

September 28, 2022

Dear Pastors, Youth Leaders, Parents, and Potential Confirmands:

The Presbytery of Genesee Valley Youth and Young Adult Ministries Working Group is excited to offer a Confirmation study program for PGV youth in 7th grade and older. We will be loosely basing our class series on the PC(USA) confirmation curriculum, *Big God Big Questions*. These classes will help us better understand and claim the Christian faith as our own.

There will be eight sessions (one per month, October through May), taught by a variety of pastors and youth educators—see attached schedule.

While this will be a comprehensive program that prepares youth to answer the constitutional questions that confirm their faith at their home church, it will also be a wonderful supplemental series for churches who are leading their own confirmation classes. Youth who have already been confirmed are welcome to attend, as we envision this study program to be a joyful, interactive, and engaging way to explore our spiritual journeys together and to embrace the connective aspect of our Presbyterian heritage.

In fact, rather than adopting a classroom “formula” to follow, each session will have its own unique approach to addressing the study theme for the day. Look for outdoor experiences with creation, art and craft opportunities, fun with food, games, and more. The hope is that youth joining this program learn more about their faith, themselves, and the spaces to which God is calling them, not only in their own church setting, but in their broader Presbyterian community and the world at large.

As this is simply an educational resource, there is no obligation to attend all study sessions. Individual churches are encouraged to determine their own confirmation requirements. Registration for each session will be necessary a week before the session date so leaders can prepare accordingly, and there is a one-time registration form needed for each youth participant--see attached form below. Every church is urged to send a background-checked adult to attend with their youth. If that is not possible, please contact Rev. Michelle Allen for alternative solutions.

Please give prayerful consideration to participating in this endeavor. There is great value in youth interacting with peers and leaders beyond the comfort and familiarity of their “home” church. We all have so much to learn from one another. Let’s discover together!

Feel free to contact our group convener, Rev. Michelle Allen (pastor@EastAvonChurch.com) with any questions.

Adventuring together with Jesus,

The PGV Youth and Young Adult Ministries Working Group

Lisa Bennett

Communications Coordinator

Tues - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.