

Confirmation Sermons

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From the Pulpit

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A sermon delivered by Dylan Hopcraft and Arstell Washington, confirmands at The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Columbus, Ohio, 6th Sunday of Easter / Confirmation, May 10, 2015.

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The road for my in discovering Christianity was a long and difficult one with many challenges and obstacles. All roads usually are treacherous and winding, and one will face many difficulties; I just wasn't expecting it to happen so abruptly. Well, maybe abrupt is the wrong word. It is true that Jesus and God have always been in my life and I was always told about them. My favorite songs to sing when I was a child were all the songs that I learned in Sunday school. You know, like the "B-I-B-L-E" and "Zacheus was a wee little man". You know the one I'm talking about, right? (sing part of Zacheus song with hand motions). Okay, good, good. There is video of me doing just that if you don't believe me.

But like I was saying, I really didn't have that personal connection with God until around July of last summer. The passage in John about how he chooses you and we did not choose him, well, I felt like I was never going to be drafted by Jesus. I thought no place was right for me in my religion. Then, in the summer, I went to a Christian camp called

“Summer’s Best Two Weeks”. It was at that camp where I not only found love in playing sports, but in the church services and a prayer at every mean and bible studies as well. It was at this camp where I discovered my personnel connection with God and Jesus. I was very willing to accept them into my life and come back from camp and go to church more often. I was even happier when I remembered that I had a chance to be confirmed this year. I jumped on the opportunity immediately and have found nothing but more joy and love in Christianity itself.

I am ecstatic on becoming a part of the church and in being confirmed. I want to thank my family, like my mother, father, sister Cassidy, and my grandmother for sticking by me and showing me the true love in this amazing religion that we share. I also want to thank my friends from Summer’s Best Two Weeks who cannon be here because some of them live as far away as the Dominican Republic. And of course I want to thank Pastor Tim for standing by me in my faith journey and caring about each of us confirmands and loving the church as a whole. In John, Jesus speaks of him choosing us, not us choosing him. I have been the first round pick in Jesus’ draft all along – I just needed to let his light shine through. Thanks be to God.

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Good morning. It's a wonderful day for everyone and a most delightful day for Mothers. Happy Mother's Day! Let me start out by saying this has been a wonderful Graduation and an amazing Confirmation Class. As most of you probably know, I'm a three-season athlete: football in the fall, basketball in the winter, and track in the spring. My amazing achievements I've made in these sports came from three things: Practice, Dedication, and of course God. I know every day when I wake up I couldn't have without God. When on Friday me and my 4 X 100 teammates ran a 46.75 which broke our school record and broke Newark's school record, we couldn't have done that without God. When I broke my school record with a 16.7 on Wednesday at Hilliard Heritage, I couldn't have done that without God. In football and basketball, I couldn't have an outstanding season without God. Everything we do is the path God has set us on and is walking with us through highs / lows, good and bad/ Well, I know one thing, God has set me on a path of successfulness. He's set us on our different but successful paths and all our paths collide. First Congregational and my path has collided with this wonderful confirmands and my path of confirmation ends here but my path with First Congregational has only begun, and I encourage you all to follow in the path God has given you. Peace be with you.

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