

Squirt-gun christening: Aurora Methodists celebrate outdoor baptism

Noelle Walters poured a bowl of water Sunday, Aug. 16, for her brother, Jackson's baptism.

But Jackson, 7 months and Noelle, 5, were surprised when Rev. Derek Rogers, pastor at Flowing Forth United Methodist Church, practiced social distancing and shot water with a toy gun on the infant's head instead of sprinkling or pouring.

Due to COVID-19, the church holds online and drive-in worship services at Aurora Christian Schools parking lot in Aurora.



The baptism ceremony included a liturgy of promises by adults to renounce evil and accept God. The infant's sponsors, parents Ivy and Jarrod Walters of North Aurora and godparents Susie and Ben Sterk, Bristol, Wis., made the promises on behalf of Jackson.



Rev. Rogers concluded the ceremony by presenting gifts to the family, including a storybook Bible.

Methodists contend that infant baptism has spiritual value for the infant and that baptism in water is symbolic.

Flowing Forth UMC holds an online and drive-in worship service at 10 a.m. Sundays at Aurora Christian Schools, 2255 Sullivan Rd. in Aurora. The public is invited. Call (630) 239-2321 or visit flowingforthumc.org for more information.

PHOTO (top right): Jackson Walters of North Aurora, left, 7 months, is baptized with a water gun Sunday, Aug. 16, by

Rev. Derek Rogers, pastor at Aurora's Flowing Forth United Methodist Church. From left are Ivy Walters, Jarrod Walters and sister Noelle Walters, 5. Due to COVID-19, the church holds online and drive-in worship services at Aurora Christian Schools parking lot in Aurora. (Al Benson photo)

PHOTO (bottom right): Rev. Derek Rogers, right, pastor at Aurora's Flowing Forth United Methodist Church, presents Jackson Walters of North Aurora, 7 months, from left, mom Ivy Walters, dad Jarrod Walters and sister Noelle Walters, 5, with gifts after baptizing Jackson Sunday, Aug. 16. Due to COVID-19, the church holds online and drive-in worship services at Aurora Christian Schools parking lot in Aurora. (Al Benson photo)