

10/10/22

Dear Students and Parents:

We are excited to invite your student to take a next step in their faith journey! Student Discovery (confirmation) is an experience for 7th – 12th graders that takes a deep dive into faith, the church, and what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ. My prayer is that participation will move students into more meaningful relationships with Jesus, the church, and their families.

This year Student Discovery will take place on Sundays – but due to scheduling issues, the times and campus location will vary (see schedule). Through the theme, ***Know Your Story***, our group time will focus on hearing stories of faith, learning about God's story, and engaging in conversations that allow us to apply that truth to our lives.

As we seek to partner with parents and create spaces for meaningful conversation, students and at least one parent (or other significant adult) will study the book of Mark together at home. We will provide a resource and guide for this.

As we seek to connect students to the larger church, we will be matching them with sponsors who are adult members of the church living out their faith. Sponsors will meet with students about once a month during our scheduled group time. In addition, students will be expected to attend MPC worship at least 8 times through the year – in person or online.

As we seek to encourage students to live out their faith by serving, we will be partnering with the City Rescue Mission this fall. We will have opportunities to learn about this ministry that MPC supports as well as getting involved ourselves.

Hang Ten Weekend has traditionally been a requirement in Student Discovery for our middle school students. This year our weekend will take place before Student Discovery begins, so this is not a 22-23 requirement.

In May, students who have completed all requirements are invited to participate in our Statement of Faith night. This is space created where they can speak and own their own faith – family and friends are invited. This is also the night that students may choose to join the church by profession of faith and confirmation of their baptismal vows.

If they have never been baptized, they may join the church at the end of this class by profession of faith and baptism. Participation in the class does not mean that the participant is obligated to join the church at the end. The decision to become a member is a serious one, and needs to be made by each student themselves.

We will start this year with an informational meeting for students AND parents on Sunday, October 23 from 5 – 6pm. At this time, we will hand out binders, share our schedule in detail, and talk about how families will participate in this process. Attached are the class dates and times, as well as the other information you will need.

***TO REGISTER GO TO THE MS OR HS PAGE OF OUR WEBSITE: WWW.MANDARINPRES.COM**

Cost:

\$15 – covers the parent guidebook for the Mark study

*If you decide to drop before Nov. 6, we will issue a \$15 refund

I look forward to meeting you and getting to know this year's Student Discovery Class!

Rev. Jenn Arnold

Pastor for Next Generation Ministries

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Important Dates:

*Up to 4 group days may be missed

*MRC = Mandarin Road Campus; LRC = Loretto Road Campus

- **Oct. 23 – Parent/Student meeting – (5 – 6pm in Woodys – MRC)**
- (Oct. 30 – Fall Fest - No Group)

Group Meeting Times:

- **Nov. 6 (12-1:30pm in Kids Space – LRC)**
Theme: God's Story - Pizza will be provided
- **Nov. 13 (4-5pm in Sanctuary)**
Andrew Stepp's installation service; take a selfie with bulletin
- **Nov. 20 (4:30 – 6pm in Woodys – MRC)**
Theme: Israelite Story #1
- (Nov. 27 – Thanksgiving – No Group)
- **Dec. 4 (4:30 – 6pm in Sanctuary – LRC)**
Theme: Advent/Sponsor Week
- **Dec. 11 (3:30 – 5pm in Woodys – MRC)**
Theme: Israelite Story #2
- **Dec. 17 (4pm – Woodys – MRC)**
Theme: Packing Shoeboxes and Delivery
- **Jan. 22 (4:30 – 6pm in Woodys – MRC)**
Theme: Jesus' Story #1
- (Jan. 29 – ECO conference – No Group)
- **Feb. 5 (4:30 – 6pm in Kids Space – LRC)**
Theme: Lord's Prayer Stations/Sponsor Week
- **Feb. 12 (12 – 1:30pm in Kids Space – LRC) pizza will be provided**
Theme: Jesus' Story #2
- (Feb. 19 – President's Day Weekend – No Group)
- **Feb. 26 (4:30 – 6pm in Woodys – MRC)**
Theme: Early Church #1
- **Mar. 5 (4:30 – 6pm in Woodys – MRC)**
Theme: Early Church #2/Sponsor Week
- (Mar. 12, 19 - Duval/StJohns Spring Breaks – No Group)
- **Mar. 26 (4:30 – 6pm in Woodys – MRC)**
Theme: Presbyterian Story/Sponsor Week
- (Apr. 2 – Eggstravaganza – No Group)
- (Apr. 9 – Easter – No Group)
- **April 16 (4:30 – 6pm in Woodys – MRC)**
Theme: My Story #1 – Growing in Faith/Sponsor Week
- **April 23 (4:30 – 6pm in Woodys – MRC)**
Theme: My Story #2 – Stewardship/Statement of Faith Instructions
- **April 30 (4:30 – 6pm in Woodys – MRC)**
Theme: Serve Project TBD
- **Monday, May 1 – Statement of Faith Night – 6:30pm Fellowship Hall - MRC**
*This is where students joining the church will be voted into membership
- **Sunday, May 7 – 10:30am in Sanctuary - LRC**
*Students who have joined the church are recognized in worship