

Avondale United Church

Policy Statement on Baptism

You do not have to be a member of our church to have your child baptized at Avondale United Church.

Baptism is performed to allow your children to grow-up knowing they are loved unconditionally.

We Believe

- As a community of faith, we believe the grace of God is given to all people.
- Baptism is a Christian Sacrament celebrating that grace.
- It is witnessed by God and the Congregation of God's people.
- This Sacrament acknowledges that the individual being baptized is a child of God. The individual becomes a member of the Holy Catholic Church and is welcomed as a member of the United Church of Canada.
- Baptism is an act of faith and commitment on the part of the individuals, families and the church community.
- Baptism is a sign of new beginning, of new life on the journey of faith.

We Embody Our Beliefs at Avondale United Church

- Baptism is presided over by a licensed official.
- Water is used as a symbolic cleansing that signifies the acceptance of new life within the church family.
- Baptism takes place during regular worship. We offer several baptism services throughout the year.
- Avondale United Church offers baptism to all ages, including adults.
- For baptisms of infants and young children, we encourage at least one parent to be a member of the United Church of Canada or a sponsor may be provided by the congregation.

Parent(s) or Individuals seeking baptism:

- profess a belief in Jesus Christ
- take part in Baptismal preparation
- are invited to attend and participate in their local faith community.

The Avondale United Church Community will endeavor to involve parent(s) and individuals in the life of the church by:

- being welcoming
- providing Christian Development
- requesting that the Worship Team and Church Council give their blessings to the Baptism
- providing sponsors when necessary

Godparents are:

- optional
- expected to support the spiritual nurture of the child
- where possible, will take part in baptismal preparation

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, Avondale United Church recognizes their baptism and welcomes them as Christians.