

## Interested in a baptism at Christ UMC?

Follow these three steps:

1. **Fill out the Baptism Inquiry Form** on our website: [www.cumethodist.com/baptism](http://www.cumethodist.com/baptism)
2. **Come to a Baptism class!** They're usually the first Saturday of each month. Once you complete the form, someone will be in contact with you about when the next class is.
3. We practice the sacrament of baptism the third Sundays of the month, at all services (8, 9 or 11am). **Arrange your day with the office** and just show up!

### Office Contact Info:

Call: 507 289 4019

Email: [email@cumethodist.com](mailto:email@cumethodist.com)





## What is Baptism?

Baptism is a **sacrament (a mysterious, sacred, holy act)** which celebrates becoming a new person in Jesus Christ. In baptism we use the mark of water to represent our movement from formlessness to creation, from death to rebirth.

## Can anyone get baptized?

Yes, people of all ages, from infancy into adulthood, can be baptized.

## Why get baptized?

Baptism is the beginning of a lifelong faith journey. You have heard people say, “I was baptized Methodist,” or “I was baptized Presbyterian,” which could mean that in baptism they got their identity papers and that was the end of it. But baptism is not the end. It is the beginning of a lifelong journey of faith.

We often feel that we receive our identity from others, from the expectations of friends and colleagues, from the labels society puts upon us, and from the influence of family. To become Christian is to receive a new identity. You no longer allow others to tell you who you are. Christ now claims you and instructs you. A Christian is one who has “put on Christ.” That is why the church’s ritual of baptism begins with putting off the old, renouncing the evil powers of the world, and pledging our loyalty to Jesus Christ.

It makes no difference whether you were baptized as an adult or as a child; we all start on that journey at baptism. When children are baptized it is a reminder that we are called by God before we were even born—this is called “prevenient grace”, God’s love with us even before we’ve taken our first steps. As an adult baptism is a symbol of claiming our faith: often adults will share a faith statement before they are baptized to bear witness to who they are, how they have grown because of Jesus Christ and the community of faith, and where they have experienced God.

## We say vows, right? What do we say?

We will give you the answers before you affirm these statements: usually the answer is WE DO! (Or “I do”)

- **Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness and reject the evil powers in this world, and repent of sin?**
  - **Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?**
  - **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, races, orientations?**
  - **(If for a child) Will you nurture this child in Christ’s holy church, that by your teaching and example they may be guided to accept God’s grace for themselves, to process their faith openly, to lead a Christian life?**
- 