



CONFIRMATION 2024

Nov 5, 2024

Greetings Parents!

We are so excited that you and your student are interested in the confirmation process! One of the key challenges for young people is the transition from the faith of their parents to establishing their own relationship with Christ and taking ownership of their personal call as a Christian. Confirmation can be a pivotal experience for students as they develop their faith in Christ. ***This year confirmation will be offered to all 8th graders and any high school student who has yet to complete the process.***

There are some key elements of this process that parents and students should understand as they begin this journey.

FEAR: There is a lot of unknown as they enter Passage. What is it all about? Will I have to answer questions? What if it's hard? What happens when I'm done? We try to reassure students that fear is a normal response to something we are unfamiliar with. Parents, help to normalize their uncertainty and remember there will be adults there to provide support. (One reason Faith Friends are so important!)

FUN: Student ministry will be fun! We want students to have a good time. "Laughter" and "celebration" are two key words we use to describe the value of fun. Most students use the word "boring" when they describe church. Because of this, we attempt to shatter the stereotype that church is boring.

FAITH: Our primary goal is to help your child mature in his/her faith. We have a defined strategy with quality programs that assist students to grow in their faith. Our goal is the same goal God has for all Christians and that is to grow in the likeness of Jesus Christ.

FINISH: Confirmation is just one step toward the finish. We want to see students finish their time with us strong in their faith – knowing what it means to love God, love people and how to change their world. Our adult leadership is committed to seeing our graduating seniors having strong convictions about their faith, a lifestyle that reflects their convictions, and plans to serve God through ministry. It's our goal to see every student finish strong.

FRIENDS: "Students become like the people they hang out with." Even though students don't like to hear these words, we've seen that truth played out thousands of times over the years. Almost everything in middle school and high school revolves around friends! To finish strong, good friends are vital.

It is our goal for every student to have the opportunity to grow in his or her faith while in student ministry. We are committed to creating an environment where your son or daughter can discover how to love God, love people and their part in changing our world. Please don't be afraid to ask for help...if we can't help, we will find someone who can!

With that said, we hope you will register your son or daughter for **PASSAGE**, our confirmation program for this year (your Passage Registration Form is included in your packet). This is a 12-week program designed to build a solid spiritual foundation within your child. **PASSAGE** will take place on Sunday mornings from 10:15-11:00 am (during youth small group breakout time)

starting on **January 14th!** *PSM programing begins with fun and fellowship at 9:30 am, followed by a time of music and worship at 9:50 am and small group breakouts at 10:15.*

I would encourage you to take a moment and look over the attached schedule. You will notice that we have **one mandatory retreat** and there are **two passage gatherings** where your student and your student's faith friend get together. These also are mandatory. We also ask that your student make every attempt to attend most of the Sunday morning classes. We realize that schedules are crazy, and you may have to miss but students will be required to attend at least 9 of the 12 sessions. Finally, mark your calendars for **Sunday, April 28th at 11:15 am** for Confirmation Sunday.

Each student will need to have a Faith Friend. You might be wondering what is a Faith Friend? A Faith Friend is someone known to your family who will walk with your student through the Confirmation experience. This can be a close family friend, a favorite Sunday school teacher, etc. **We only ask that they be the same gender as your child, not a relative, and involved in a local church.** This person will be responsible for contacting your student once a week, praying for them, encouraging them and joining them for our passage gatherings and Confirmation Sunday. There is a **Faith Friend Fact Sheet** in your packet that will need to be filled out and returned with your student's registration form by Dec 10th.

Now, this doesn't mean that you are off the hook parents. You have a huge role in the confirmation experience. Each week your student will get a "Take Home Sheet" for you and your family to review at home. You will also need to keep encouraging your student throughout the confirmation season! That's huge!

The total cost of Confirmation is \$75. This covers the cost of the retreat, supplies, and passage gatherings. This is due by Sunday, January 14, 2024. Please remember that if money is tight we have scholarships available if you will just let us know.

We are very excited for this year's confirmation experience. Please take a moment and fill out the registration form and turn that form in no later than **Dec 10th**. Also, you can always find out the latest on PASSAGE by going to www.brandonyouth.com and clicking on PASSAGE in the main menu! Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns you might have!

Julie Hamilton
Director of Family Ministries



PASSION STUDENT MINISTRIES

PASSAGE SCHEDULE 2024

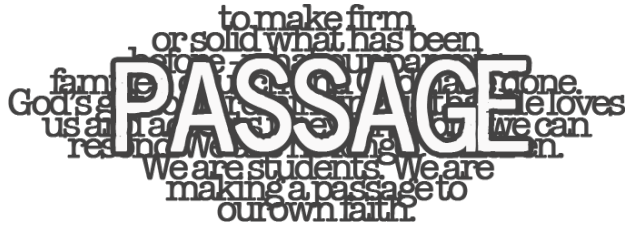
THE BASICS				
JAN 14	CONFIRMATION INTRO	10:15-11:00AM	W209	
JAN 21	WHAT IS THE CHURCH?	10:15-11:00AM	W209	
JAN 28	THE BIBLE AND HOW TO USE IT	10:15-11:00AM	W209	
FEB 4	PASSAGE GATHERING #1	12:30-2:30PM	TBD	Bring Faith Friend
FEB 11	GOD THE FATHER	10:15-11:00AM	W209	
FEB 18	GOD THE SON	10:15-11:00AM	W209	
FEB 25	GOD THE HOLOY SPIRIT	10:15-11:00AM	W209	
FAITH OWNERSHIP				
MAR 1-2	ON CAMPUS RETREAT	FRI 7:00pm-SAT 12pm	GARAGE	Students only
MAR 3	GOD'S CHURCH GROWS	10:15-11:00AM	W209	
MAR 10	WORSHIP	10:15-11:00AM	W209	
MAR 17	THE SACRAMENTS	10:15-11:00AM	W209	
MAR 24	GOD'S PLAN	10:15-11:00AM	W209	
MAR 31	EASTER NO PASSAGE	---	W210	
APR 7	SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES	10:15-11:00AM	W209	
APR 14	DECISION MAKING	10:15-11:00AM	W209	
APR 21	PASSAGE GATHERING #2	12:30-2:30PM	TBD	Bring Faith Friend
THE DECISION				
APR 28	CONFIRMATION SUNDAY	11:15 SERVICE	SANCTUARY	REPORT 10:45 AM

*Must Attend 9 of 12 weeks.

**Must Attend the retreat.

***Must Attend Passage Gatherings





2024 CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION FORM

New Hope Church
Brandon, FL 33510
813.689.4161

Confirmand's Full Name: _____
First Middle Last

Prefers to be called: _____

Mailing Address: _____
Street City Zip

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____

School: _____ Grade: _____

Student's Cell Phone: _____ Student Email: _____

What is the best way to contact student? _____ Cell Provider _____

PARENT INFORMATION

Father's Name: _____ Father's Cell: _____

Is he a church member? _____ If yes, what church? _____

Mother's Name: _____ Mother's Cell: _____

Is she a church member? _____ If yes, what church? _____

Family Email: _____

What is the best way to contact parent? _____ Text? _____

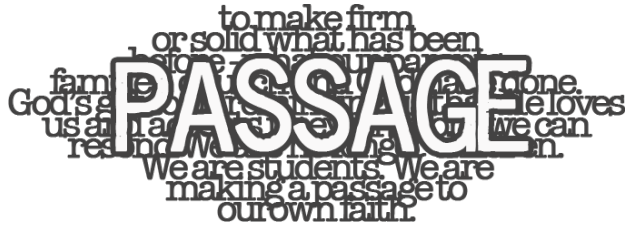
ABOUT YOUR CONFIRMAND

Has the Confirmand been baptized (yes or no)? _____

If YES, name of church: _____

Please tell us about your son/daughter...hobbies or things they enjoy doing: _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO the Church office or Julie@findnewhope.com by December 10



2024 FAITH FRIEND FACT SHEET

Welcome to PASSAGE! To the joy of serving another! To the adventure of relating to a young person! To the satisfaction of knowing you're making a difference! To the deepening of your own spiritual life and faith! This is going to be quite an amazing journey. We just need to get a bit of information from you so that we can connect with you and keep you in the loop of what's going on with your confirmation buddy!

THE FACTS:

Your Name: _____
First Middle Last

Your Confirmation Buddy: _____

Mailing Address: _____
Street City Zip

Home Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

(We will send out weekly Emails updating you on what's happening in Passage)

What is the best way to contact you? Phone Text Email

Cell Provider _____

TELL US A LITTLE MORE ABOUT YOU:

Where do you see God at work in your life today? _____

What excites you the most about being a Faith Friend? _____

What scares you the most about being a Faith Friend? _____

We will communicate important dates in the PASSAGE process to you along the way. Thank you so much for giving of your time and of yourself. **Please return this form to your confirmand so they can complete their registration process by Dec 10th.**