

Trinity United Methodist Church

36 W. Maple Ave. Merchantville, NJ 08109

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Guidelines for
THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Revised July 2010

The Church commends you for seeking baptism for your child or for yourself. Baptism is an ancient and blessed sign of the grace of God and our belonging in Christ. The following guidelines are provided to assist you and to make for a truly meaningful celebration.

1. Baptisms should be scheduled with the pastor through the church office (Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9a.m.-1p.m.).
2. You will be expected to meet with the pastor to make the necessary plans and to learn more about the sacrament. A copy of the booklet *What United Methodists Should Know About Baptism* will be given to you at that time.
3. Baptisms are normally scheduled for Sunday during the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service. The first Sunday of the month is not available because of the Sacrament of Holy Communion.
4. With the exception of medical emergencies, baptisms are not normally held outside of the church.
5. You are not required to be a member of this church. However to nurture your child in the faith should mean that you are planning to become closer to the church, and seeking the help of the church in this great responsibility. The pastor will be happy to speak with you concerning the steps into church membership.

6. Parents carry the primary responsibility for the nurture of their children spiritually, as in other ways. The United Methodist Church does not require the naming of godparents. However if it is your wish to have other persons stand with you, that is acceptable. They may be members of any branch of the Christian faith. Older brothers and sisters are also welcome to stand with you if they are able to do so with reverence and meaning.
7. Parents and godparents will answer the questions printed on page 4, or similar ones. These questions help us
 - a. To Reaffirm our own faith.
 - b. To Promise to nurture our children in that faith.
 - c. To Accept the church as our partner in doing this
8. **Because of the sacred nature of Christian worship we ask that photographs not be taken during the service.** Please inform friends and relatives of this policy. You are very welcome to take photos following the service.
9. Parents and godparents are asked to come to the pastor's office about 10 minutes before the start of the service. The Baptism Certificate will be given to you at that time.
10. There is no fee for Baptisms. We are happy to do this for you.

*You are welcome every Sunday at
Trinity United Methodist Church
Regular Sunday Worship is at 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School for all ages is at 9:15 a.m.*

HOLY BAPTISM

Baptismal Covenant II

The pastor addresses parents or other sponsors

On behalf of the whole church I ask you:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sins?

I do.

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations and races?

I do.

Will you nurture *these children (persons)* in Christ's holy church, that by your teaching and example they may be guided to accept God's grace for themselves, to profess their faith openly, and to lead a Christian life?

I will.

The pastor addresses the congregation:

Do you, as Christ's body, the church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include *these persons* now before you in your care?

With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ.

We will surround *these persons* with a community of love and forgiveness that they may grow in their service to others.

We will pray for *them* that *they* may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.