

# BAPTISMS

At Four Corners Community Chapel, Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
200 Angell Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island 02864 ~ 401-333-6171

Do you know where your Baptismal Certificate is? Do you know the date of your Baptism? If your answer is “no” to these questions, you are in a great majority. Growing up, I was always taught that one’s birthday is a very important day, the day you took your first breath in this wonderful, awesome, frightening, beautiful, chaotic world. I was also taught this approach to one’s Baptismal day, the day celebrating the breath of God that fills you, and your place in the Body of Christ, the Church. For me that date was June 9, 1946, and my Baptismal Certificate is in my strong box along with my Birth Certificate.

We are honored when we, as a Church of Jesus Christ, are asked to celebrate the sacrament of Baptism for someone, no matter their age. Still, it is good to remember that a Baptism day, like a Wedding day does not, by itself, a marriage make, though they are both great places to start. What follows both events is a commitment to “covenant” relationship between God and His children, and between all the members of the Body of Christ, through nurture, fellowship, and love.

If you are seeking Baptism, it is a good idea to call the Church Office before setting a date. Sometimes, there’s a Sunday when we are celebrating and centering on other things such as New Members (*when new members have not been baptized, baptism takes place within the New Members part of the Service*), Confirmation, or Communion. Upon contacting the Church Secretary, parents (or individuals) will be sent a small book dealing with Baptism. The book, **REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE: *Baptism, a Model for Christian Life***, was written by William Willimon, one of the most prominent protestant preachers and teachers in the world. The book has been very well received throughout my years in ministry. This reading is an important step, as many are more accustomed to the Roman Catholic approach to Baptism.

After looking through the book, a meeting will be set up with the Pastor to address some of the points discussed in the book. For example, Godparents are an option, but not required. In truth, Baptism makes Godparents of the whole congregation. Also discussed will be the nature and responsibilities of the commitments and covenant of the Sacrament of Baptism. Baptisms will take place within the 10:00 AM Worship Service. If one is celebrating their union to Body of Christ, it only makes sense that the Body should be there. Also, Baptism includes the commitment of the congregation, and they need to be present to make that commitment. Knowing that family members who are not familiar with FCCC worship tradition are likely to be present, worship etiquette is also discussed, such as the respect of prayer time, and that no pictures shall be taken during the Service. We are at Worship, and the focus is on God in Christ.

If all is well at this point, a date is agreed on and we pray the presence of the Holy Spirit around our family and yours.