

St. John's United Church of Christ Baptism Form

On behalf of the whole church across the ages, we at St. John's UCC are delighted that you are pursuing the Baptism of your child! We are pleased to welcome you and your family and look forward in celebrating this joyous moment with you!

Baptism is a sacred moment between God, you, your child, and the church. As Protestants, we do not believe that a child is devalued by the theological concept of original sin. Baptism does not magically remove something negative that a child comes into the world with. Rather, Baptism is the start of your child's faith journey. Baptism is a Christian Sacrament; an outward and visible sign of the grace of God, Who is one with your child as they journey in faith through life. Baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

As you bring your child to be Baptized, you are making certain promises to God. The following is a list of your parental vows that you will be asked to make in front of the congregation of St. John's:

- * Do you desire to have your child Baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?***
- * Will you encourage this child to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?***
- * Will you teach this child that he/she may be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?***
- * Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciples, to follow in the way of love, to resist oppression and evil, to show this love and justice, as you witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?***
- * Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow with this child in the Christian faith, to help this child to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, by celebrating Christ's presence, by furthering Christ's mission in all the world, and by offering the nurture of the Christian church so that she/he may affirm her/his Baptism one day at their Confirmation?***

These are the United Church of Christ's Baptismal vows asked of every parent when they present their child for Baptism. As Ministers of this Sacrament we consider it our obligation to ensure that the Sacrament is administered with integrity. For this reason, we ask you to read through these vows and decide for yourself if you can commit to these Baptismal Promises. If you can, we look forward to Baptizing your child. If you cannot, we would offer an alternative "blessing" that we can give to your child at a mutually agreed upon date and time.

Please call the church office at (920)-452-5296 to select a Baptismal date, to ask any additional questions, or to let us know if you prefer a blessing. The below information is required to be filled out and returned immediately to make the proper preparations for the date you request.

Our best wishes to you and to your son/daughter at this very early stage in your lives together!
May God grant to you health, happiness, and peace.

CHILD'S FULL NAME _____

Date of Birth _____ Hospital born _____ City _____

FATHER'S FULL NAME _____

MOTHER'S FULL NAME _____

PARENT'S ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ MEMBER OF ST. JOHN'S _____ (yes or no)

SPONSORS _____

BAPTISM DATE _____ (Our Worship is currently at 9am on Sundays.)