

## What is Baptism in the United Methodist Church?

Baptism is a rite of Christian initiation. Those receiving the Sacrament are thereby marked as Christian disciples, and initiated into the fellowship of Christ's holy Church.

The Bible says by baptism we are incorporated into the church, which is the Body of Christ. Baptism initiates us into Christ's whole church and not simply into a denomination. United Methodists recognize all Christian baptisms and look upon baptism as something that unites all Christians. We accept Christian baptisms from other denominations.

Baptism is ultimately something God does. When we baptize with water we recognize and invoke the action of the Holy Spirit, who is working in our lives before, during, and after the rite of baptism with water. The rite symbolizes our adoption into the family of God.

John Wesley, our founder, says, "it's an outward sign of an inward action."

### Modes of Baptism

While United Methodists may baptize by any of the modes which Christians use, most baptisms use the choice of pouring, or sprinkling. Each mode brings out part of the rich and diverse symbolism which the bible gives to baptism. It represents a symbolic washing away of sin (Acts 2:38 and 22:16, I Corinthians 6:11, I Peter 3:21) and God's pouring out of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:16, Mark 1:9-10, Luke 3:21-22, Acts 2:38 and 19:1-7).

## Contact

When you seek baptism for yourself or a child, please contact Betty Price at (602) 840-8360, ext. 129 to check available dates and arrange a conference with a pastor.

If you have questions concerning baptism or children's ministry, please contact Rev. Andrea Andress, Associate Pastor for Spiritual Formation with Children and Families at ext. 142.

### Clergy Team

Dave Summers

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### Youth Confirmation

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For more information visit:

[pvumc.org](http://pvumc.org)



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## Baptism



*God's Love in Action™*

## Infants & Children

### God's Prevenient Grace

United Methodists baptize persons of all ages because we believe that Christ's church consists of believers and their households. We believe God's grace extends to the youngest before they can speak the words in response.

We base our practice on the New Testament where repeatedly, when believers were baptized, the entire family was baptized. (Acts 16:15, 16:33, 18:8)

On the day the church was born, Peter preached: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins: and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children." (Acts 2:38-39)

When children are baptized, they are considered preparatory members of the church. They become full members at confirmation.

The infant being presented for baptism and the adult seeking baptism have more in common, spiritually speaking, than may at first appear. The Holy Spirit has taken the initiative and is already at work in the lives of both. They are making responses that are appropriate to their ages. Both will grow in Christ with the nurturing help of other Christians.

## Adult

The United Methodist Church recognizes a person's baptism in a Christian denomination no matter when or where it took place.

If you choose to become a member of PVUMC, the New Member Class will explain the process. For those who have not yet been baptized, you will be given the opportunity when you join.

When someone is baptized, it is a crucial event in the life of that person and of the church. What happens to that member of the Body of Christ will make a difference to every other member. We are all transformed. By the act of baptism, the church pledges to that member: "Your joy, your pain, your loss, your gain, are ours; for you are one of us."

## Confirmation 7-12 Grade



Confirmation is geared toward teens to strengthen their faith and help them better understand what it means to be a member of the church. PVUMC offers two fun and informative weekend retreats (A and B) structured to fulfill all the requirements of confirmation. When a teen is confirmed, they personally profess their faith in Christ and accept the responsibilities of church membership. In essence, they become full church members, confirming their baptism. If they have not been baptized previously, they have the opportunity to be baptized at the same time they are confirmed. Confirmation is held in the spring.

**Contact Youth Director:**  
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