

Baptism at Westminster United Church

Baptism is a time of great joy for the individuals being baptized, their loved ones and the church community as a whole. Baptism celebrates God's amazing love for each one of us.

In the United Church of Canada, we baptize people of any age, including infants if their parents or guardians so desire. We believe that baptism is not a requirement for God's love, and that people who die without baptism are in no way condemned, lost or damned. Rather, we believe that baptism is a way of claiming for ourselves and celebrating God's love that surrounds us always.

Remembering our own baptisms and sharing in the baptism of others helps us pay attention to the divine love in which we live and move and have our being. It reminds us that every one of us is a beloved child of God.

The congregation is an important part of the baptism service; the congregation pledges their support and care to the person being baptized as well as to his or her family. Consequently, at Westminster, baptism only takes place on Sunday mornings during our regular worship service except in exceptional circumstances.

Baptism in the United Church is recognized by all denominations of the Christian church that practice infant baptism. If people have already been baptized in another church, the United Church also recognizes their baptism and welcomes them to become members of the United Church.

If you are welcoming a child into your home through birth or adoption, and are thinking about baptism, we would welcome a conversation about that. If you have come to a place in your own faith journey or spiritual life where you are thinking about baptism for yourself (or re-affirmation of baptismal faith if you were previously baptized), let's talk about making that happen.

Baptism usually happens four times a year – Mother's Day, Father's Day, Thanksgiving Sunday and the last Sunday of the year.

For those interested in baptism for their infants/children, a meeting with the minister is the first step.

For those interested in baptism for themselves, or in becoming a member of the United Church of Canada, we offer membership classes once a year.

For more information, or to inquire about next steps, please call the church office (204-784-1330).

