

Sun., June 14, Outdoor Worship

Forest Hills Church

Confirmation Sunday

What an exciting Sunday - it's Confirmation Sunday! Our five Confirmation students will all share their faith testimonies and publically commit to follow Jesus. Two of them (Aimire and Tony) will also be baptized! We will see how God takes the tiny, shaky faith—like the size of a mustard seed—and grow it into a large and committed maturity—like a tall mustard tree. Come expecting your faith to also grow this Sunday, too! We will worship outdoors again: bring a hat and lawn chair, or there will also be spaces for drive-in worship.

Confirmation Students:	Baptized:	Mentor:
Noah Andrew Bonsell	5/12/2019	Steve Betker
Aimire Irene Lloyd	6/14/20	Ann Klinner
Katelyn Claire Bautch	6/18/06	Dona Yetter
Jacqueline Rae Wyne	4/17/05	Amanda Lucas
Antonie Lloyd	6/14/20	Steve Ruter

*People are invited to sit in lawn chairs, spacing 6 feet apart from other families.
People can also park facing the leaders tent and stay in their vehicles.
Fellowship hall door is open for bathrooms.
Please turn off car engines to help everyone hear better.*

OPENING MUSIC: *Our God Saves* -Sanctify

WELCOME -Pastor David
Confirmation Sunday

MEMORY VERSE -Pastor David
“If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, ... there will be nothing that you can't do.”
-Matthew 17:20

WORSHIP MUSIC SET -Sanctify (acoustic)

*O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing
God of Creation*

“Colossians Christ Hymn Liturgy” (Colossians 1:15-20)

R: “The Son is the image of the invisible God, the one who is first over all creation, Because all things were created by Him: both in the heavens and on the earth, the things that are visible and the things that are invisible. Whether they are thrones or powers, or rulers or authorities, all things were created through Him and for Him.”

L: God of creation, we acknowledge...

P: More of You means less of me. We give you everything Lord.

R: "He existed before all things, and all things are held together in Him.
He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning,
the one who is firstborn from among the dead
so that He might occupy the first place in everything."

L: God of transformation, we acknowledge...

P: More of You means less of me. We give you everything Lord.

R: "Because all the fullness of God was pleased to live in Him,
and He reconciled all things to Himself through Him—
whether things on earth or in the heavens.
He brought peace through the blood of His cross."

L: God of Salvation, we acknowledge...

P: More of You means less of me. We give you everything Lord.

More Like Jesus

Worship Prayer -Pastor Andrew

GENERATIONAL BRIDGE: "Mustard Seed" -Pastor Andrew

MESSAGE: "All Things Are Possible with Faith" -Pastor David

Two years ago, Bob Rosenbaum and I started a crazy journey with five confirmation students. Bob, as I look at you know, you look kind of worn out, tired, and you have less hair! I have a lot less hair, too. I've pulled a lot of it out these last two years! This class has been a hard one to keep focused. Many sessions we struggled to stay on task and to learn the lessons. My goal was to have Aimire and Katelyn stop whispering to each other, to have Tony actually sit still for one minute, to have Jacqueline be on the right page of our lesson, and to have Noah not sit in the very back row and actually to have heard the question I just asked him.

It's been a bit like parenting, actually. I've learned to repeat myself incessantly, I've cleaned up after you've supposedly cleaned everything up, I've had to hand-hold nearly every assignment and task, I've had to chew you out, and I've wondered if I was doing any good. But also like parenting, I've tried to keep the long-term view, and I've had the joy of seeing see the amazing people God has created each of you to be. I've fallen in love with you guys—I can't help it!—and when I'm not wanting to ring your necks, I can't help but smile when I think of you. Like parenting, I have come to see all the good in each one, and how God is doing such an amazing thing in each of you. God has made you amazing people, I can see it! And I can see that God has a unique and special plan for each one of you. And Bob and I—along with your mentors this past year—can honestly say, that we are just so proud of you! We are so impressed at your hearts for God, your desire to keep coming back for more because your faith is important to you, and your desire to follow God's plan for your lives.

You have encouraged me in my faith. You have shown me again and again that God is real and makes a difference in people's lives. I am so excited to watch what God has in store for you, and how God is going to use you to make such a difference in God's Kingdom, and in our world.

For most of you, today is nerve-racking: not because you don't have a faith story to tell, but because I am making you stand up in front of this great big crowd, in front of all these people, with everyone staring at you, family from all over, watching you, focused all on you, remembering every

single mistake, and you have to talk and say your faith sharing. So scary! Wow...I though with all that a couple of you would try to sneak away!

But that's what confirmation is. It's not learning a bunch of stuff about the Bible, about God, about the Christian faith, although we have done that. It's really all about your relationship with Jesus. Confirmation is the time when you get up in front of God and everyone, and proclaim your decision to follow Jesus. The Jesus we follow, you see, doesn't have secret followers. We can't be Christians just in our hearts. Jesus-followers live for Jesus in their hearts, but also their minds, their mouths, their feet and their hands. Romans 10:9-10 says, "If you confess *with your mouth* 'Jesus is Lord' and in your heart you have faith that God raised Him from the dead, then you will be saved. Trusting with the heart leads to righteousness [right living], and confessing with the mouth leads to salvation." So today you each have an opportunity to confess with your mouth what you believe in your heart. And from now on, you must take care to live out your faith in your daily lives.

Well, you've finished your two years of Confirmation, and today we also celebrate that accomplishment. But this is not the end, but it's the *beginning* of your Christian lives. I know you don't feel ready. Your faith seems shaky. It's still hard to come up with a God moment—a way that you've seen God in the past week, even though we've done that *each week for two years!* You still have a lot of questions. You're not positive of God's voice speaking to your hearts. You get angry at God. You wonder at times if God is even real. Faith is hard, because you don't have the empirical certainty. Faith, as we learned from Hebrews 11:1, is being certain of what we *can't* see!

First of all, that's okay. All Christians have those questions. Faith that is real does ebb and flow. It's not perfectly solid all the time. That's why we need the church. We need to be in a family of other Christians who can encourage us, remind us of what we believe and why, and call us to accountability and better thinking. So, for the rest of your lives, keep connected to a local church.

But also, Jesus works with shaky faith. This is something I want you to always remember. Jesus works with shaky faith. The 12 disciples in the Bible, they messed up all the time. They stumbled in their faith. When Peter confessed his faith in Jesus, Jesus called him a rock. And yet, that rock later denied Jesus three times when Jesus was arrested, and Peter ran away scared. But Peter could keep coming back to Jesus, because Jesus works with shaky faith.

Each confirmation class I choose a special verse just for them. And your verse this year is our memory verse today. It comes from Matthew 17. Jesus had sent out His disciples to go do what He was doing: telling others about God, helping people, and doing miracles. Well, one time some of them came upon a man who was possessed by a demon. The disciples tried to cast it out, but couldn't. Jesus had to come and do it. Then, in Matthew 17:19 it says, "Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and said, 'Why couldn't we throw the demon out?'" Jesus answers that it was because their faith was shaky. Verse 20, "Jesus answered, 'Because you have little faith.'" But Jesus can work with shaky faith! So, He then encourages them, "'I assure you that if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Go from here to there,' and it will go. There will be nothing that you can't do.'"

Do you hear this? You don't need perfect, or strong, or amazing faith. Jesus says that even a small amount of faith gives you the strength to do amazing things. Now, Jesus doesn't want you going around moving mountains—but wouldn't that be cool...amazing, right? That might be an amazing super power, but it really wouldn't do a lot of good, and God's miracles always help people. But even with a small drop, or little seed of faith, you can do anything you need to do, because of Jesus.

In Mark 4:30-32, Jesus taught what we call the Parable of the Mustard Seed. A parable is using something common in our lives to teach something spiritual. In Jesus' day, mustard seed was

the smallest seed of the crops that farmers sowed. And, can you imagine Jesus walking near a farmer scattering seeds by hand one day, and teaching this parable? “Jesus continued, ‘What’s a good image for God’s kingdom? What parable can I use to explain it? Consider a mustard seed.’” Now, each of you has a mustard seed taped onto your bulletin. Jesus says to consider the mustard seed. So, take out your bulletin and look at the seed there. Jesus continued, “When scattered on the ground, it’s the smallest of all the seeds on the earth [and here he means cultivated seeds]; but when it’s planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all vegetable plants. It produces such large branches that the birds in the sky are able to nest in its shade.”

A tiny seed, yes, but it grows into a bush that is taller than a person, and often can be 20 feet tall! That’s you! All you need is just a commitment to follow Jesus. And the Holy Spirit takes that and works in your life and grows your faith bigger and bigger, stronger and stronger. And some day, you’ll be big in your faith, just like Bob Rosenbaum, or your mentors, or the others in this church, and you’ll serve as confirmation mentors, telling students your God moments and how Jesus has used your shaky faith to make a difference.

That’s how the Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed. God takes seeds like you and me, and when we share our God stories, others get interested, and faith in Jesus spreads. It grows beyond anything that we can imagine!

Each class gets a special Confirmation cross. Your cross, I’m very excited to show you, has a mustard seed on it. It’s so cool! I want you to have it to remind you that your faith is like a mustard seed. It may be small, but Jesus uses small faith! And the seed will also encourage you to keep sharing your faith, and how Jesus helps you in your life. And when you share with others about your God stories, then God’s Kingdom grows, spreading to others, and growing like how a mustard seed grows into a huge bush.

So, our memory verse is on your confirmation crosses: “If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, nothing shall be impossible for you.” Matthew 17:20

And on the front of your necklace, there is the cross as well as the fish symbol. We talked about how the fish is one of the earliest symbols of Christianity, spelling the words, “Jesus Christ, God’s Son, Savior.” And below the fish is a little mustard seed, with the words you must always carry with you as Jesus followers, “All things are possible with faith.”

So, we are so excited to hear your faith testimonies. It’s time for you to share your mustard seeds of faith. You do it today, but you must keep doing it, over and over again, all your life long. We are so eager to hear your God story!

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: Confirmation

A. Introduction

This is all part of the Sacrament of Baptism. A sacrament is a form of worship in which an outward and visible sign is demonstrated by an inward and spiritual grace. It is an act of worship that Jesus both commanded and demonstrated by His own example.

Jesus told His followers to believe and be baptized.

Baptism is a sign of how Jesus washes away our sin and makes us clean through forgiveness. It is the initiation rite declaring that we are part of Christ’s holy Church. It expresses that God’s saving work in Jesus is applied to us, and that we are given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is grace: a gift given into us freely when we are given the Holy Spirit in us.

Baptism is part of God’s covenant. God makes us, loves us, and chooses us.

B. Prayers for Phineas George Bonsell

Today we see this so clearly in the addition of our newest member of our church family. Today, Pastor Andrew and Tracy Bonsell bring their new baby, Phineas George, born May 28. Come on up here, please, your whole family! We give God thanks for the incredible gift that Phineas is to us all. And we want to give you his prayer shawl, so you and he will always know that he is enwrapped in the arms of God's love, and in the arms of God's church here at Forest Hills.

I'm going to anoint Phineas with oil and have us all pray a prayer of blessing over him. Extend your hands to Phineas and pray with me.

[Prayers for Phineas.]

C. Rite of Baptism

Baptism is part of God's covenant. God promises to be our God. With infants, parents make the vow to raise the child knowing Jesus, to be part of God's family. But each person must confirm for him-or-herself the decision to choose Jesus and proclaim faith in Him. For Jacqueline and Katelyn, who were baptized as infants, today is the completion of their baptism, as they now make their part of the covenant, 13 years later! For Noah, who was baptized two years ago, this is a public confirmation of his faith in Jesus. For Aimire and Tony, today is the day of their baptism, and they confirm their faith in Jesus.

D. Affirmation of Faith

So, as the church family, we begin by professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

I ask you all, do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; [He descended into hell.] The third day He arose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, The holy catholic church, The communion of saints, The forgiveness of sins, The resurrection of the body, And the life everlasting. Amen.

E. Thanksgiving over the Water

Water is the outward and visible sign of baptism. It is the outward sign of the inward washing clean of original sin and of the ownership by sin. It is the outward sign of the inward renewing and refreshing of new birth that the Holy Spirit brings.

[Pouring of the water]

Pour out your Holy Spirit, and by this gift of water call to our remembrance the grace declared to us in our baptism. For you have washed away our sins, and you clothe us with righteousness throughout our lives, that dying and rising with Jesus we may share in His final victory.

Church, remember your baptism, and give God thanks!

Amen.

F. Baptism and Confirmation of Baptism

I now call up our confirmation students to share with us their faith testimonies and to be confirmed in their Christian faith. We begin with Noah Bonsell.

1. Noah Andrew Bonsell

a. Faith Sharing

My faith journey all starts with my parents. I was raised in a christian home, and both of my parents are pastors, so I was raised not only knowing about Jesus, but avidly participating in things like church and Bible reading. But my personal belief started around when I was seven.

I was flown to a hospital, and I remember after waking up and hearing what happened I thought to myself, I should be dead. But there I was. I wasn't dead. I have always thought back and remembered that I was saved. I don't know what for, but I was. It just proved even further that God is real.

My parents split up when I was young, and I have always struggled with that, but some of my greatest faith moments come from hard times. I've had someone to lean on and to cry with. God hates it too! (Malachi 2:16, For I hate divorce', declares the Lord.) But, with those moments, comes a feeling of not only comfort, but almost joy. I can be joyful that I have not only a knowledge of God, but a relationship with him, to the point where I can talk to him in my best and worst moments.

Ever since I was out of that hospital, I have always known that he was real, but I didn't know him. I would pray to him, wondering whether he would hear me or not. But after taking communion when I was about eleven or twelve, I was greeted by God himself. I remember sitting back down and feeling crazy. I can't really describe it. I was overjoyed but at the same time crying tears of guilt. Now, I have moved into a two sided, personal relationship with God.

Yes, I might have put him on hold sometimes, (I may be a pastor's kid, but i'm not perfect) but even then I know I can talk with him.

This is how I can proclaim God as my savior and heavenly father. He has shown himself to me and I talk with him frequently. I not only know he's there, but I have a bond with him. I have a vision for my life to, at the least, follow Jesus for as long as I possibly could. I am Choosing for myself to be a christian and be devoted to him for as long as I live.

A verse I would like to point out is 1st John 4:20:

“Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.”

I love - hate this verse. You see, I love my brothers, but that's not what this is getting at. Of course you have to love them, but you also just have to treat them that way. I know I don't. I've still got things to make better. In fact, I've got a lot of things to fix.

So, going forward, I want to be a Christian because my parents signed me up for this and want me to be.

In all seriousness though, I want to be a Christian because I need to keep this relationship with God. I want to show other people that it is totally beneficial to be a Christian. I want to participate in the spreading of the world, and I want to become a disciple because that is what I'm called to do.

b. Confirmation:

Noah went through confirmation at Homestead UMC in Rochester where his mother is a pastor, and was baptized there just a year ago! So, Noah ended up doing double duty for confirmation! But we confirm your faith here, too, as your other church.

Steve Betker was Noah's confirmation mentor, and I invite him to come up.

I also ask Noah's family to please stand to show their support for him, and to show that as a family they stand together in their love for Jesus.

Noah, I want to place around your neck your confirmation cross with the mustard seed. Steve, please put the prayer shawl over his shoulders, so that he will remember that he is wrapped in the arms of God's love, and is enfolded by this church family.

Church, I ask you to extend your hand towards Noah as we bless him in prayer.

Noah Andrew Bonsell, the Lord defend you with His heavenly grace and by His Spirit confirm you in the faith and fellowship of all true disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Cassi also presents you with your Confirmation Bible, so that you will always have access to God's Word of life and truth.

Praise God!

Noah, you can go back to your seat, and now it's time for Aimire to come up.

2. Aimire Irene Lloyd

a. Faith Sharing:

Hello, my name is Aimire Lloyd.

The first time I experienced going to church was with my mom. I believe it was a Baptist church because of the big baptism tub. Some of the lessons I experienced I really didn't understand because I was at a young age. One of the gifts that I shared with the church was that I used to sing in the choir. I also attended the after school programs and church on Sundays just like Tony did.

When we moved to Chicago City, I still went to my previous school, so I started coming to this church before coming to school up here. When I first came to this church, I felt a little uncomfortable because I didn't know my surroundings or what to do. Sharry signed me up for Awana when Armando was in confirmation.

In the first year of confirmation, it was with the same students as were in Awana, so I was comfortable. We started doing more activities around the church, starting to help out, and getting more involved. I learned more about God and what He wants in our lives. I saw Him in other people around us and how He affected us in our day-to-day lives.

I am choosing that I want God to be in my life. I take Jesus as my Lord and want to follow Him and stay on the path He has chosen for me.

I want to be a Christian because of how other people have shared stories with me about God and the wonders He's done for our family, how He has affected my family throughout my experience. I feel like I've grown closer to Him: praying a lot more and attending more things at church, and not having my head always in social media and not ignoring the right things I should be doing. I've been enjoying learning about Him, honoring Him and trying to stay on His path. I want to continue on His path.

One day, when I was just reading through the Bible, I was reading in 1 Corinthians 13. Two verses clung to my heart. Verse 4 says "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud." Verse 7 says, "It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always

perseveres.” This makes me feel loved and cared about, having something I can rely on and trust. I know I will be alright with this path I have chosen for my life.

Thank you.

b. Baptism:

Aimire has professed her faith in Jesus and asks for Christian baptism.

Ann Klinner was Aimire’s confirmation mentor, and I invite her to come up.

I also ask Aimire’s family to please stand to show their support for her, and to show that as a family they stand together in their love for Jesus.

Aimire, having heard you profess your faith in Jesus, I ask you, do you promise, according to the grace given you, to keep God’s holy will and commandments and walk in them all the days of your life as a disciple of Jesus. If so, say, “I do.”

Aimire: I do.

Then, Aimire Irene Lloyd, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

c. Confirmation:

Aimire, I want to place around your neck your confirmation cross with the mustard seed. Ann, please put the prayer shawl over her shoulders, so that she will remember that she is wrapped in the arms of God’s love, and is enfolded by this church family.

Church, I ask you to extend your hand towards Aimire as we bless her in prayer.

Aimire, the Lord defend you with His heavenly grace and by His Spirit confirm you in the faith and fellowship of all true disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Cassi also presents you with your Confirmation Bible, so that you will always have access to God’s Word of life and truth.

Praise God!

Aimire, you can go back to your seat, and now it is time for Katelyn to come up.

3. Katelyn Claire Bautch

a. Faith sharing

My name is Katelyn in and I would like to share my faith sharing story.

My journey with God and the bible first started off when I was born. My mom, dad and both sides of my family were all Christians. My two cousins and I all around the same age were baptized when we were babies, so all my life God has been a part of it. I went to a Christian pre-school where around Christmas time we had a play about Jesus’s birth where I played an angel. That was one of my first memories of being close to God. In that preschool I learned the basic ways of God and all of his kindness and forgiveness towards us. My first memory of praying was when my mom and I prayed before bed with the prayer now I Lay Me Down To Sleep. Then I started going to church on wednesday nights and Sundays at Forest hills church where I learned many new things about God and the bible, I learned how to read versus, memorized the books of the bible and many more things. All from there God has helped me through hard times like when my dad had a stroke and more recently when my grandpa died. I truly decided to follow God when I heard all of what he did for other people and me, I saw that he wanted to rescue me of my sins and that he was trying to teach me the ways of faith. And how to be a good christian person.

I have made the decision to follow Jesus as my personal savior from now until the day I die. I want to follow Jesus because he saved me from all the bad things I and many other people have done and are still doing to this day. He taught me how to listen and express my thoughts and feelings to God and what it would take for me to be a good christian. Since I have started going to church more, I have participated in things like community care and Feed My Starving children that has made me really want to be a Christian because I see all of the good coming from it. He wants me to follow the 10 commandments and overall be a good person to all. Also I want to follow someone that is there for me in hard times and Jesus is and will do that for me. Those are some of the reasons I want God to be a part of my life and why I have chosen to live in the way of God. 1st Corinthians 10:13 “God is faithful he will not let you be tempted by more than you can bare.” This verse from the Bible will be with me for the rest of my life and will always let me know that I am not alone.

b. Confirmation:

Dona Yetter was Katelyn’s confirmation mentor. I invite her to come up. By the way, interestingly, Dona’s husband, Chuck Yetter, was the confirmation mentor for Katelyn’s older brother, Ian. Christian family influence!

I also ask Katelyn’s family to please stand to show their support for her, and to show that as a family they stand together in their love for Jesus.

Katelyn, I want to place around your neck your confirmation cross with the mustard seed. Dona, please put the prayer shawl over her shoulders, so that she will remember that she is wrapped in the arms of God’s love, and is enfolded by this church family.

Church, I ask you to extend your hand towards Katelyn as we bless her in prayer.

Katelyn Claire Bautch, the Lord defend you with His heavenly grace and by His Spirit confirm you in the faith and fellowship of all true disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Cassi also presents you with your Confirmation Bible, so that you will always have access to God’s Word of life and truth.

Praise God!

Katelyn, you can go back to your seat, and now it is time for Jacqueline to come up.

4. Jacqueline Rae Wyne

a. Faith Sharing

Hi, my name is Jacqueline Wyne.

I was baptized in 2005 as a baby at a different church in Corunna, Michigan.

My first memories of a church, however, are of this church. I came to this church with my parents for worship on Sundays. I was in VBS. I went to Sunday School and Awana. My first friends in this church were Bethany and Shepy.

I have been in Confirmation for the last two years. I was in youth group and brought a friend, too. I also went to Red Rock Bible Camp. It was a good experience.

One time when my mom was in the hospital I visited her and she told me that a lady had come to visit her and gave her a Christian book with an angel card in it. After the lady left, no one knew she was there or who she was. My mom thought she might be an angel.

I try to pray for people in need and ask God to help them.

One time I was having intense dreams. I talked to Pastor David and we prayed about it. I felt a little better and was able to sleep better.

In Confirmation class, I explained that God is three at the same time He is one. I know this and believe this.

I have been living with God for a long time. I want to learn more about God and continue to think about my faith. I do choose Jesus and want to follow Him in my life.

I am glad that God forgives us and I want to live right and do good. I know God cares about my family and friends. I want to help others.

One of my favorite Bible verses is Psalm 23. It says “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures, He leads me besides quiet waters, He restores my soul.”

Thank you.

b. Confirmation:

Amanda Lucas, Jacqueline’s cousin, was also her confirmation mentor. I invite her to come up.

I also ask Jacqueline’s family to please stand to show their support for her, and to show that as a family they stand together in their love for Jesus.

Jacqueline, I want to place around your neck your confirmation cross with the mustard seed. Amanda, please put the prayer shawl over her shoulders, so that she will remember that she is wrapped in the arms of God’s love, and is enfolded by this church family.

Church, I ask you to extend your hand towards Jacqueline as we bless her in prayer.

Jacqueline Rae Wyne, the Lord defend you with His heavenly grace and by His Spirit confirm you in the faith and fellowship of all true disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Cassi also presents you with your Confirmation Bible, so that you will always have access to God’s Word of life and truth.

Praise God!

Jacqueline, you can go back to your seat, and now it is time for Tony to come up.

5. Antonie “Tony” Lloyd

a. Faith Sharing

Hello, my name is Tony Lloyd.

I was born in Minnesota, but we moved to Chicago when I was 3. When I was a kid, I went to a church in Chicago for a kids programs during the week. I also went to an after school program at school run by a church. Sometimes I also went to one of my friend’s church on Sundays.

We moved back to Minnesota when I was 11. We started coming to this church when Armando was in confirmation. I went to Awana. We also started coming to worship on Sundays.

I started confirmation here two years ago, and I also was in youth group. We also did grow groups, during the first experiment groups.

One time I felt God was real was when we went on Confirmation retreat to the different religions. We saw how all the others were so different from ours: how their churches were and how our church is. Their churches say they have to do all the things before they are accepted by God, but our church teaches that we don’t have to wash our hands and feet before we talk to God.

Another time I saw God was when Sharry’s sister was in the hospital. She was very sick and we were praying for her, hoping for the best. God did not heal her, but I felt like God took her, and took her for a reason. It was her time to go and spend time with God.

I have decided that I will follow God, and that I will never stop following Jesus as my Lord. I want to spend my time in the afterlife with God. I like the way that God shows me how to live.

One of my favorite verses in the Bible is Genesis 1:3, “And God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light.” I like this verse because I believe when people die, they see light. And then God appears. So, when I die, I want to see the same light, and I want to see God.

Thank you.

b. Baptism:

Tony has professed his faith in Jesus and asks for Christian baptism.

Steve Ruter was Tony’s confirmation mentor, and I invite him to come up.

I also ask Tony’s family to please stand to show their support for him, and to show that as a family they stand together in their love for Jesus.

Tony, having heard you profess your faith in Jesus, I ask you, do you promise, according to the grace given you, to keep God’s holy will and commandments and walk in them all the days of your life as a disciple of Jesus. If so, say, “I do.”

Tony: I do.

Then, Antonie [*pronounced* “Antonio”] Lloyd, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

c. Confirmation:

Tony, I want to place around your neck your confirmation cross with the mustard seed. Steve, please put the prayer shawl over his shoulders, so that he will remember that he is wrapped in the arms of God’s love, and is enfolded by this church family.

Church, I ask you to extend your hand towards Tony as we bless him in prayer.

Tony, the Lord defend you with His heavenly grace and by His Spirit confirm you in the faith and fellowship of all true disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Cassi also presents you with your Confirmation Bible, so that you will always have access to God’s Word of life and truth.

Praise God!

Tony, you can go back to your seat. And as you do, we go gain to...

G. Confirmation Verse

...this year’s Confirmation Bible verse. John 17:20. Church, say that with me.

“If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, ... there will be nothing that you can’t do.” - Matthew 17:20

H. Baptism Blessing Song: *May You Run and Not Be Weary* -Pastor Andrew

I’m now going to ask Pastor Andrew to lead us in our sung blessing for those who are baptized and who confirm their faith in Christ. *May You Run and Not Grow Weary*. Church, again I invite you to extend your hands in blessing to a confirmation student near you. Pastor Andrew?

May you run and not be weary	May your heart be filled with song
And may the love of God	Continue to give you hope And keep you strong
And may you run and not be weary	May your life be filled with joy
And may the road you travel	Always lead you home

I. Joining Forest Hills UMC

People who are baptized and who have publically professed their faith in Jesus are eligible to become professing members of our church. All who come are a part of our church family. But those who commit to “own” and “drive” the ministry of our church become Professing Members. Today Aimire, Tony, Katelyn, and Jacqueline have all chosen to become professing members of Forest Hills Church. Will those joining please stand where you are.

Names, you have professed your faith in Jesus and are a part of Christ’s universal church on earth. Do you also vow to be loyal to Christ through the United Methodist Church, and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries? As members of Forest Hills United Methodist Church, will you faithfully participate in this congregation by prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness? If so, say “I will.”

Response: I will.

Church, we must bless again! Extend your hands to those standing near you, and proclaim the blessing written in your bulletin.

Congregation extends hands to the new members and prays the blessing on the screen.

Dear God, we bless these confirmands. Thank you for bringing them into this community. We commit to bless them, to help them, and to be Christ to them. May they find your love and care here. May they find your work to join here. May they grow in love and truth. Bind us together in your Holy Spirit, and bind us closer to you. May we all live and grow together that we may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life. Amen.

You may be seated!

We want you to know that we celebrate you! We have a reception here today following this worship: cupcakes!

CLOSING SONG: *One True God* -Sanctify

ANNOUNCEMENTS -Pastor David

Offering: *Drop offerings in the box as you leave.*

June 21: Outdoor worship (bring lawn chairs!) and dress as for Camp Sunday

MEMORY VERSE -Pastor David

“If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, ... there will be nothing that you can’t do.”

-Matthew 17:20

BENEDICTION -Pastor David

CLOSING MUSIC -Pastor Andrew

Snacks available as people leave.

Drop offerings in the box as you leave.