

Our sound-proof Chapel in the south west corner of the Sanctuary is a “self-serve” infant nursery. This can be used by you or your guests should it be necessary to comfort or settle a fussy child during the service. Sound is piped into this room and a large glass door enables worshippers to watch the service. However, should you need to change your baby, please use the change facilities in the washrooms.

Our “full-serve” Nursery provides care for infants and toddlers up to 24 months while their parents participate in Worship. The Nursery room, located on the lower level, is staffed by a regular carer, assisted by two adult volunteers each week. The Nursery is equipped with rocking chairs, crib, change table, baby swing and many toys to entertain the wee ones.

You and your guests are invited to take posed photographs in the Sanctuary immediately following the ceremony as a remembrance of this special occasion for your family. ***Please do not take photographs during the worship service itself.***

Finally, please have your family and friends join our congregation in the Assembly Hall following the service for a time of refreshment and community.

*For in the one Spirit  
we were all baptized into one body ...  
I Corinthians 12:13*



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# ***Baptism at Fairlawn***



## **Fairlawn Avenue United Church**

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## ***The Sacrament of Baptism Within the United Church***

A sacrament is a holy act—a ritual of our faith. The United Church has two sacraments: baptism and communion. These are of central importance to our faith.

Baptism is a symbolic action that signifies the new life God gives us as we join the church community. Baptism uses water as a symbolic cleansing that signifies the acceptance of new life within the church family. The sacrament of baptism is the single rite of initiation into the Christian community, the church.

The United Church offers baptism to all ages. We believe the gift of God's love doesn't depend on our ability to understand it, so we baptize people as infants right up through adulthood.

Baptism is not a requirement for God's love. We believe people who die without baptism are in no way condemned, lost, or damned.

Baptism in the United Church is recognized by all denominations of the Christian church that practise infant baptism. Similarly, if people have already been baptized in another church, the United Church recognizes their baptism and welcomes them as Christians.



At Fairlawn we celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism at several specially designated services throughout the year, during our Sunday Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.

During the service the parents or adult candidates for baptism and the entire congregation make a profession of faith. The Fairlawn Avenue congregation also expresses its commitment to support you and your family in your Christian journey.

### ***Preparation for Baptism***

Arrangements for Baptism include contacting and meeting with one of our ministers to discuss your intent and for instruction. With children, instruction is given to parents or sponsors to equip them for the child's Christian nurture. A Baptismal Record Information Sheet will be completed.

Once preparations are complete, a rehearsal will be scheduled at a mutually convenient time, one or two weeks prior to Baptism Sunday.

### ***Baptism Sunday***

The Sunday morning of the service, participants are asked to arrive no later than 10:15 a.m. and seat themselves in the reserved pews at the front of the Sanctuary. Reserved seating is for participants in the actual service only (parents, siblings, and godparents, if any). Please suggest to your friends and other family members they arrive early to secure optimal seating in the non-reserved pews.

Immediately following the baptismal portion of the service, our Sunday School children leave for their classes. Your older children and those of your guests are most welcome to join them. There is also a supervised Toddler Room for young children who are able to walk.