

At Union UCC:

We have established the following procedures for Baptism.

1. Baptism is a central celebration in the life of the church. Since it involves vows between the parents and the church, it will take place only during public worship services.
2. We welcome infants, children and adults of all ages to be baptized.
3. Since parents are asked to assume a major responsibility for the spiritual development of the child, we require one parent to be a member of Union UCC and all parents to participate in a pre-baptismal program.
4. Since vows taken before God and the church are solemn and binding, we request all parents to give both verbal and written consent.
5. Godparents or Sponsors (chosen by the parents) are welcomed, but not required. They may attend the pre-baptism session and Baptismal Service, if possible.

In other circumstances, parents may request an exception to these requirements; Contact one of the Pastors, who may then schedule a meeting of the Spiritual Council. Here the parents can present their reasons for the request. The council will then make a ruling.



An Early
Step Toward
A Godly Walk

Union United Church of Christ

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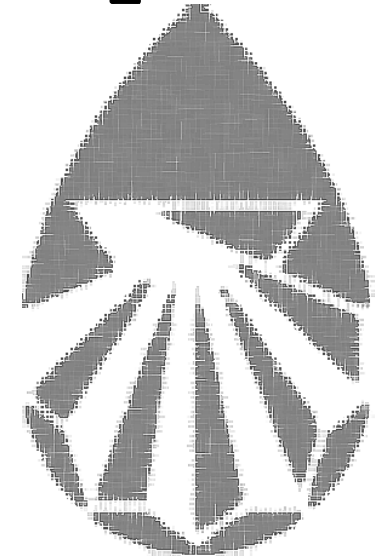
Rev Thomas N. Thomas

Senior Pastor

Rev Kris Snyder-Samuelson

Associate Pastor

Sacrament of Baptism



**Union United
Church of Christ
Neffs, PA.**

A Sacrament

Baptism is one of the two sacraments celebrated by Union United Church of Christ. "Sacraments are visible, holy signs and seals instituted by God in order that by their use He may the more fully disclose and seal to us the promise of the gospel".

A Member Of God's Family

A person is incorporated into the universal church, the body of Christ, through the sacrament of Baptism. The water, words and actions of the sacrament are visible signs that convey the Christian's burial and resurrection with Jesus Christ (Romans 6 : 3 - 4). "Baptism is both God's gift and our human response to that gift." It is "a sign and seal of our common discipleship. Through baptism, Christians are brought into union with Christ, with each other and with the church of every time and place."

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 new growth into full Christian faith and life.



Union United Church of Christ celebrates the sacrament of Baptism four times a year. Parents desiring to have their child Baptized should contact the Pastor or the church office. At that time they will be told the next time Baptism will be observed and also the date when the pre-baptismal program is scheduled.

A Beginning

Being a member of Christ's church is not the end, but the beginning of discipleship. Baptism is a call to grow in Christ.

When an infant is baptized, the family and the church assume the responsibility for increasing the child's awareness of God's love and grace. The parents and the congregation vow to God and one another that they will be his instruments of nurture for this newly adopted son or daughter. These vows imply that both parents and the congregation will prepare themselves for the task they accept. Each baptized infant will have to be brought to worship, church school, the Lord's table and Confirmation. The parents vow to support the Congregation's ministry, and the congregation vows to support the parents in this mutual endeavor of guiding each child to a greater awareness of God's presence in the world.