



Thornhill United Church

25 Elgin St (at Dudley)
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www.thornhillunitedchurch.ca



BAPTISMS and Dedications at Thornhill United Church

10:30am Sundays Celebrate & Cogitate

We worship every Sunday morning
and you are welcome to visit –

**Baptisms are celebrated
as part of the regular service**

Our children begin in worship with us.
In Sunday School and Kids Worship
Centres (KWC) age 3-12 children
participate in bible stories, creative
responses, and 'feast'!
Our nursery cares for younger children



Our staff includes:

Bill Bruce,
Coordinating Minister
Ruth Noble,
Youth & Young Families Minister
Ethel Briggs,
Music Director
Nora Montgomery,
Administrator
Larry Knight
Custodian



Celebrating Believing Belonging

Baptism

Baptism is a sacrament of belonging. We celebrate baptisms of infants here, as well as older children and adults.

Whatever the age of the one baptized, you'll affirm you want to belong, say that you believe, and promise to behave in ways that show you belong and believe.

At least one adult speaks for a child, saying 'I do' to 3 questions like these. Another parent, godparents or sponsors may also stand up to affirm and promise, or to support those saying 'I do'. We ask:

**Do you wish baptism for _____?
(I do.)**

**Do you believe in God your creator, in Jesus Christ your redeemer, and in the Holy Spirit your teacher & guide?
(I do.)**

**Do you promise to grow in the faith with _____, part of a household and community of faith, participating in the church's celebration and service?
(I do.)**

If none of you can say 'I do' 3 times, you are invited to further explore your Christian faith. 'Dedication' is an option which celebrates a new life, promising to raise a child in faith, but not yet baptized.

We stand with you and say 'welcome'. We share our affirmations of belonging, belief, and promises to behave as a community in ways that help you live out your baptism within the Christian church.

Our Creed

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

We believe in God:

**Who has created
and is creating**

**Who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
To reconcile and make new**

**Who works in us and others
by the Spirit**

We trust in God

**We are called
to be the Church;**

to celebrate God's presence,

to live with respect in Creation

to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil,

**to proclaim Jesus,
crucified and risen
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death,
in life beyond death,
God is with us,
we are not alone.**

Thanks be to God,

Amen

FAQ's

Frequently asked questions (FAQ's):

Q: Do we have to be members of your church to baptize our child there?

A: No. At least one of you has to say the three "I do" affirmations, and we interpret that as intending meaningful belonging, believing, and church participation behavior, but not necessarily being members on the roll of this local organization. Often a parent chooses to be baptized the same day as their child.

Q: Can we have a private christening, in our backyard or not on Sunday morning?

A: Baptism is a sacrament of belonging, so it includes the congregation in public worship. You make affirmations and promises, and so do we, here together. Talk with our ministers if you want a private celebration, naming, dedication, that will not be a baptism.

Q: How much will the baptism cost?

A: You pay no fee. Your baptism costs us fair wages for our staff, and operating costs of building and our programmes, particularly those serving children and parents. We will charge you nothing, and offer this service as our gift. Donations support the church, making this possible as many people honour their promises and affirmations by supporting our community of faith, and sharing their own developing lives.

Q: What's the bottom line?

A: Baptism is a sacrament of belonging. You are welcome to belong, believe, and participate in growing in faith, celebrating and serving in our part of God's church.

God loves us all, baptized or not!