

COLEBROOK UNITED CHURCH

*followers of
Jesus Christ
serving the community*



Sacrament of Baptism

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BAPTISM

Baptism is a symbolic action that is a sign of the new life God gives us as we join the church community.

Baptism uses water as a symbolic cleansing that signifies the acceptance of new life within the church family. The sacrament of baptism is the single rite of initiation into the Christian community, the church.

The United Church offers baptism to all ages. We believe the gift of God's love does not depend on our ability to understand it, so we baptize people as infants right up through adulthood.

With children, instruction is given to parents or sponsors to equip them for the child's Christian nurture. During the ceremony, everyone in the congregation pledges support for the child and his or her parents.

Baptism is not a requirement for God's love. We believe people who die without baptism are in no way condemned or lost.

Baptism in the United Church is recognized by all denominations of the Christian church that practice infant baptism.

Similarly, if people have already been baptized in another church, the United Church recognizes their baptism and welcomes them as Christians.

Adults who are seeking to explore what it would mean to commit to a life of active Christian faith, or parents who are seeking to have an infant or child baptized, are encouraged to contact the Minister for information regarding preparation for baptism.

The United Church of Canada requires that one of the parents of infant and child candidates for baptism reaffirm his or her own faith, and commit to a life of discipleship, with all its joys and responsibilities.

The promises made at baptism are foundational to the life of the church in the world, and the waters of baptism mediate the grace of God in our Christian community.