

## Baptism at St Andrew's United Church, Georgetown

**At St Andrew's United Church we are delighted that you are considering baptism for your child/yourself!**

However, if the baptism is to have any real meaning --- for you, your child and for our congregation – we need to share details of the mutual commitment that is at the center of this sacrament.

We hope the following information will be helpful as you consider this important decision.

### What is Baptism?

- **It is an initiation into the worldwide Christian church.**
- **It is promissory** – where vows are made by individuals, parents (on behalf of children), godparents and our congregation.
- **It is symbolic** – it represents the use of water to cleanse one of sin
- **It is biblical** – it is based upon the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist which appears in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke.

### What baptism is not...

- **magic** – there is nothing superstitious or magical about baptism
- **a guarantee for a life free of pain and suffering** – we all live in a world that has its share of pain and suffering
- **an act that should not be done to please others** – the act of baptism involves vows which should be taken seriously.

**Baptism is a sacred act.** It flows from God's grace; an act of welcoming, blessing and belonging that initiates persons into the Church, the Body of Christ. Baptism is a celebration of God's love --- the love that calls us into being, that surrounds us with faithful nurturing that adds fullness to our lives. In infant/child baptism we celebrate the gift of new life. In adult baptism we celebrate the seekers who desire to enter into the life, work, fellowship and mission of the congregation in a deeper way. Both infant/child and adult baptisms proclaim the unconditional love and grace of God!

The sacrament of infant/child baptism is celebrated at St. Andrew's UC (Georgetown) during the regular Sunday worship service.

**At St Andrew's, it is not necessary to be a member of our congregation to have a child presented for baptism.**

If you were confirmed in, or are on the membership roll of another church, you may wish to transfer your membership to St Andrew's at this time. If you do not have a church connection, we invite you to consider joining our church family, as we believe that for baptism to be effective, the child/parents or adult parents need to bond with our faith community so we can fulfill our baptismal promise – to nurture the child/adult being baptized and to support them in their faith journey.

If you have a family connection with St Andrew's but reside in another community, your child is most welcome to be baptized. As part of the preparation for baptism, our minister will connect you with a United Church congregation near your home so they can continue to nurture your child and support you as you raise them in the Christian faith.



**The next step:**

Those who seek baptism (with parents acting as guardians of young children) should call our church office to set up an appointment with our minister. If several families desire baptisms at the same time of year, a preparation course will be offered to explore the meaning of baptism, the profession of faith and promises that will be made during the sacrament. Otherwise, our minister will meet with each family to discuss baptism so you are comfortable with the symbolism, and sacredness of this act.

**Please call our church Office Administrator at (905) 877-4482 to arrange an appointment with our minister.**

**St. Andrew's United Church  
Vision Statement****With God's Help we will:**

- \*develop Spiritual and personal growth through Christian faith and fellowship
- \*welcome and encourage new ideas
- \*encourage outreach programs
- \*offer programs for all ages and stages in life
- \*foster personal growth and friendship through Small Group ministries
- \*be more visible in our community

**BAPTISM  
at St Andrew's United Church****St Andrew's United Church, Georgetown, Ontario**

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Rev Grant Williams, BA, M. Div

**MISSION STATEMENT**

**“We are a caring, fun-loving church  
sharing the love of Christ with all “**