

## Welcome!

Congratulations on taking this first step in the life of faith for your child. We are excited to journey with you and welcome your child into the community of faith. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at any time. May God richly bless you and your child as you begin this journey!

God Bless,  
Pastor Calvin Miller

Here at the United Parish we celebrate two types of services.

One, is the **Baby Dedication** in the **Baptist Tradition**

And the

Second, is the Baby **Baptism/Christening** in the **Methodist/UCC Tradition.**

**The Baby Dedication in the Baptist Tradition.** An infant dedication is a ceremony in which Christian parents make a commitment to raise their child according to God's will and train their child to follow Christ. In baby dedications, parents state that they take responsibility for their child's Christian upbringing until that child is able to make decisions of faith for himself and then choose his own baptism. The dedication is done publicly, usually in front of a church body. Baby dedications do not involve the use of water

**The Baby Baptism/Christening in the Methodist/UCC Tradition.** Baptism is a sacrament through which we are made children of God. It marks the beginning of our journey of faith. To “christen” is to name; thus Christening is only that segment of the Baptismal service when the baby is named publicly. The Baptized are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. The sign of the cross is made on the forehead with water

### **Before the ceremony**

Pastor Cal will arrange a meeting with you before the Baptism/Dedication. This is an informal meet and greet with the parents and to go over final details. Pastor Cal will show you where in the bulletin the baptism/dedication will be during the service and also go thru what will take place the day of the ceremony.

### **Day of the ceremony**

Pastor Cal will call the Deacon's, the Baby's Parents and God Parents to the Altar, where we will gather around the child to be baptized/dedicated, as a community to support them, confess our faith, and pray together.

*We baptize them in the name of  
The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
(Matthew 28: 19)*

After the ceremony, Pastor Cal will walk with the baby around the church for all to greet and welcome, this beautiful new life.

*We welcome the newly baptized into  
the family of God.*

*(Matthew 5: 16)*

### **Baptismal/Dedication Promises**

When you present your child for Holy Baptism/Dedication, you make promises to help them grow in the Christian faith and life.

#### ***These include:***

- Live with them among God's faithful people: *Actively participating in a faith community with your child*
- Bring them to the word of God and the holy supper: *Participating in worship with your child*
- Teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments: *Teaching your child how to pray, the basics of what we believe, and how God calls us to live as Christians*
- Place in their hands the Holy Scriptures: *Reading the Bible with your child*
- Nurture them in faith and prayer: *Praying for your child and sharing your faith with them.*

### **God Parents/Sponsors**

God Parents/Sponsors play an important role in the life of the baptized/dedicated child. Godparent's main responsibility is to support and encourage the baptized/dedicated child in their faith journey. Godparents also help the child's parents in fulfilling their baptismal promises.

## **Congregational Support**

As parents and sponsors you do not make these baptismal promises and commitments alone. We as a congregation make them along with you and are here to support and encourage you and your child as we journey together in faith. The United Parish offers Milestone Ministries for you and your child at pivotal stages of their faith journey. Starting with Sunday School for all ages, Pre School, Youth, Middle/High School Sunday school and the Sunday evening Youth Group.

## **Living the Promises of Baptism**

We encourage you to read the story of Jesus' baptism (Matt 3: 13-17, Mark 1: 9-11, Luke 3: 21-22). with your child, and to celebrate their baptismal anniversary each year.

Q: Is there special attire that my child must wear on the day of baptism/dedication? A: It is traditional for children to wear all-white clothing when being baptized/dedicated. However, we don't have a specific dress requirement for the baptism/dedication.

Q: May I take pictures and/or videotape my child's baptism/dedication? A: This is a very special moment in the life of your child, so we allow you to videotape only this portion of the worship service. Pictures may be taken during the baptism/dedication service, but please be mindful of others seated behind you.

Q: Can we invite family and friends? A: Yes, you are welcome to invite anyone.

Q: Is there a fee for the ceremony? A: No, but if this is a private ceremony, not during the normal church service, then church fees will apply

## **Why is baptism/dedication important?**

Baptism is important because Christ commanded it as a part of the Great Commission: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit" (Matt. 28:19). If we neglect baptism, we're disobeying our Lord. Since true faith always expresses itself in obedience, those who have believed in Christ and have been properly instructed about baptism will obey Christ by being baptized.

Visit our website at

[www.unitedparish.com](http://www.unitedparish.com)

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Tuesday 8am – 1pm

Thursday 8am – 1pm

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# *The United Parish of Winchendon*

*Welcome to Baby's  
Baptism / Dedication*

## **Beginning the Journey of Faith**



**39 Front Street  
Winchendon, MA 01475**

*The United Parish is in covenant relationship with  
the American Baptist Churches, the United  
Church of Christ & the United Methodist Church*

