Baptism & Communion

A welcoming guide for Christchurch Miami

Meaningful Membership | Experience grace. Find community. Discover purpose.

You do not need to know all the church words to feel at home here. Whether you are new to Christianity, returning to church, or bringing questions from another tradition, we are glad you are here.

Jesus gave His Church baptism and the Lord's Supper, also called communion. We call them **sacraments**: visible signs through which God points us to Christ and confirms His gracious promises. Their power comes from God, not from the water, bread, or cup.

Baptism: a sign of God's promise

Baptism uses water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It marks entrance into the visible church and points to cleansing from sin, belonging to Christ, and new life in Him. It is more than a personal milestone: it directs our attention to God's grace.

Do I have to be perfect first?

No. For someone coming to faith, baptism follows a profession of trust in Jesus. You do not earn it by having a spotless past or knowing every answer. A pastor or elder will help you understand the gospel and prepare for this step. Baptism does not automatically save anyone; our hope is in Jesus Christ.

How do we baptize at Christchurch?

At Christchurch Miami, we are not focused on the amount of water used to baptize someone - immersion, pouring and sprinkling are all valid forms of baptism.

What about babies and children?

As a Presbyterian church, we baptize believers and the children of believers. We receive children into the church's care, trusting God's covenant promises and committing to help them grow in faith. Baptism does not mean a child is automatically saved. Children still need to come to personal faith in Jesus.

What if I have already been baptized?

Tell a pastor or elder about your baptism. Christian baptism is ordinarily received once. Joining Christchurch or preferring immersion does not, by itself, mean you need to be baptized again. We will help you work through any questions about your situation.

Read together: Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 6:3-4; Acts 2:38-39.

Communion: grace for the journey

A meal that points us to Jesus and draws us together as His people.

What is communion?

Jesus gave His followers bread and the cup to remember and proclaim His death until He returns. These signs point to His body given and His blood shed for us. Communion also expresses our shared life as one church family.

Is it only a reminder?

It is a remembrance, and more. By His Spirit, Jesus truly nourishes believers who receive communion in faith. The bread and cup do not physically become His body and blood. Through them, He strengthens our trust in Him and our love for one another.

Who should take communion?

Communion is for baptized Christians who profess faith in Jesus, belong to a gospel-believing church, and seek to follow Him in repentance. Listen to the pastor's invitation and guidance when communion is served. If you are unsure whether to participate, speak with a pastor or elder.

What if my faith feels weak?

The table is for people who need Jesus, not people who have become perfect. Weak faith is not the same as no faith. Come honestly, confess your sins, and look to Christ for forgiveness and help. If you are troubled or uncertain, we would be glad to talk and pray with you.

How can I prepare?

Pause to remember what Jesus has done. Ask God to help you recognize and turn from sin, trust His mercy, and pursue peace with others. Preparation is an invitation to honest faith, not a test of whether you have had a flawless week.

What about children?

Baptism and admission to communion are distinct steps. Children begin receiving communion after professing their own faith and being examined and admitted by the elders. Parents can ask for help preparing their children with patient, age-appropriate conversations.

What if I am exploring faith or not ready?

You are welcome to remain with us while others receive communion. Let the bread and cup point you to Jesus, and use the time to listen, reflect, or pray. There is no need to pretend or feel embarrassed. We would love to hear your questions.

Your next step: Speak with a pastor or elder about baptism, communion, or your child's questions. You do not have to sort everything out alone. Welcome home.

Read together: Luke 22:14-20; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 11:23-29.

For further study: Westminster Confession of Faith, chapters 27-29; PCA Book of Church Order, chapters 56-58. pcaac.org/bco | Westminster Confession