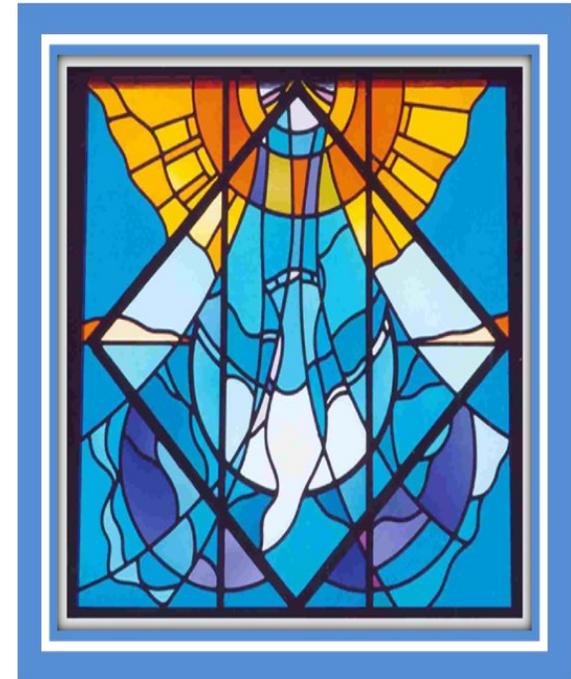


Baptism

at Stroudsburg UMC



Stroudsburg United Methodist Church

Rev. Monica B. Guepet, Lead Pastor

547 Main Street

Stroudsburg PA 18360

570-421-6020

www.stroudsburgumc.com

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Baptism as

- **Incorporation in the Body of Christ**

"For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink." 1 Corinthians 12:13

- **Forgiveness of Sin**

"Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38

- **New Life**

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

- **Sacrament**

In a sacrament, God uses common elements -- in this case, water -- as means or vehicles of divine grace.

- **Sign of the Kingdom**

Through baptism, Christians are brought into union with Christ, with each other, and with the church in every time and place.

Baptismal Information

Church Office: 570-421-6020

Email: jackieherrero@stroudsburgumc.com

Please submit a picture of the one being baptized and the Baptism information sheet to the office.

Return this portion to the Church

Date of Baptism: _____

Baptism Service: ___8:30 a.m. ___11:00 a.m.

Child's Full Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Place of Birth _____

Mother's Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Father's Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Address: _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address: _____

Sponsors: _____

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb. Jesus was baptized by John, anointed by your Spirit. Jesus calls us to live as his disciples. The life you birthed in us by baptism into Jesus Christ will never die. Your justice never fails. Your mercy is everlasting.

**Your healing river flows. Your Spirit blows where you will.
We cannot stop you, God!**

But sometimes we try. We try to block the flow, we redirect the winds of the Spirit, or we walk so far away from the life-giving Stream that we do not hear its sound, and we forget its power. We parch ourselves.

We are dry and thirsty, O God. Come, refresh us!

Pour out your Holy Spirit to bless this gift of water and [he/she](#) who will receive it.

Come upon us, Holy Spirit!

Let these waters be to us drops of your mercy. **Let these waters remind us of your righteousness and justice.**

Let these waters renew in us the resurrection power of Jesus.
Let these waters make us long for your coming reign.

Most Holy God, Creator, Father! Jesus Christ, Savior, Lord! Spirit of fire, Spirit over the waters, Spirit of holiness!

Glory to you!

Eternal God, One in Three and Three in One!

All glory is yours, now and forever. Amen!

Baptism with Laying on of Hands

Christian Name(s), I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Holy Spirit work within you, that being born through water and the Spirit, you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Let us welcome our new sister in Christ.

Children of God by water and the Spirit, we welcome you into God's new creation Share with us in Christ's royal priesthood.

With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you as a member of Christ's church.

Pastor: The God of all grace, who has called you to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you

by the power of the Holy Spirit

that you may live in grace and peace. Amen.

Q: What does United Methodism fundamentally believe about baptism?

A: Baptism is a sacrament. In a sacrament, God uses common elements -- in this case, water -- as means or vehicles of divine grace. Baptism is administered by the church as the Body of Christ. It is the act of God through the grace of Jesus Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit.

Q: What is the difference between infant baptism and believer's baptism?

A: In all forms of Christian baptism, God claims those being baptized, whatever their age or ability to profess their faith, with divine grace. Clearly an infant can do nothing to save himself or herself, but is totally dependent on God's grace, as we all are -- whatever our age. We offer baptism to people of all ages who have not previously received Christian baptism in any form. We do not re-baptize those who have already received Christian baptism in any form. Even when the people being baptized are believing adults and are ready to profess their faith, our first emphasis is upon the gracious action of God who establishes the covenant of baptism with us rather than upon the individual's decision.

Q: May we have our baby dedicated instead of baptized?

A: No. The theological understandings of the two services are very different. Dedication is a human act -- something we pledge or give to God. Baptism is a divine act, a pledge and gift God gives to us. Baptism of infants includes the reaffirmation of the vows of the baptismal covenant by parents, sponsors, and the congregation; but chiefly it celebrates what God is doing and will do in the life of the infant.

Q: Is sprinkling the only way that United Methodists baptize?

A: No, our church has always offered to people being baptized and to the parents of infants the choice of sprinkling, pouring, or immersion.

Q: May I be baptized again if I feel the need?

A: No, baptism is an act of God, and God does it right the first time. Our side of the covenant relationship with God will need recommitment, but God always remains faithful.

Q: May a person who has not been baptized participate in Holy Communion?

A: Yes, our church does not seek to close God's Table, although the historic and normal Christian order of the sacraments is baptism first -- as birth into the family -- and Communion following, as continuing nurture at the family table. We reach out and encourage those who partake at the Table to share fully in the life of God's people, including coming to the font after appropriate preparation.

Q: Do I have to be baptized in order to be saved?

A: No, but baptism is a gift of God's grace to be received as part of the journey of salvation. To refuse to accept baptism is to reject one of the means of grace that God offers us.

Q: Does baptism make me a member of the church?

A: Yes, baptism is the act of initiation and incorporation into the universal church of Jesus Christ, The United Methodist Church, and the local congregation, as our ritual makes very clear.



Baptismal Liturgy for



FULL NAME

DATE OF BAPTISM

Sisters and brothers in Christ:

Through the sacrament of baptism we are initiated into Christ's holy church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All of this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

I present **full name of one being baptized** and in each other's presence to renew our commitments to Christ who has raised us, the Spirit who has birthed us, and the Creator who is making all things new.

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

Pastor to parents, sponsors, and candidates who can speak for themselves:

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

I do.

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

I do.

The pastor addressing the parents and sponsors:
Will you nurture **first name** in Christ's holy church?

The parents and sponsors respond:

By teaching and example we will guide him/her to accept God's grace for himself/herself to profess his/her faith openly, and to lead a Christian life.

The pastor addressing all the people:

Will you be living witnesses to the gospel, individually and together, wherever you are, and in all that you do?

We will remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world.

Will you nurture one another in living the faith of the church and include **First name** in your care?

With God's help we will live the gospel of Jesus Christ. We will embody faith, hope, and love so that first name

will grow up to trust God and live Love's service in the world.

We will pray for him/her on her/his journey of discipleship among us.

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith

As contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, [who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.]

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, [the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.]

Thanksgiving over the Water

The Spirit of the Lord is with us.

Even so, come Lord Jesus!

Let us pray.

Almighty God, when nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light. In the days of Noah you saved those on the ark through water. After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow. When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them to freedom through the sea. Their children you brought through the Jordan to the land which you promised.