

# Baptisms at MDPC

**O**n Palm Sunday 2022, we had the joy of celebrating baptism through immersion in the Sanctuary during the 9:45 worship service. Many will remember that during the years of our Mo Ranch retreat weekend, we would celebrate immersion baptism in the Guadalupe River that runs by the camp. This was the first time MDPC has celebrated immersion baptisms during our Sunday morning services!

As Presbyterians, the amount of water used is not what matters, but the power of God behind the water. We sprinkle more often than we immerse, but the theology is the same. Our God is One who comes after us, calling us to Jesus. Baptism is the celebration of being called and welcomed into the family of God, much like circumcision was in the Old Testament. But whereas circumcision was limited to male Israelites, baptism is for all who trust Jesus and their families.

Celebrating baptisms through both sprinkling and immersion allows us to lift up multiple metaphors that the biblical authors use to explain baptism. In sprinkling, we emphasize being washed clean of our sin. Immersion baptism emphasizes being buried with Christ and raised with him to new life.

We are excited to continue MDPC's long history celebrating baptism in both ways.