

a place for you AND your children

each Sunday morning at
8:30am and 11:00am



inquisitive. inclusive. intentional. intimate. inspiring.
www.evangelicalucc.org
a church for you AND your questions

Baptismal Prayer

We thank you, God, for the gift of creation made known to us in water and word.

Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters. Out of the waters of the deep, you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life.

In the time of Moses, your people Israel passed through the Red Sea waters from slavery to freedom and crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the promised land.

You have come to us through water in the stories of Jesus who was nurtured in the water of Mary's womb, baptized by John in the water of the Jordan, and became living water to a woman at the Samaritan well. Jesus washed the feet of the disciples and sent them forth to baptize with water and spirit.

Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water. Bless all who touch and taste this water that may be ever reminded of your abiding presence and claim on their lives. Amen.

UCC Book of Worship, adapted



Children and Baptism



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Baptism

While most Christians share baptism in remembrance of Jesus' baptism, our practices and our beliefs vary widely. At its simplest form, baptism is the placing of water on the head of the recipient with prayer. Beyond this, however, the differences begin.

Depending on beliefs about the role and significance of baptism, the time in which this ritual is shared also varies. Some Christian communities share baptism with infants, others ask that baptismal candidates be old enough to express their own faith commitments.

The content of the prayers are most often dedicatory in nature. The most common phrase is "I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit". Some communities chose to use words like as "I baptize you with faith in the living God, Source, Servant and Guide."

While usually celebrated in church settings, baptism can also be celebrated in lakes and rivers reminiscent of Jesus' baptism by John in the Jordan River. The water is sometimes placed on the head of the recipient although in some traditions the recipient is fully immersed in the water.

An important point of difference is a belief in either "original sin" or "original blessing".

Original blessing is newer language to express an even older idea that humans enter the world at one with the Creator. People adopting this theology are more likely to understand the ritual of baptism as the celebration of the relationship between the recipient, the gathered community, and the presence of God.

Our Practice

We celebrate baptism with infants, young children, teens and adults.

Baptism can be celebrated during any season of the year. Baptism is shared with children at the parents request, with youth at Confirmation, and with new members who chose.

Typically baptism is a ritual we experience only once in our lives, often before our remembering.

When we celebrate baptism with infants and young children, it is the parents who speak on behalf of the child and the ritual is one of dedication of the child within the community of faith. When we celebrate the ritual with teens and adults, the participant is making their personal declaration of faith as the community pledges support.

Our questions were written for the children in our community.



the brown hand reaches outward (serve).

Following Jesus' example, we gather as a community to "worship, learn, and serve." This practice is graphically represented by the Seasons of the Spirit logo as the blue wind moves among us (worship), the green leaf grows (learn), and

Our Questions

for Parents

Do you desire to have your child baptized into this Christian community?

Will you encourage your child to learn from the wisdom of the prophets; doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with her God?

Will you foster for your child an appreciation for the life and teachings of Jesus in concert with an appreciation for diverse religious traditions?

Will you teach your child to honor the faith questions that belong to her throughout her life?

Will you journey with your child to discover the wonder of God's love made manifest here this day?

for Congregation

Jesus calls us to welcome children into the full life of our community, opening our table and hearts to those most vulnerable, offering the wisdom of the ages to all who hunger for truth.

Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to this child being baptized as she lives and grows in this Christian community?

We promise our love support and care.