

Infant Baptism



Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church



Walnut Creek
Presbyterian Church

1801 Lacassie Avenue, Walnut Creek, CA 94596 | 925.935.1574 | wcpres.org

The Word of God Made Visible

Baptism is a visible sign of God's grace and covenant in Christ that is offered to all people and transcends all barriers, including age. The baptism of infants witnesses to the truth that God's love claims people before they are able to respond in faith. Even though baptism is received only once, there will be many times in your child's lifetime when he or she is asked to acknowledge the grace of God continually at work in his or her life.

"For it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God." Ephesians 2:8 (NIV)

Sacrament of Baptism

The holy sacrament of baptism is an action that God commands the church to perform. Through baptism, God strengthens our faith and demonstrates a reality that we cannot yet see: God's salvation extended to us through Jesus' death and resurrection. In obedience, we baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Through the sacrament of baptism we receive the guarantee or seal that we belong to God's family and that all God's promises belong to us personally.

"Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always to the end of the age." -Matthew 28:19-20 (NRSV)

The Church's Commitment

Through baptism, we are publicly received into the church to share in its life and ministry. When infants are baptized, the congregation, as well as the parents, has a special obligation to nurture the child in the Christian life. Therefore, the presence of the worshipping congregation is a necessary element in the full meaning of baptism.

The Parents' Commitment

The congregation's commitment to nurture the child is best realized when the parents of the child are active members of the congregation. Those presenting the child for baptism shall promise to provide nurture and guidance within the community of faith until the child is ready to make a personal profession of faith and assume the responsibility of active church membership (Presbyterian Book of Order W-2.3014).

Vows of Faith

Finally, the baptismal service requires a statement of faith from the church's members as well as the parents' commitment to that faith in Jesus Christ and submission to Him as their Lord and Savior.

*Parents are expected to attend an infant baptism meeting held prior to the baptism. See our calendar for details.

**Infant dedications are scheduled based upon need.