“And you shall teach them faithfully to your children.”

Accredited by the National Association of Temple Educators
Welcome to Breman Religious School

It is our pleasure to welcome you to your confirmation year. Our congregation has been celebrating this life cycle 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.

Martin Maslia, Confirmation Teacher
Scott Edlein, Confirmation Teacher
Rabbi Peter S. Berg
Rabbi Loren Filson Lapidus
Rabbi Samuel C. Kaye
Rabbi Steven H. Rau, RJE, Director of Lifelong Learning
Cantor Deborah L. Hartman
Rabbi Lydia B. Medwin
Elizabeth C. Foster, Family and Teen Educator
**History of the Confirmation Ceremony**

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 where stimulating material of Jewish concern can be presented in a nurturing and accepting environment. In classes led by The Temple clergy and our confirmation teacher, 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 & Requirements**

**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, 50% of an individual unit, or the mandatory shul-in, a make-up assignment will be given.

**Community Service and Shabbat Service Attendance**

The Reform Movement in America was established with the prophetic principles of social justice at its center. Since the early days of confirmation at our congregation, community service has been central to our program. As part of the requirements for confirmation, students are required to complete **five hours of community service**. At least 3 hours are completed as a class during the shul-in and NYC trip. Past confirmands have enjoyed completing the additional two hours in a group with other classmates and for the benefit of a local Jewish organization. Please let Rabbi Lapidus or your confirmation teacher know if you need suggestions for volunteer opportunities. In addition, confirmation students are required to attend at least **three worship services** (Shabbat and holidays).

**Confirmation Class Gift to the Congregation**

There is a tradition in most congregations for confirmation students to present a gift to their congregation on confirmation weekend as a token of gratitude for their education. During the year, students run our Snack Shuk for our younger students and the proceeds from this will be used to purchase a gift. 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 5, 2019. Students will be encouraged to take ownership over this service by selecting the service theme, writings, and liturgical selections. Students may either write a service part or chant Torah. Students with special musical talents (such as guitar-playing, singing, 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.

Consecration Service
Confirmation students are called to the bema during the 6:00 pm Shabbat services on Friday, May 3, 2019 for a private blessing from the clergy. Students should plan on arriving that evening by 5:00 pm and go directly to the Covenant Chapel for a private group blessing before the service. After services, families are invited to a Shabbat dinner with the clergy and the confirmation class following services.

Art Opportunity
In addition to writing the text of the confirmation service, students have the opportunity to create cover art and other illustrations for the Confirmation Service Prayer Book. Artwork will be submitted in February and decided upon by the class.

Shul-in, New York Trip & Retreat
Shul-in
On February 9, 2019, confirmation students participate in a mandatory shul-in. Students should arrive at the Temple on Saturday night at 6:30 pm and should be picked up at 9:30 am on Sunday morning. There is no confirmation class on Sunday, February 10, 2019. During the shul-in, students participate in a community service project benefiting The Zaban Couples Center and discuss a contemporary movie and its Jewish themes and do activities to further strengthen their connection as a class. If a student is unable to attend the shul-in, we ask that they complete a make-up assignment.

New York Trip
As part of the confirmation curriculum, students travel with their teachers and rabbis to New York, October 19-21, 2019. 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 at Rommemu Synagogue, see a Broadway show, and participate in a service project. 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.
Throughout the confirmation year, parents are responsible for making sure their children attend class and Shabbat services regularly, fulfill community service requirements and are punctual to all confirmation rehearsals. Please refer to the syllabus for specific class, rehearsal and event dates.

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 Information Card (emailed to parents in the fall) is used for robe ordering. Under their robes, boys should wear dark blue, gray, or black pants, a white button-down shirt, dark colored socks, dark dress shoes, and dark ties. Girls should wear a white dress or skirt that will not show through a white robe and white shoes. Students should follow the dress code of the gender with which they identify and speak to Rabbi Lapidus with any questions. No large jewelry or flowers, other than the bouquets the girls will be carrying, are to be worn by girls or boys.

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.

Confirmation Fees
The cost for the confirmation life cycle is $415 per student. This fee includes robes, bouquets for the girls, flowers for the Sanctuary and The Temple, the reception following the confirmation service, invitations, and the class picture. Please make your check payable to The Temple and mail it to The Temple office by October 12, 2018. If you have any concerns regarding the fee, please contact Mark Jacobson at 404-873-1731.
Confirmation Calendar

Confirmation Class will meet on:

August 19
August 26
September 16
September 23
September 30
October 14
October 19-21: New York City Trip (no class)
October 28
November 4
November 11
December 2
December 9
December 16

Winter Break

Confirmation Class will meet on:

January 14
January 27
February 3

February 9-10: Confirmation Shul-in (no class on Sunday)
February 24
March 3
March 10
March 17
March 24
March 31
April 7
April 14
April 28

May 3 ....................... Confirmation Class Consecration ................................. 6:00 PM, Students arrive 5:00 PM
May 4 ....................... Final Confirmation Service Rehearsal ........................................ 12:45-4:00 PM
May 5 .......................... 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.
Temple Clergy & TBRs Staff

- Rabbi Peter S. Berg [pberg@the-temple.org]
- Rabbi Loren Filson Lapidus [llapidus@the-temple.org]
- Rabbi Samuel C. Kaye [skaye@the-temple.org]
- Cantor Deborah L. Hartman [dhartman@the-temple.org]
- Rabbi Lydia B. Medwin [lmedwin@the-temple.org]  
  Director of Congregational Engagement and Outreach
- Rabbi Alvin M. Sugarman, Ph.D.  
  Emeritus
- Rabbi Steven H. Rau, RJE [srau@the-temple.org]  
  Director of Lifelong Learning
- Elizabeth C. Foster [efoster@the-temple.org]  
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  Education Administrative Assistant
- Martin Maslia [mmaslia@comcast.net]  
  Confirmation Teacher
- Scott Edlein [s.edlein@gmail.com]  
  Confirmation Teacher