Welcome to Confirmation

It is our pleasure to welcome you to your confirmation year. Our congregation has been celebrating this lifecycle ceremony for over one hundred years. It is a sacred and central part of our Temple’s history and future. We thank you for the many years of dedication and learning that have enabled you to reach this Jewish milestone.

Many congregants have told us that one of the most meaningful areas of The Temple building is the confirmation class gallery (in the hallway between the Covenant Chapel and the Sanctuary). For so many, those pictures are a physical symbol of their ongoing dedication to our faith and our community. We look forward to seeing your picture added to the gallery next spring. May this year be for you one of inspiration and exploration. May you always find the space to reveal and discover the beauty of our religion and our heritage. And may you always feel comfortable sharing of yourself and your experiences with your classmates and your clergy.

We are looking forward to a meaningful and memorable year together.

Colette Bernstein Walker, Confirmation Teacher
Sam Latzsch, Confirmation Co-Teacher
Rabbi Loren Filson Lapidus, Confirmation Clergy Leader
Rabbi Steven H. Rau, RJE, Director of Lifelong Learning
Rabbi Peter S. Berg
Rabbi Lydia B. Medwin
Rabbi Lara Tessler
Cantor Tracey Scher
Rabbi Alvin Sugarman, Rabbi Emeritus
Cantor Deborah L. Hartman, Cantor Emerita
Rebecca L. Good, BEC Assistant Director
Abby Friedman, BEC Administrator
Jordan Wilensky, Tefilah and Music Specialist
Confirmation is a relatively new Jewish life cycle ceremony, dating back to the early 1800s. The first confirmation ceremonies were substituted for bar mitzvah ceremonies and were organized like graduation exercises. In 1822, a class of thirteen-year-old boys and girls were confirmed at the Reform synagogue in Berlin. Eventually, bar (and later bat) mitzvah ceremonies came back into popular Reform practice and confirmation was postponed until a later stage in a student's religious education, between ninth and twelfth-grades. Since then, confirmation has been firmly linked to advanced Jewish learning.

(Taken from The Book of Jewish Life by Jo David and Daniel B. Syme)

Goal of the Confirmation Year

It is our resolute belief that the confirmation year be an extraordinary experience in the lives of our young adults. Our goal is the creation of a sacred sense of community, and a nurturing and accepting environment. In classes led by The Temple clergy and our confirmation teachers, students explore their personal beliefs and begin to determine where they fit with the rest of the world. In addition, students discuss the issues of being a modern Jew and making adult Jewish decisions.

Coursework & Information

Class Attendance
Attending class is the most important requirement for confirmation. Not only does it give students an opportunity to learn, it also builds community and friendships among the students. If a student needs to miss a class or leave early, please notify your confirmation teacher, or Rabbi Lapidus (preferably in advance). If a student misses more than 50% of the total classes, a make-up assignment may be given.

Confirmation Class Gift to the Teachers and/or Congregation
There is a tradition in most congregations for confirmation students to present a gift to their congregation and/or their teachers on confirmation weekend as a token of gratitude for their education. Examples of previous gifts to The Temple have been a silver yad for a Torah, our congregation’s megillah, a kiddush stand, and donations to Temple funds.

Confirmation Service
Confirmation students are responsible for writing and conducting the confirmation service held on May 4, 2025. Students will be encouraged to take ownership over this service by selecting the service theme, writings, prayers, and selecting liturgical music. Students may either write a service part or chant Torah. Students with special talents (such as guitar-playing, singing, video-editing, art, etc.) are encouraged to use their talents in the confirmation service. More information about the timeline for service preparation will be given at the beginning of the year. This ceremony has been a part of our congregation for over a century and is considered a sacred rite of passage. We look forward to sharing our bimah with our confirmation class at this holy ceremony.
New York Trip
As part of the confirmation curriculum, students travel with their teachers and rabbis to New York, October 25-27, 2024. On this trip to the largest Jewish community in the United States, students trace Jewish immigration patterns through the Lower East Side, attend a “rockin” Shabbat evening service, see a Broadway show, participate in a scavenger hunt through Boro Park, Brooklyn, and spend Saturday night exploring NYC. We encourage 100% participation. Although the trip is costly, we want to make sure that the cost does not preclude a student from traveling. If funding is an issue, please contact Rabbi Rau as soon as possible to apply for financial assistance.

Confirmation Beltline Scavenger Hunt
On Sunday, February 23, 2025, confirmation students and their teachers spend a morning on the Beltline in lieu of class to continue to create lifelong connections with classmates, learn about each other through teamwork, and enjoy some snacks along the way. Specific timing and directions will be provided in early February.

Special Confirmation Rehearsal
On Saturday, April 19, 2025 from 4:00-7:30pm, there will be a mandatory confirmation rehearsal (because there is only one scheduled day of BEC in April) at The Temple. At 6:10pm, teachers, clergy and students will walk over to Mellow Mushroom to break Passover with a confirmation class dinner. Pick-up is at Mellow Mushroom at 7:30pm.

Confirmation Service Attire
At the confirmation service, all students will wear white robes and follow a dress code to continue the tradition of uniformity in attire. Tallit and kippah are optional. Height information from the Confirmation Survey (emailed to parents in the fall) is used for robe ordering. More information about attire will be shared in March.

Confirmation Invitations
At the beginning of April, all confirmation students will receive 10 invitations that may be sent to people whom you wish to invite (more invitations are available upon request). All Temple members are, of course, invited to attend. The service will be available online and in person.

Confirmation Fees
The cost for the confirmation life cycle is $400 per student. This fee includes robes, flowers for the Sanctuary and The Temple, the reception following the confirmation service, invitations, and the class picture. In October 2024, a charge will be placed on your Temple account. Please log onto your Temple account and pay this fee by January 31, 2025. If you have any concerns regarding the fee, please contact Rabbi Steven Rau at srau@the-temple.org or 404-873-1734.
Confirmation Class meetings:

August 25 (First Day)

September 8
September 15
September 22
September 29

October 6
October 20
October 22
October 25-27: New York City Trip (no class)

November 3
November 10
November 17

December 8
December 15

January 12
January 26

February 2
February 19
February 23: Beltline Scavenger Hunt

March 2
March 9
March 16
March 23
March 30

April 19 Confirmation Rehearsal & Pizza Dinner (Break Passover) 4:00-7:30 PM
April 27

May 3 Final Confirmation Service Rehearsal 12:30-4:00 PM
May 4 CONFIRMATION 10:00 AM, Students arrive at 9:00 AM
WE SEEK MEANING.
Our learning, prayers, acts of justice, and commitment to Israel create sacred connections guided by Torah.

WE NEED EACH OTHER.
Our dynamic community builds enduring relationships from generation to generation.

WE ARE OUR HISTORY, OUR FUTURE.
We are a proud Reform Jewish community where our past and our future meet.

GOD NEEDS US AND WE NEED GOD.
God lovingly cares for us and gives us tools to better ourselves and repair the world.

WE ALL HAVE GIFTS TO OFFER.
Each person’s unique contribution enhances our mosaic of diversity.

OUR DOORS ARE OPEN TO ALL.
We are a warm and welcoming home for all who seek an inclusive Jewish community.