIV*

### *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***

Sisters and Brothers in Christ: Confirmation is a deeply important step in the faith journeys of these young persons before you. We celebrate together with them the culmination of 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, James, Eva, Frank and Katie, 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 which God works to further shape their lives and mold them into the loving persons they were created to become.

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

**Lay Leader:** **I present to you these candidates for confirmation:  
James Branch, Eva Longenberger, Frank Padavan and  
Katie Padavan.**

### *RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH*

*Pastor:* I ask you now: Will you turn away from the powers of sin and death?

**People:** **We renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of our sin!**

*Pastor:* Will you let the Spirit use you as prophets to the powers that be?

**People:** **We accept the freedom and power God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves!**

*Pastor:* Will you proclaim the good news and live as disciples of Jesus Christ, his body on earth?

**People:** **We confess Jesus Christ as our Savior, put our whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as our Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races!**

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

**People:** **We affirm and teach the faith of the whole church as we put our trust in God, the Loving Parent, in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, and in the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

*Pastor:* Will you be living witnesses to the gospel, individually and together, wherever you are, and in all that you do?

**People:** **We will remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world.**

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

**People:** **Together, we are the body of Christ for the world. We commit to participate faithfully in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.**

*Pastor:* Will you nurture one another in living the Christian faith and life?

**People:** **With God's help, we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will embody faith, hope, love, and forgiveness so that all of us may continue to grow in our trust in God and express our faith in action. We will pray for one another on our journey of discipleship together.**

*Pastor:* Will you strive to live in the way that Jesus laid out for his disciples?

**People:** We will strive to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We will learn to love one another as Jesus loves us.

**Pastor:** Let us all say the Lord's Prayer

**All:** The Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty, and will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the true Christian church of all times and all places, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

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

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

**Pastor:** Let us pray. 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.

**People:** 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).*

*(James, Eva, Frank, Katie),* 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

James, Eva, Frank and Katie, 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, James, Eva, Frank and Katie, 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.