

Understanding Communion for Children & Parents

At URC we believe that the Lord has given the church two sacraments for the sustaining of our faith. As the Belgic Confession, Article 33 says:

"We believe that our good God, mindful of our crudeness and weakness, has ordained sacraments for us to seal his promises in us, to pledge his good will and grace toward us, and also to nourish and sustain our faith."

Further, we believe that our Lord has commanded all Christians to partake of these 'signs'. (HC 75) Thus, we do not believe that there is some magic age at which a child can come to faith; and so likewise we do not place a minimum age on participation in communion.

However, the sacrament of communion, is not to be entered into lightly. Paul admonishes us not to partake of the sacrament unworthily (2 Cor 11:27).

Thus the Heidelberg Catechism, Question 81 states:

Who ought to come to the table of the Lord?

Those who are displeased with themselves for their sins, and who nevertheless trust that these sins have been forgiven them and that their remaining weakness is covered by the passion and death of Christ, and who also desire more and more to strengthen their faith and make their life whole. The unrepentant and hypocrites, however, eat and drink judgement to themselves.

Given this, for your child's own sake we ask that some steps be taken before they do come to the table to participate (they are welcome to come with you and not participate). *We ask that you and your believing child have first met with the elders to make a public confession of their faith in Christ.* This meeting should ideally be preceded by a Confession of Faith class that we offer at URC. These classes are usually offered Sunday nights in the fall, but occasionally other arrangements can be made. If you would like your child to attend this class, please contact Dave Hinkley at hinkley@urc-msu.org, or 332-5574.