

## Confirmation Schedule

1. Session 1: Trinity March 1 – HK Kim, PTA snack
2. Session 2: Death and Resurrection March 8 – Julia Kim – Parent snack 1
3. Session 3: Bible March 15 – HK Kim – Rev. Kim’s House
4. Session 4: Cloud of Witnesses March 22 – David Yun – Parent snack 2
5. Session 5: United Methodism March 29 - Julia Kim – Parent snack 3
6. No class April 5
7. No class April 12
8. Session 6: Worship April 19 – Sung Ham – Parent snack 4
9. Session 7: Baptism & Communion April 26 – Woon Shik Jang – Parent snack 5
10. Session 8: Serving & Spiritual Gifts May 3 – HK Kim – Parent snack 6
11. Session 9: Exit Interviews May 10 – Rev. Kim, Woon Shik Jang, and Alex Kim  
Confirmands will have to prepare a statement of faith (about a page long double-spaced) that shows their understanding of God, the gospel, etc. Instructions on how to prepared this statement will be given by Pastor Danny to the confirmands. It is meant to demonstrate what the confirmands have learned throughout the Confirmation classes. These interviews will be at church in Room 217 from 7-8:30 pm. Confirmands will be interviewed one at a time.
12. Confirmands Dinner May 17, Friday  
Pastor Danny (and possibly Pastor HK) will meet with the confirmands and a restaurant (TBD) for fellowship and to debrief the Confirmation Class experience. The church will provide the funds for the dinner.
13. Foot Washing and Communion May 18, Saturday  
Parents of confirmands will, in the course of the ceremony, wash the feet of their children
14. Confirmation Sunday May 19, Sunday

## Session 1: The Trinity

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*I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.*

Ephesians 1:17-19

### **Additional Scripture:**

Jeremiah 31:3

Matthew 3: 16-17

Acts 2:1-21

Isaiah 41:10

Matthew 4:23-25

Genesis 1:1

Matthew 9:2

Luke 24

John 14:15-31

2 Timothy 1:14

**Wesleyan Core Term:** Baptism by the Spirit, Desire for God, Eternity of God, Fruits of the Spirit, Image of God, Kingdom of God, Mind of Christ, Natural Image of God, Offering Christ, Offices of Christ, Omnipresence of God, Ordinances of Christ, Providence of God, Righteousness of Christ, Sovereignty of God, Testimony of God's Spirit, Witness of the Spirit

### **Apostles' Creed:**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. On the third day he rose from the dead: he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*When we say the Apostles' Creed, we join with millions of Christians through the ages in an understanding of God as a Trinity—three persons in one: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. From early in our Judaic roots we've affirmed that God is one and indivisible, yet God is revealed in three distinct ways. We cannot describe God with certainty. But we can put into words what God does and how we experience God's action in our lives. God creates, sustains, loves, suffers, judges, redeems and reigns.*

*In trying to find words to express their faith in Jesus, the New Testament writers gave him various names. Jesus is Master, Rabbi, Teacher. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He is the Doorway to the sheepfold, the Light of the world, the Prince of Peace, and more. Jesus, the Son of God and son of Man, is fully divine (God is wholly present in him) and fully human. Jesus is the Messiah and our Savior, God's chosen one to bring salvation to all peoples through the forgiveness of sin and the gift of whole and eternal life.*

*The Holy Spirit is God's present activity in our midst. When we sense God's leading, God's challenge, or God's support or comfort, we say that it's the Holy Spirit at work. Through the fruit and gifts of the Spirit, the Holy Spirit empowers us for ministry in the world.*

### **Group Questions/Activities:**

#### Opening:

- What did you already know about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit?
- Have you heard the term “Trinity” before? If so, what did you already know or think about it? If not, what questions or thoughts do you have now?
- Drawings (Optional: Instead of drawing describe the following)
  - Draw something to show your earliest memory of God.
  - Draw something to show how you imagine God to be now.
  - Look at the two drawings. What do they represent?
  - How are they different?
  - How has your understanding of God changed over the years?
- What images come to mind when you think of God the Father? God the Son (Jesus)? God the Holy Spirit?
- Which person of the Trinity do you most relate to, pray to, know, heard or think about?
- Where do you go to experience God?
- How do you know when you have experienced God?

#### Scripture:

- Read through some of the additional scriptures listed at the beginning of this lesson and use the following questions for discussion:
  - What do you learn about God from it?
  - What surprises you? Comforts you?
  - What questions come to mind about God, you/us/Christians, the world?
  - Have you experienced or thought about God in this way before?

Application:

- What is one thing you have learned today about the God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit?
- Talk about a time when you can see that God was acting in your school, church, community, nation or world.
- Talk about a place or situation you have been in where you felt God's presence.
- Talk about a time when someone came to you in love and offered to help you or a time when in helping someone else, you felt closer to God.
- Knowing God wants a relationship with you, what are some ways you can work on your end of that relationship with God?

## Session 2: Death & Resurrection

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### Scripture:

Luke 23:44-24:12

John 11:17-27

1 Corinthians 15:50-57

2 Corinthians 4:7-14

**Wesleyan Core Terms:** Eternal Life, Resurrection

### Apostles' Creed:

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.....suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried. The third day he rose from the dead and he ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### Group Questions:

Opening:

- What emotions have you seen in others when someone they loved died?
- If you have lost a loved one (friend, family, hero/someone famous you look up to, pet), what emotions have you experienced?
- Who or what has brought you hope and comfort during that time?
- If you have been to a funeral, did you experience the comfort and hope offered through scripture and God at the service? Why or why not?
- Did you find comfort in some other part of the service?

Scripture:

- Read Luke 23:44-24:12.
- Would you have believed Mary Magdalene and the other women's testimony that Jesus had been resurrected? Why or why not?
- Peter was amazed at what had happened when he saw that Jesus Christ had been resurrected. What do you think your reaction would have been if you had been Peter?
- Does anything else surprise you or bring up questions in this passage?
- What does it mean to you if you believe in the resurrection of the body?

- What do you think about eternal life? What does “eternal life” mean to you?

Application:

- What is your reaction today when you hear people talk about Jesus Christ being resurrected from the dead? Is it unbelievable? Scary? Amazing? Incredible? Miraculous?
- What words would you use to describe eternal life and heaven?
- Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” (John 11:25-26) Do you believe this? What do you think he means when he says you will never die.
- What does believing in the resurrection of Jesus Christ mean for your life? What difference does it make in your day-to-day living?

Action:

- This week, pray for those who are mourning a loss.

## Session 3: The Bible

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*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

2 Timothy 3:16-17

### **Additional Scripture:**

Psalm 119:105

Luke 24:13-35 (Road to Emmaus)

Romans 15:1-4

See additional Scripture sheets

**Wesleyan Core Terms:** Authority, Scriptural Holiness, Studying Scripture, Sufficiency of Scripture, Wholeness of Scripture

*The Bible is the story of the one God, who stands in a **covenant** relationship with the people of God.*

*The scriptural meaning of **covenant** is to enter willingly into a binding agreement with God. It is a response to God's gracious initiative; and, however difficult it might be to keep, it cannot be adjusted. It can only be broken. First God made a covenant of forgiveness and reconciliation with us in the Old Testament (Abraham, Moses, Noah...) In the New Testament, God's covenant becomes the new covenant of the Spirit, offered through Jesus Christ.*

*The Bible is a collection of sixty-six books, thirty-nine in the Old Testament (or Hebrew Bible) and twenty-seven in the New Testament. These books were written over a one-thousand-year period in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic (the language Jesus spoke), and Greek.*

*Tested by faith, proven by experience, these books have become sacred; they've become our rule for faith and practice. The authority of Scripture derives from the movement of God's Spirit in times past and in our reading of it today.*

## Group Questions/Activities:

### Opening:

- How or when have you used the Bible?
- Do you know others who read the Bible? How often? At church? At home? Other?
- What did you know about the Bible before today?
- Have confirmands open their Bibles up and look through its many features including:
  - Table of contents (Old & New Testament books)
  - Maps
  - Concordance

### Scripture:

- Read Romans 1:20 as a group  
*Remind confirmands that the God who created the universe did not just set the world spinning and step back. God continues to be involved with God's creation. We are part of that creation. God desires to have a relationship with us. We are going to look at some of the things God says to us in scripture.*
- Have confirmands look over the scripture sheet: "Things God Says to Us". Ask them to choose a verse/verses or words from the verses that jump out at them.
  - Why did you choose the verse you chose? How does this verse speak to you?
  - How does the verse you chose relate to your life today?
  - Did anything surprise you about the verses you read? Talk about this.
  - Was there anything that you did not like about any of the verses listed? Talk about this.
- Take a look at the "Stories of Jesus" scripture sheet. Pick a story, look it up in your Bible and read it. Then discuss with the group.
  - Briefly summarize the story you read.
  - Why did you choose the story that you chose?
  - What do you like about the story that you read?
  - What does this story say to you about Jesus' character?
  - What does this story mean to you in your life today?
  - Is there another story about Jesus that you really like? Talk about it briefly and explain why you like it.
- Read Acts 2:1-21 If your group is open to it, ask them to close their eyes as one leader reads the story aloud. Ask your group to picture themselves present on this day of Pentecost. If your group would rather, just read the scripture together as a group. Consider asking one or more confirmands to read.

- If the group pictured themselves there, have each identify what character they were: a member of the church gathered? An on-looker? Someone else?

*If your group did not picture themselves present in the scripture, the story is still very visual. Ask the following questions:*

- What does the coming of the spirit sound like? Check out Genesis 1:1 *The Holy Spirit has been present since the beginning of creation. At Pentecost, people experienced the Holy Spirit in a new way.*
- What does the spirit look like?
- What is its' impact on the people gathered?
- How did others perceive the spirit?
- Ask group members to look over the "Holy Spirit" scripture sheet. Discuss:
  - What words or phrases jumped out at you?
  - Which passage was most meaningful to you? Why?
  - Do you have any questions on any of the passages?

Application:

- Has your understanding of the Bible changed today? What do you know now that you didn't know before?
- How can the Bible help us to know or experience God today?
- Talk about a time when you were struggling with an issue, decision, or event and found an answer in scripture.
- How can you make reading the Bible a priority in your life? What can you do to read it more often?

## **Scripture Sheet**

### **Things God Says to Us**

*I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.—Isaiah 43:3a*

*The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.”—Exodus 34:6*

*I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. —Jeremiah 31:3*

*When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart.—Jeremiah 29:13*

*Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.—Isaiah 41:10*

*Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.—Matthew 9:2*

*My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.—2 Corinthians 12:9*

*Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.—Isaiah 43:1b*

*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.—Jeremiah 29:11*

*I will never leave you or forsake you.—Hebrews 13:5b*

*Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.—Joshua 1:9*

*Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.—Jeremiah 33:3*

*Be still and know that I am God.—Psalms 46:10a*

*And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”—Luke 3:22*

## **Scripture Sheet**

### **Stories of Jesus**

<b>Birth of Jesus</b>	Matthew 1:18-2:12 or Luke 2
<b>Easter Story</b>	Mark 16 or John 20
<b>Jesus' Baptism</b>	Luke 3:21-22
<b>The Lord's Supper</b>	Matthew 26:26-30
<b>Jesus Feeds 5,000</b>	Mark 6:30-44
<b>Walking on Water</b>	Matthew 14:22-33
<b>Calming the Storm</b>	Luke 8:22-25
<b>Zacchaeus</b>	Luke 19:1-10
<b>"Let the Little Children Come to Me"</b>	Luke 18:15-17
<b>Samaritan Woman at the Well</b>	John 4:1-42
<b>Healing a Paralytic</b>	Mark 2:1-12
<b>Healing on the Sabbath</b>	John 5:1-18
<b>Temptation of Jesus</b>	Matthew 4:1-11
<b>Calling of the First Disciples</b>	Matthew 4:18-22
<b>Curing a Blind Man</b>	Mark 8:22-26
<b>Cooking Breakfast</b>	John 21:1-14
<b>Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed</b>	Luke 8:40-56

## Scripture Sheet/ Holy Spirit

*Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.—2 Timothy 1:14*

*And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.—John 14:16-17*

*But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.—John 14:26*

*When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.—John 16:13-15*

*The Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human beings knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God.—1 Corinthians 2:10b-11*

*Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.—Romans 8:26*

*And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.—Romans 8:27*

*God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.  
—John 4:24*

*For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.—Romans 8:5*

*In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.—Ephesians 1:13-14*

## Session 4: The Cloud of Witnesses

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*Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. 2 This is what the ancients were commended for.*

Hebrews 11:1-2

### **Additional Scripture:**

Hebrews 11:1-12:2 (A Great Cloud of Witnesses)

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

*Saints are those who have exemplified the Christian life by living faithfully and sharing their faith with us. On All Saints Day, we recognize by name those from our congregation who passed away over the last year. These are people who have “gone before us in our faith”. Saints can be people in our lives who encourage us, family members and ancestors. Saints are also those named in the Bible as being a part of God’s story.*

### **Group Questions:**

Opening:

- Who in your life has had the greatest impact on your faith so far?
  - How has this person impacted your faith?

Scripture:

- Read Hebrews 11:1-12:22 as a group. Keep your Bibles open as you work through the following questions:
  - Which Bible character mentioned is most familiar to you?
    - What was extraordinary about what that character did?
    - What do you think gave him or her the power to do those things?
    - Several of the people mentioned never received what was promised to them. What was it that kept them motivated? What were they ultimately seeking?
- Has someone else in the Bible impacted your life or faith greatly? Who and how?

Application:

- How have you encouraged others in their faith journey?
  - Would someone mention you in their “cloud of witnesses?”
  - How can you better encourage others in their faith?
  - Is there someone you can think of who needs extra encouragement right now?
- What words or images did you include in your quilt square?
  - Why did you choose them?
  - What is meaningful about them?
  - What do you hope others will know about you and your faith from them?

Action:

- Call or write a thank you note to someone who has made an impact on you and your faith journey.

## Session 5: United Methodism

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*He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*

Micah 6:8

**Additional Scripture:**

Ephesians 2:4-10

**Wesleyan Core Terms:** Church, Catholic Spirit, Classes, Bands

**Apostles' Creed:** I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**On the UMC:**

- Began as a renewal movement within the Church of England led by John Wesley and his brother Charles in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Through **methodical** practices and intentional focus on personal and social holiness, this movement formed into a separate church in America following the Revolutionary War.
- In 1968 the Methodist Church and Evangelical United Brethren Church joined together in ministry forming The United Methodist Church.
- The UMC exists worldwide and do God's work in a unique structure referred to as "the connection." We live out our call to mission and ministry through shared ministry worldwide – no one congregation can do it all on their own, but together we can make a tremendous difference.
- Our mission: make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
- God's love for the world is an active and engaged love seeking justice and liberty. The UMC is known for its involvement with people's lives, with political and social struggles that have both local and international mission implications.
- Emphasis on grace: God's unfailing, unearned love. Understand grace to be at work in three ways:
  - Prevenient – God's active presence in our lives before we are even aware of it. Grace is a gift from God, God takes the initiative to be in relationship with us.
  - Justifying – God's grace makes possible for us reconciliation, pardon and restoration. This possible when we become aware of the gift of God's grace and realize that our sins are forgiven through Jesus Christ's crucifixion and resurrection.
  - Sanctifying –the on-going experience and movement of God's grace in our lives which transforms us into God's holy people.

- John Wesley's Three General Rules for intentional disciplined Christian living:
  - 1. Do No Harm
  - 2. Do All The Good You Can
  - 3. Attend upon the ordinance of God (Stay In Love With God)

### **Group Questions:**

#### Opening:

- Have you been United Methodist your whole life?
- What did you learn that you didn't already know about the UMC?

#### Scripture:

- Read Micah 6:8 and Luke 10:25-37 - These scriptures capture John Wesley's Three General Rules for Christian living
  - How do we live out these rules in our daily living as Christians?
  - Which one is most difficult or challenging and why?
  - Which one is easiest and why?
- Read Ephesians 2:1-10
  - What does it mean that God's grace is a gift to us, that there is nothing we can do to earn it?
  - How have you experienced or seen God's grace in your life?
  - What difference does God's grace and Jesus' sacrifice make in how we live?

#### Application:

- What are some ways you can accept God's grace and become more holy in your daily life? (at home, school, sports, neighborhood, etc.)
- What are some benefits of the UMC being connectional/involved in the world?
- Where are you surprised or glad that the UMC is involved in the world?
- What social struggles or world-wide situations do you want to see the UMC get involved in or become more involved with?
- What other questions or thoughts do you still have about the UMC?

#### Action:

- Go to the United Methodist Church webpage this week ([www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org)). Check out some of the social policies as well as where the United Methodist Church is serving around the world.

## **Session 6: Worship**

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*God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.*

John 4:24

**Additional Scripture:**

Psalm 95: 1-7

Matthew 4:1-11

Exodus 20:2-6

**Wesleyan Core Term: Worship** - John Wesley shared with other Christians a basic definition of worship: it was the appropriate honoring of God for what God had accomplished through Jesus Christ, God's Son. Worship should be both inward and outward. It is an inward service of the heart as well as an outward use of the means of grace. Worship is also a duty toward God, offered in obedience to God's commands and a gift from which God pours out grace upon the church. (The Wesley Study Bible p. 509)

**Thoughts on Worship:**

- Worship is an encounter with the living God through the risen Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Our basic pattern of worship comes from the example of Jesus and his disciples.
- A worship service in UMC follows this basic flow:
  - Entrance – people come together in the Lord's name.
  - Proclamation and Response – God's Word is revealed through Scripture, preaching and other elements. Then we respond to God's Word through offerings of prayer, gifts and service to the world and for one another.
  - Thanksgiving and Communion – through the sacrament of Communion, prayer or other elements we celebrate God's love through Jesus Christ.
  - Sending Forth – the people are sent into ministry with God's blessing and peace.
- Worship is both communal (in community – retreats, Sunday morning worship, etc.) and personal (personal prayer, studying scripture, giving thanks and encountering God in your daily life).

**Group Questions:**

Opening:

- What first comes to your mind when you hear the word worship?
- If you could pick out the most important part of a worship service what would it be? Why?

- Think about worship services at KUMCK.
  - What are the parts to the service? (Refer to a recent bulletin or basic flow listed above)
  - The church year is divided into 6 different seasons: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Pentecost. What are some ways our church observes these seasons?
    - What decorations/colors/music represent each season?
    - What are some traditions we have for the different church seasons?
    - Which church season is your favorite?
    - What is it about that season that makes it your favorite?
    - What are some of the year-round symbols in the sanctuary or ROC that are part of worship services?
- What is the most meaningful worship service you have ever been to? What stands out to you about the service? (music, prayer, sermon, other elements?)

Scripture:

- Read Matthew 4:1-11
  - How do you think Jesus was able to withstand the temptations he faced?
  - What temptations do you face today? How can you turn away from them and keep your focus on God?
  - What can we learn from Jesus' words and actions?
- Read Exodus 20:2-6
  - The first commandment says you shall have no other Gods before God and not worship or bow down to any idols, what idols exist today in our lives and in the world?
  - Why do you think it's important to love and worship only God and not other things and people?

Application:

- In what ways does worship affect your day-to-day life?
- How can you make worship a bigger part of your life – both at church and in your daily life?
- What does it mean to you to live a life of worship?
- How do you worship God outside of church?
- Brainstorm some additional ways to live a life of worship.

Action:

- Attend a different worship service this week.
- Find a way to participate in worship in a new way:
  - Sign up to read scripture.
  - Join the praise team.
  - Usher.
  - Simply pay attention when you might otherwise not.

## Session 7: Baptism & Communion

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### Scripture:

Matthew 3:1-17 (Jesus' baptism)

Luke 3:1-22 (Jesus' baptism)

Matthew 26: 26-30 (Lord's Supper)

Luke 22:14-23 (Lord's Supper)

**Wesleyan Core Terms:** Baptism, Baptism by Spirit, Baptism by Water, Sacraments

**Apostles' Creed:** I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**On Sacraments:** With many other Protestant Christians, we recognize two sacraments in which Christ himself participated and in which he instructed his disciples to participate: Baptism and Communion (Lord's Supper). Sacraments are outward visible and tangible symbols of the inward grace and love of God working in our lives.

### On Baptism:

- Symbol of new life and a sign of God's love and forgiveness of our sins.
- Through baptism we are joined with the church universal and with Christians everywhere.
- Persons of any age can be baptized in the UMC by sprinkling, immersion or pouring.
- A person receives the sacrament of baptism only once in his or her life in the UMC tradition.
  - Even though we may turn away from God at times, God never turns away from us and God's love never fails.
  - In Baptism we celebrate God's unfailing love (grace) present from birth that goes before us, reaches out to us and invites us into relationship with God through Christ today and for eternity.
  - Baptism does not save – it is not needed for our salvation; Salvation is a gift from God: we are saved by grace through faith.
- During the Service of Baptism, the community of faith vows (makes a promise/commitment) to welcome, nurture and support the one being baptized (see Baptism service in the Hymnal).

### **On Communion:**

- Holy meal of bread and juice that symbolize the body and blood of Christ offered as a sacrifice on the cross for the world's sin.
- Recalls and gives thanks for God's mighty acts of salvation throughout creation. Recalls and remembers the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and celebrates the unity of all the members of God's family (church universal). Through this sacrament we also look towards the time when Christ will return. It is a celebration of what God has done, is doing and will do for, in and through us.
- Call upon the power and presence of God's Holy Spirit to work within the elements and transform us into the body of Christ, holy and redeemed.
- By sharing in this meal we give thanks for Christ's sacrifice and are nourished and empowered to go into the world in mission and ministry.
- The UMC practices an "open table." This means we welcome all who love Christ, repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another to receive the elements (this includes children).

### **Group Questions:**

#### Opening:

- What experiences have you had with baptism or communion at KUMCK?
  - Have you been baptized?
  - Have you seen a family member be baptized?
  - Have you seen children, youth or adults at KUMCK be baptized in worship?
  - Have you received communion?
- Have you had experiences with baptism or communion at other churches? What differences or similarities did you notice?
- What is something new you learned tonight about either baptism or communion?

#### Scripture:

- Baptism:
  - Read Matthew 3:1-17 and Luke 3:1-22.
    - What happened at Jesus' baptism?
    - How are these two accounts similar or different?
    - What similarities are there between Jesus' baptism and your own baptism?
    - What do you think it means that God claims Jesus and us as God's beloved children?
- Communion:

- Read either Matthew 26:26-30 or Luke 22:14-23
  - What parts of this first communion do we participate in when we celebrate communion?
  - Why do you think Jesus took time to share communion with His disciples?
  - What from this scripture should we remember when receiving communion?

Application:

- Baptism is a covenant between God, the congregation, and the person being baptized.
  - What is God's part in baptism?
  - What is the congregation's part in baptism?
  - What is your part in baptism?
- Why is it important that we take communion?
  - What does taking communion mean to you?
  - How does communion nourish and help you respond to God's call for us to be the one body of Christ in ministry to all the world? (see the Great Commission in Matthew 28:16-20)
- How will you view the sacraments differently next time you participate in them?
- Community is an important element for each sacrament. In baptism we enter into the faith community and the surrounding local community promises to care for us along the way. In Holy Communion we celebrate what God has done through Christ for all of God's children, and all are invited to come to the table, gathering as one community at the table.
  - How does this importance of community impact our lives as Christians?
  - What difference does it make that we are in this together with other Christians?
  - What can you do to support and encourage others in the faith community?

Action:

- Read the Service of Baptism on pages 39-43 in the Hymnal.
- Read the Service of Holy Communion on pages 12-15 in Hymnal.

## Week 5: Serving & Spiritual Gifts

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### Scripture:

Micah 6:8  
Matthew 25:34-40  
Matthew 28:16-20  
John 21:15-17  
Romans 12:3-8  
1 Corinthians 12  
Ephesians 4  
1 Peter 4:9-11

### Service:

Service is a way of living. Jesus showed us by his life and teachings that we are to serve and care for others. In his final words to the disciples before ascending to heaven, he commissioned us to continue that work and assured us that he will be with us always (Matthew 28:16-20).

United Methodists continue to heed the lessons John Wesley taught his followers: to live lovingly and justly as servants of Christ by healing the sick, feeding the hungry, caring for the stranger, freeing the oppressed; being a compassionate presence, and working to develop social structures that are consistent with the gospel.

### Spiritual Gifts:

From Romans: prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, generosity, leadership, mercy

From 1 Corinthians: wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment of spirits, speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues

From Ephesians: apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, teacher

From 1 Peter: hospitality, serving

*Note: Spiritual gifts are not the same as talents. God does additionally gift us in areas of proficiency within our lives that we identify as our talents. Pay special attention to this when you talk about the spiritual gifts within the group.*

Every child of God is filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, specially gifted to play a unique and valued role in the body of Christ. No one is without gift or purpose.

Spiritual gifts are not our talents or skills. **They are the grace of God at work within us, empowering us to match our deep passions with the world's deep need.** The gifts are given to individuals, but they are given to build and strengthen community and to meet the needs of those around us.

The gifts God gives empower the church to serve the whole of creation. The congregation is where we learn to use and develop these. As we learn to live our gifts at home at work and in our communities, we extend the blessing and healing of the Body of Christ to the world.

### Group Questions:

Opening:

- Have you ever done something to help someone else? Why? How did it make you feel?
- Has anyone ever done something to help you? Why? How did it make you feel?
- Have you ever been given a gift and not used it or only pulled it out only when the giver of that gift is around?
  - Does this lessen the meaning of the gift?
  - What is the intention in gifts that are given to you?
  - How can you best show appreciation to the gift-giver?
- How do you think people feel when you do not use the gifts that they give you?

*Spiritual gifts are gifts from God. Just like your parents want to see you use and appreciate your Christmas and birthday gifts, God wants to see you use and appreciate the gifts God gave you. In order to fully appreciate the gifts God gives you, you need to use them regularly.*

- Look at the list of spiritual gifts. Do you have questions about anything listed?
- What spiritual gifts have you noticed in other people in your lives?
- Have you helped (served) in the church before? Where, how, what for? Why?
  - Some suggestions to get them thinking about ways people serve the church: youth council, praise team, children's ministry, GRACE Ministries, helping with VBS, Mexico Mission
- Have you participated in a service activity outside of the church?
- How do you feel when you serve others?

- Why do you think Jesus wants us to live our lives serving others?

Scripture:

- Read Romans 12 together as a group. Consider asking one or more of the confirmands to read.
  - Is any one spiritual gift greater than another?
  - Why would it be important to figure out your own spiritual gifts?
  - Why don't we all have the same spiritual gifts?
  - Why might it be important to identify spiritual gifts in others?
  - How does knowing your spiritual gift(s) help you function as a member of the Body of Christ?
- Read Matthew 25:34-40.
  - What do these verses tell us about following Jesus?
  - Have you ever done any of these?
  - How do you think we could do them today?
  - How can you use your spiritual gifts to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit those in prison, etc.?

Application:

- Spend some time talking about the spiritual gifts of each member in your group.
  - What spiritual gifts do you see in the members of your group?
  - What spiritual gifts do you feel you have?
  - What gifts do you appreciate other people having?

*Remember gifts are different than talents!*
- Spend a few minutes talking about how you can best use your spiritual gifts.
  - How can you use what God has gifted you with to serve the church?
  - How can you use what God has gifted you with while at school?
  - How can you use what God has gifted you with at home?
- Spend a few minutes talking about what it means to follow the example of Jesus and live a life of service today in Northern Virginia?
  - Who in our community needs to be served?
  - Which of these needs can we address?
  - How could we meet that need?
    - Financial assistance (raising money to give)
    - Material assistance (collecting and donating food, clothing or other items)
    - Time (baby-sitting, reading to an older person, visiting someone who is sick or lonely)

- Talent (teaching someone to read, tutoring, singing at a nursing home, making a card for someone in the hospital or prison)
- This weekend is our service weekend:
  - Which service opportunity at KUMCK are you participating in?
  - Why? What questions do you have about it, what are you looking forward to?
  - How can you use your spiritual gifts this weekend?
  - How can you approach this weekend as a chance to share God's love rather than simply to check off a requirement of confirmation?

Action:

- Participate in service through KUMCK this weekend.
- Find a way to meet the needs of someone this week.

## **Spiritual Gifts Guide:**

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**Leadership**—Leadership aids the body by leading and directing members to accomplish the goals and purposes of the church. Leadership motivates people to work together in unity toward common goals (Rom. 12:8).

**Administration**—Persons with the gift of administration lead the body by steering others to remain on task. Administration enables the body to organize according to God-given purposes and long-term goals (1 Cor. 12:28).

**Teaching**—Teaching is instructing members in the truths and doctrines of God’s Word for the purposes of building up, unifying, and maturing the body (1 Cor. 12:28; Rom. 12:7; Eph. 4:11).

**Knowledge**—The gift of knowledge manifests itself in teaching and training in discipleship. It is the God-given ability to learn, know, and explain the precious truths of God’s Word. A word of knowledge is a Spirit-revealed truth (1 Cor. 12:28).

**Wisdom**—Wisdom is the gift that discerns the work of the Holy Spirit in the body and applies His teachings and actions to the needs of the body (1 Cor. 12:28).

**Prophecy**—The gift of prophecy is proclaiming the Word of God boldly. This builds up the body and leads to conviction of sin. Prophecy manifests itself in preaching and teaching (1 Cor. 12:10; Rom. 12:6).

**Discernment**—Discernment aids the body by recognizing the true intentions of those within or related to the body. Discernment tests the message and actions of others for the protection and well-being of the body (1 Cor. 12:10).

**Exhortation**—Possessors of this gift encourage members to be involved in and enthusiastic about the work of the Lord. Members with this gift are good counselors and motivate others to service. Exhortation exhibits itself in preaching, teaching, and ministry (Rom. 12:8).

**Shepherding**—The gift of shepherding is manifested in persons who look out for the spiritual welfare of others. Although pastors, like shepherds, do care for members of the church, this gift is not limited to a pastor or staff member (Eph. 4:11).

**Faith**—Faith trusts God to work beyond the human capabilities of the people. Believers with this gift encourage others to trust in God in the face of apparently insurmountable odds (1 Cor. 12:9).

**Evangelism**—God gifts his church with evangelists to lead others to Christ effectively and enthusiastically. This gift builds up the body by adding new members to its fellowship (Eph. 4:11).

**Apostleship**—The church sends apostles from the body to plant churches or be missionaries. Apostles motivate the body to look beyond its walls in order to carry out the Great Commission (1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11).

**Service/Helps**—Those with the gift of service/helps recognize practical needs in the body and joyfully give assistance to meeting those needs. Christians with this gift do not mind working behind the scenes (1 Cor. 12:28; Rom. 12:7).

**Mercy**—Cheerful acts of compassion characterize those with the gift of mercy. Persons with this gift aid the body by empathizing with hurting members. They keep the body healthy and unified by keeping others aware of the needs within the church (Rom. 12:8).

**Giving**—Members with the gift of giving give freely and joyfully to the work and mission of the body. Cheerfulness and liberality are characteristics of individuals with this gift (Rom. 12:8).

**Hospitality**—Those with this gift have the ability to make visitors, guests, and strangers feel at ease. They often use their home to entertain guests. Persons with this gift integrate new members into the body (1 Pet. 4:9).