



Laidlaw Memorial United Church

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About BAPTISM

a guide for parents, a promise from your Church

As a Community of Faith, we believe...

- ...that all children are welcome. Jesus welcomed little children and blessed them. We welcome children, in worship, in Sunday School, and as part of our church community. We welcome parents who bring their children to our Church and ask for baptism for their children...
- ...that baptism is a beginning. When a child is brought by his or her parents for baptism, we consider that event the beginning of a process of nurture, education and participation in the life of faith and the Church.
- ...that baptism involves commitment. On the part of the parents who bring a child. We believe parents must be ready to renew their own baptism, and prepare for the baptism of their child, and be willing to carry out their responsibility to teach their children Christian faith, live Christian faith in their home, and participate in the life of the Church.
- ...we need to accommodate the needs of people of all ages and abilities, responding to the needs of parents, children, youth and adults, so that our community of faith reflects the wholeness of God's creation...

As a Community of Faith, we wish...

- ...that parent's and children's experiences at Church will be positive and frequent. We hope that parents who bring children to be baptized will bring them often to worship, so that we have the opportunity to fulfill our promise to support and encourage parents and children. We wish that parents would let someone know if there is something we can do to help them or their children, so that we can respond to their needs.
- ...that parents would take the time to understand baptism, so that baptism is a time when everyone's faith grows and deepens, and where we celebrate with parents and children the grace and joy of faith in Christ.
- ...that parents will come to Church both before and after their child's baptism, so that we may get to know each other as a community of faith and friendship...

When we would like our child baptized...

- ...we will call the minister, and request baptism...
- ...the minister will ask us to complete a request form, giving the details of our request for baptism, so that the request can be presented to the Pastoral Care and Membership Committee, and the Church Council...
- ...the minister will ask if we are willing to take time to prepare for baptism. If as parents, we are baptized, the preparation for the baptism of our child will take an evening (about 1 hour). If we, as parents, have not been baptized, we will be encouraged to consider becoming baptized members of the Church ourselves, and the preparation for this will be the same as for adults who wish to be baptized (this preparation usually takes several weeks).
- ...we understand that Laidlaw Memorial United Church respects Christian Baptism and will not re-baptize those baptized in another congregation, Church or denomination. A renewal of baptism vows will always be welcomed...
- ...we will understand that at least one of the parents and the child to be baptized must attend Church services for at least four Sundays (not necessarily consecutive Sundays). In every case, both parents must give consent to the baptism. If a parent is not present at the baptism, they must provide to the minister written consent that their child be baptized at Laidlaw...
- ...we will express our desire to have or not have godparents.
- ...the Pastoral Care and Membership Committee and the Church Council will receive our request with joy and approve the request and the time for the baptism. It is the Council, and not the minister alone, who approves baptisms that will take place in our faith community.
- ...Private baptisms are discouraged except in exceptional circumstances where the approval of the Church Council has been sought. Baptisms normally take place during regular Sunday worship.
- ...we will know that we are welcome!