

West Ridge and Granville UMC's Celebration of The Sacrament of Baptism!



Sunday, September 7, 2025, was a joyful day of spiritual renewal as members of **West Ridge, Hemenway, and Granville United Methodist Churches** gathered along the shores of **Loyola Beach, Chicago** to witness the **Sacrament of Baptism**.

On this most grace-filled day, the sky at Lake Michigan exuded the brilliance of God's creation, complemented by the furious yet welcoming bashing of the waves, as congregants witnessed a powerful expression of faith as **five individuals**, surrounded by their loving and welcoming **families and church communities**, publicly professed or reaffirmed their faith through **baptism, confirmation, and transfer of membership**.

District Superintendent Rev. Victor Melad, Jr., and Pastor Vinay Pathak performed immersion baptisms, with **Pastor Dawn Gardner** reading the Baptismal Covenant. The event highlighted the global connection of the United Methodist Church, with language translations by Pastor Obed from Ulysses, KS, and concluded with a joyful worship service at West Ridge UMC.

Our baptism symbolizes a new beginning, while the language translation promotes inclusivity, enriching our worship experience and nurturing spiritual growth.

**The Newly Baptized/Confirmed/Transfer of Membership's Gratitude Stories
For West Ridge and Granville United Methodist Churches**

Baptismal Gratitude Story: West Ridge UMC



"Thanks, Pastor, all I can say is I am most grateful and feel more at peace since my baptism, I feel closer to the Lord and continue to grow more closer every day as I learn to walk in his ways.

GOD bless you 🤝 🙏 😊" RK

Confirmation Gratitude Story: - Granville, UMC, Chicago



"Thanks, Pastor, for a blessed journey for my baptism. I am forever grateful to you. And to my Pastor Vinay Pathak and our D.S. Pastor Victor Melad for being a part of our ceremony.

Thanks so much and God bless you all. 🙏 🤝" KW

Baptismal & Transfer of Membership Gratitude Story:
A Family's Story: English Translation:



“Baptism is a central element, one of the completions of our Christianity. As believers, when one of us is baptized, we have an indescribable JOY. (A lot, a lot) As a family, we are happy with the work that the church has done, by baptizing our daughter when we quote scriptures, we must go through the same cup that Christ went through, which is difficult.” (Mark 10:39) We are happy to be welcomed into the UMC family. We want to

express our deepest gratitude for receiving us and treating us like other children. We are no longer strangers but children of the house. May God bless you greatly for the hard work of feeding His sheep.” The A Family

Baptismal & Transfer of Membership Gratitude Story:
A Family's Story: In their Native Language



“Ubatizo ni Kati yakipengele,mojawapo ya kukamilisha ukristo wetu.Kama watu wenye kuamini umoja wetu akibatizwa tunakuwa na FURAHIA isiyo elezeka.(mingi mingi san Kama familia tumefurahi kwa kazi ambayo kanisa imekwenda iyanya,kwa batiza binti yetu Tunapo Nukuu maandiko inatupasa tupitie kikombe kile ambacho Kristo amepitia hapo ni kigumu.” Marko 10:39.” Tumefurahi kwakuweza kukaribishwa Katika wanafamilia ya UMC.tumetowa shukurani zetu za zati kwa kutupokea

na kutuweka Kama wana wengine.a tuko tena wageni Bali watoto wa nyumba.Mungu awabari sana kwa kazi nzito ya kulisha kondoo zake.” The A Family.

“To God Be the Glory”