

Devotion, Week of June 29, 2025

Rev. Jeanne Simpson

Well, the baptismal font was used for the first time in who knows when this past Sunday, and it was a delightful experience. There is something about accepting a fellow brother in Christ through not only profession of faith, but baptism, that makes my heart sing. The sermon was from Acts 2, when Peter preaches to the crowd that has surrounded the meeting house of Jesus' followers. They decide that the followers are all drunk because they have been anointed with tongues of fire and are speaking in all these different languages. But when Peter admonishes them for their lack of faith and reminds them of who Jesus was, we read that they were "cut to the heart." They ask, "Brothers, what should we do?" And Peter says, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him."

Repent. Be baptized. And your reward will be great – you will receive the Holy Spirit. And this promise is for everyone – everyone from generation to generation – even us. I hope this week you will think about your own baptism. You may have been an infant so not remember it, but hopefully you have been told about it, and your parents I'm sure were joyful when the water was sprinkled on your head. Maybe you shrieked, like our youngest daughter. Maybe you cried as soon as the minister took you in his/her arms. Maybe you wiggled your arms and legs and laughed. Or maybe you were older and you knew it was a very special event. Or like me, you were completely immersed at about the age of 10 and thought for a minute that you were going to die rather than come back up out of the water. Regardless, you received a blessing of water and love from a congregation that promised to love you and keep you in the faith.

You belong to the family of Philadelphia Presbyterian now, and I remind you that you are still loved, and we still promise to keep you in the faith. Our bond is strong – forged with holy water, holy words, and holy community. May you remember that, always.

Jeanne