

Remember Your Baptism

Remember your baptism. This Sunday we remember Jesus' baptism, reading the account from Luke. We will also be remembering our own baptisms and renewing our promises to serve the Lord. I will ask the congregation to "remember your baptism."

Imagine what it must have been like for Jesus to remember his baptism. Surely in hard times of loneliness and persecution he could remember those beautiful words of love.

Through the years I have enjoyed working with confirmands and asking them to remember their baptisms. Like many of us, they often say, "I can't remember my baptism, I was baptized as a baby." I always tell them to go home and ask their parents about their baptisms, as a way of remembering. I have heard some lovely stories through the years about baptisms.

I do not remember my baptism, but I know that it was a very special event from what my parents have told me. My father, a Methodist minister, was in the process of founding a new church in Penn Hills, a suburb of Pittsburgh. I was born when the tiny nucleus of a congregation had completed the process to be chartered – become official – as a church. I was baptized on Charter Sunday, the first baby baptized! Fifty years later, as that church was celebrating their anniversary, my father and I returned and preached side by side in the pulpit. So many wonderful memories!

I do not remember my baptism, but I do remember my confirmation. Confirmation is that time when you confirm the promises made for you at your baptism. If you look in our hymnal, you will see that the service for baptism, confirmation, and receiving new members is all one thing. It is all about baptism. I remember my confirmation because we moved to a new church shortly before I was confirmed, and I was MAD. I had loved the confirmation class at our previous church and did not want to be confirmed with a bunch of strangers. On the day, however, as I knelt and hands were laid on me (I do not know whose), I had an overwhelming sense of the Holy Spirit. I remember.

What do you remember about your baptism? Do you share stories about their baptism with your children? Have you had other Holy Spirit moments related to baptism? Remember, and be thankful.

by Rev Karen Oehl

*When everyone was
being baptized, Jesus
also was baptized.*

*While he was praying,
heaven was opened and
the Holy Spirit came
down on him in bodily
form like a dove. And
there was a voice from
heaven: "You are my
Son, whom I dearly love;
in you I find happiness."*

Luke 3:21-22

STAFF:

Pastor: Rev Karen Oehl
revoehl@gmail.com

Assistant Pastor: Rev Bob Alexander
reverendrla@yahoo.com

Admin Asst./Financial Secretary:
Rhonda Williamson,
officegaystumc@gmail.com

Treasurer: Sherri Pembroke

Organist: Bob Hendrickson

Wesley Ringers Dir: Mary Kepple

Chancel Choir Dir: Mary Kepple

Youth Bells Dir: Heather Stewart

Kitchen Mgr.: Karen Pritchard

Custodian: Keyaira Daniel