

Dear Students and Parents:

After a pandemic year break, we are excited to offer a new confirmation experience for 7th – 12th graders. Student Discovery (confirmation) is 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 Sunday afternoons from 4:30 – 6pm on our Loretto Road Campus. Through the theme, **Know Your Story**, this 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. There will be two format options to choose from.

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. We have tentative dates reserved this year April 22-24, 2022. While we believe that this can be a transformational time, we also acknowledge the differences in comfort with overnight opportunities right now. This year we will encourage, but not require attendance.

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 24** from 4:30-5:30pm. 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 your student for confirmation, click [HERE](#).

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

Rev. Jenn Arnold
Pastor for Next Generation Ministries
jennarnold@mandarinpres.com

Important Dates:

*Up to 4 group days may be missed (all Covid related absences will not be counted)

- Oct. 24 – Parent/Student meeting – 4:30 – 5:30pm *Loretto Road Campus
- (Oct. 31 – No Group – Halloween)

Group Meeting Times – 4:30 – 6pm Sundays on the Loretto Road Campus

- Nov. 7
- Nov. 14
- Nov. 21
- (Nov. 28 – No Group – Thanksgiving)
- Dec. 5
- Dec. 12

- Jan. 16
- Jan. 23
- Jan. 30
- Feb. 6
- Feb. 13
- Feb. 20
- Feb. 27
- Mar. 6
- Mar. 13
- Mar. 20
- Mar. 27
- Apr. 3
- (Apr. 10 – No Group – Palm Sunday/Tentative Easter MPC Family Event)
- (Apr. 17 – No Group – Easter)
- Apr. 22-24 (Tentative Hang Ten Weekend)
- May 1

- Monday, May 2 – Statement of Faith Night at 6:30pm
*This is where students joining the church will be voted into membership
- Sunday, May 8 – Students who have joined the church are recognized in worship

Cost:

\$20 – covers the parent guidebook for the Mark study

Hang Ten Weekend

*Scholarship money available

*If you decide to drop between Oct. 24 and Nov. 7, we will issue a \$20 refund