

Key Steps on the Journey of Faith: Baptism and Confirmation

I'm very excited that we will have the opportunity to gather in worship Sunday morning at 10:00am to welcome two young men, Isaac Hullinger and Nolan Maag, into the family of Christ. Each of them will be baptized, confirmed, and become a member of our congregation. After that, we will celebrate by sharing in the sacrament of communion as an entire congregation. Some of you may wonder, how is it that **baptism and confirmation** go together? Below is a helpful explanation that I found, written by Joe Lovino for UMC.com:

*Although **confirmation** is not a sacrament in The United Methodist Church, it is an important marker along our spiritual journeys. At **baptism**, we are initiated into the new covenant in Jesus Christ and membership in the Church, Christ's body in the world. For many, this happens when they are very young.*

We recognize that children are members of their human families, but no one expects them to clean their rooms or empty the dishwasher until much later. In the same way, "baptized infants are members of the Church—the family of faith—but are not yet capable of sharing everything involved in membership," By Water and the Spirit, The United Methodist Church's official statement on baptism, teaches.

***Confirmation** is an opportunity to respond to the grace of God available to us, as acknowledged in baptism, and to promise to live as a person of faith. "What God offers us must be accepted in repentance and faith," This Is Your Baptismal Liturgy states. "Confirmation and reaffirmation are our responses of commitment, profession of faith, and rededication."*

I view confirmation as the step where young people respond to God's grace, which has already been active in their lives. They now take the step of claiming for themselves the faith that they've been raised in and was acknowledged at their baptism. In confirmation, they are invited to "Claim the Name" of Jesus over their lives and make their faith their own.

We look forward to a most meaningful time of worship this Sunday morning. See you then!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor David

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