

Baptism

We believe that each person on this planet is a beloved child of God. Through baptism we are able to publicly and formally give thanks to God for this new life, and to welcome the child into the life of the congregation, during public worship. Baptism only happens once. Your child will be baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, making this baptism acceptable to all mainline denominations across the world. Upon baptism you will receive a certificate recording the occasion, as well as a baptismal candle.

So what actually happens during a baptism?

On the child's behalf parents or guardians will make promises to raise the child with the knowledge of the Holy Trinity (Creator, Christ and Spirit), to seek justice and resist evil, to follow in the way of Jesus, and to participate in the mission and life of this congregation. Baptism can be done at any age, but in our tradition, we usually baptize babies. When the children become a certain age and can make informed decisions for themselves, we invite them to "confirm" their baptismal vows by attending confirmation classes, and finally being confirmed in public worship. Once confirmed, you are a full member of the United Church of Canada.

In the reformed tradition there are no God parents – the entire congregation fulfills that role. But if you have special people in your life that you would like to honour with this title, we are fully supportive of God parents.

If you are interested in having your child baptized, please speak to the minister. She would like to meet with you a few times to discuss the meaning of baptism, our faith, and what it can mean to live a life with Christ at the centre.

Confirmation classes will be held as the need arises, usually during the winter, with confirmation happening around Easter Sunday.