

Scriptural references:

"Jesus said, Let the little children come unto me."
Matthew 19:13;

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them."
Matthew 28:15

"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me."
Mark 9:36

"For while we were still weak."
Romans 5:6

"When she and her household were baptized."
Acts 16:15

"...and his entire family was baptized."
Acts 16:33

"Crispus... became a believer together with all his household... were baptized."
Acts 18:8

"I did baptize also the household."
I Corinthians 1:16

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

- a gift from God



*Baptism, I baptize you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit*

**Oak Creek Community
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The Sacrament of Holy Baptism - a gift from God

Through baptism we celebrate and connect with our identity as people for whom Jesus Christ lived, died and was resurrected. Baptism is a sign of our identity and our destiny in and through faith in Jesus Christ. It is a sign of God's claim upon us and is a rite of passage into the family of God, the Church.

In baptism the administration of the sacrament of water may be done in two ways, pouring and immersion. Special arrangements can be made for baptism by immersion. Persons of all ages are baptized, young and old alike.

Why do we baptize infants?

There are some Christians who do not believe in the baptism of infants, thinking that baptism is to be done after a person maturely believes in the Lord. That understanding is often called "believer's baptism." It is a sign of a profession of faith, a decision to follow Christ.

While we respect that thinking, we United Methodists consider "believer's Baptism" alone to pose a limit on understanding the vast range of God's love for us. The Bible teaches that God loves us before we are able to love back and baptism points to this mystery where God loves first. God's love is not something we can earn. Nor is it something God holds back until we deserve it, recognize it or understand it. The life of faith does not begin with our decision to put our faith in the Lord. Our life in faith begins with our God who gives us life and loves us

enough to allow and enable us to one day find that love and accept it.

Baptism is the sacrament of God adopting us at our most primitive time and placing us in a Church family to be brought up in the way that leads to life eternal. Infant baptism re-presents the vastness of God's love before we are able to love back. It re-presents our destiny that we will be seeking to grasp that unconditional love and live out a God-honoring response to such unmerited grace. Therefore we follow in the tradition of the first century when babies were baptized into the faith.

Baptismal Sponsors

There is a long Christian tradition of having sponsors for baptism. They are dedicated and active Christians willing to talk with you about faith in God or work with your child over the coming years encouraging them in the Christian walk. They need to be active members of a Christian Church.

How do we make arrangements?

A baptismal conference is arranged with the pastor. We will explore the understanding of baptism, confirm your willingness to be faithful, and rehearse how the sacrament is celebrated. Call the church office at 414-762-4600 to make those arrangements. Bring the completed Baptismal Request Form with and plan on a one-hour session with the pastor. Please plan on meeting about one month prior to the requested date.