

NEWTOWN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

An Open and Affirming Church of the United Church of Christ (UCC)

Baptismal Information and Request Form



Newtown Congregational Church, UCC

Newtown Connecticut

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Baptism is the celebration of a new beginning in the life of a person created by faith in the saving grace of God. In baptism Newtown Congregational Church (NCC) acknowledges and celebrates its faith that God offers forgiveness and grace to all people, and this opens new possibilities for living in anticipation of the new age of God's reign. It also acknowledges and celebrates the faith that God calls us into the community of Church and into its life and ministry.

Baptism is one of two Sacraments (the other being Holy Communion) celebrated in NCC and in protestant churches in general. Jesus began his ministry by being baptized by his cousin, John, in the Jordan River. At that time, Mark tells us *"the Spirit descended like a dove and a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'"* (Mark 1:9-11)

Since the baptism of Jesus, the Church has used a variety of forms of baptism: immersion (total dipping of the believer in the water), affusion (pouring water over the believer's head) and sprinkling (placing a few drops of water on the believer's head). Most of the baptisms at NCC use sprinkling. Because baptism is a communal act it is customary to baptize in the midst of the church community of faith during Sunday morning worship.

One can be baptized at any age, however infant baptism is most common in NCC. Infant baptism stresses God's grace and invites the family of the child and the church congregation to pledge to support the parents as they raise their child in the Christian faith. Many families choose to have Godparents. If this is the case the Godparents are also asked to support the parents as they raise their child. Infants who are baptized are given the privilege of making a personal affirmation of their faith by attending confirmation classes during their 9th grade school year and receive the rite of Confirmation at the close of that school year.

Baptism gives a sense of identity as it affirms that we are baptized *"in the name of the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit."* By remembering our baptism, we know who we are and who we are called to be. Christians live by faith and a trust in God, who makes life fresh and new. Martin Luther, in his moments of greatest doubt and despair, consoled himself by saying over and over again, *"I have been baptized!"* When we claim our baptized identity as Christians, we are given the gift of being able to remember just how pleased God is with us and how present God is to us.

Following the Sacrament of Baptism, it is the practice of NCC to bestow the gifts of a Certificate of Baptism from the United Church of Christ and a Baptismal candle.

Newtown Congregational Church is happy to have this opportunity to minister to your family through the Sacrament of Baptism. We stand ready to continue ministering to your family in every way and invite you to consider this church for your place of worship. Please call upon us anytime.

Please use the attached form to request a baptism for your infant(s) or child(ren). If you desire an adult baptism or have any questions, contact the NCC office 203-426-9024, newcong@sbcglobal.net.

For NCC Office Use: Date of baptism _____ Year _____
Pastor officiating _____

BAPTISMAL REQUEST FORM INFANTS AND CHILDREN

Preferred baptism date _____
(Please try to avoid the first Sunday of the month as that is Communion Sunday)

CHILD to be baptized _____
First name Middle name Last name

Date of birth _____ city and state of birth _____

Is or identifies as _____ (male female gender non-binary)

Home street address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Parent #1 full name _____

(Maiden name if applicable _____)

Member of this Church? Yes ___ No ___ Relative of a member of this Church? Yes ___ No ___
(If no to either, how did you discover this church? _____)

Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

Parent #2 full name _____

(Maiden name if applicable _____)

Member of this church? Yes ___ No ___ Relative of a member of this church? Yes ___ No ___
(If no to either, how did you discover this church? _____)

Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

If you are using Godparents please give their full names:

God parent #1 (or Godmother) _____

God parent #2 (or Godfather) _____

Please Return This Form to:

Newtown Congregational Church

14 West Street - Newtown, CT 06470

203-426-9024 newcong@sbcglobal.net