

CONFIRMATION CREED

**We believe that God created the nature we see,
and that God created all life on Earth,
We believe God will always listen
when we ask for guidance.
We believe that God will always forgive
no matter how much we sin.
We believe that God does everything for a reason,
that God is part of our family,
and often reaches us through other people.**

**We believe Jesus loves and cares for all of us.
Jesus will always watch over us
and help us when we are struggling.
We believe that Jesus sacrificed himself for our sins,
and that he was resurrected from the grave.
We believe that Jesus did, and does, and will do miracles.
We believe that Jesus and God are one,
that he is God's image in human form.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
and that the Holy Spirit is always with us.
We believe that the Holy Spirit is like a conscience
that helps us make good decisions.**

**We believe that when we need help,
we can always turn to the Bible
which teaches us how to get through troubles.
We believe that Scripture gives us guidance,
shows us how to view things,
helps us build a better relationship with God,
and can help us reveal God to others.**

**We believe we should treat others
with kindness and respect
just like Jesus would.
We believe God loves everybody,
and is with us everyday,
encouraging us not to hate, but to love.**

Affirmation of faith written by the 2021 Confirmation Class at Onalaska UMC.



ONALASKA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2021 Confirmation Class

| <i>Student:</i> | <i>Mentor:</i> | <i>Parents:</i> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Rylee Beahm ⁺ ° | Pam Klinger | Scott & Michelle Beahm |
| Silas Bratsch ⁺ ° | Ben Gibson | Paul & Jessica Bratsch |
| Suzie Clements ⁺ ° | Cathy Geister | Sean & Alana Clements |
| Josie Fry ⁺ ° | Phyllis Fry | Brad & Jenifer Fry |
| John Gobel ⁺ ° | Pastor Bruce Bartel | Matt & Jessica Gobel |
| Westley Mahr ⁺ ° | Cathy Novy | Ray & Stephanie Mahr |
| Kate Ramsay ⁺ ° | Casey Sommerville | Rob & Liz Ramsay |
| Bailey Sommerville ⁺ ° | Liz Ramsay | Brant & Casey Sommerville |
| Alexa Szak ⁺ ° | Alana Clements | Tony & Michelle Szak |

Pastor: M. Park Hunter

Confirmation at Onalaska United Methodist Church is not a program of rote memorization, but rather an exploration of baptismal faith. These students and mentors have spent the year asking hard questions, studying the bible, learning about theology and church history, helping others, praying, and having fun. Some of the expectations of confirmation students:

- Read the book of John and discuss it with a mentor.
- Attend worship regularly and volunteer as liturgists, tech helpers, candle lighters, community dinner servers, etc.
- Attend Wednesday night SOAR classes.
- Serve others through mission work.
- Attend a retreat on Methodist history and theology.

We also had bonfires, a virtual Christmas party, and lots of games!

Each student considered carefully whether they are at the point in their journey where they are ready to profess their faith and confirm vows made by their parents at their baptism, and whether to join the church.

⁺ students professing their faith ° students becoming OUMC members

INTRODUCTION

Pastor: Brothers and Sisters in Christ: 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. All 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.

CANDIDATES FOR CONFIRMATION

Pastor: I present the following students, who have completed the confirmation course of study:

Rylee Beahm
Silas Bratsch
Suzie Clements
Josie Fry
John Gobel
Wesley Mahr
Kate Ramsay
Bailey Sommerville
Alexa Szak

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Pastor: On behalf of the whole church, I ask you: Do you believe that God loves you?

Students: I do.

Pastor: Do you believe your fullest understanding of God comes to you through Jesus Christ?

Students: I do.

Pastor: Do you believe God's Holy Spirit is always with you to help you and encourage you to be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ?

Students: I do.

Pastor: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

Students: I do.

Pastor: Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

Students: I do.

Pastor: Do you confess God through Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in God's grace, and promise to serve God, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

Students: I do.

CONFIRMATION AND LAYING ON OF HANDS

(Confirmands step forward individually with their mentors, parents, and other invited family members or friends to be prayed over.)

Pastor: Remember your baptism, and be thankful.

Pastor: The Holy Spirit work within you, that being born through water and the Spirit, you may live as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

RECEPTION INTO THE CHURCH

Pastor: Will you be loyal to this congregation of The United Methodist Church and support it with your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness?

Students: I will.

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?

Students: I will.

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

Pastor: Members of the household of God, I commend these persons to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

People: We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

Pastor: 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.