

Congratulations on your desire to be baptized or have your child baptized. From the Greek word baptizein, “to be dipped”, baptism is the sacrament by which one is initiated into membership of the Christian Church.

The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. The promise of the gospel is not only to us but to our children. Baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is a mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ’s Church. It is a sign and seal of their participation in God’s forgiveness and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

*Christ also brought you the truth, which is the good news about how you can be saved. You put your faith in Christ and were given the promised Holy Spirit to show that you belong to God. The Spirit also makes us sure we will be given what God has stored up for his people. Then we will be set free and God will be honored and praised.*

Ephesians 1:13-14

## The Sacrament

**Infant Baptism:** This is the parent’s covenant with God and the congregation proclaiming their love towards their child and promising to rear their child in a nurturing Christian home.

**Youth Baptism:** If a youth was not baptized as a child, the baptism is usually incorporated into the Confirmation Program, as one must be baptized before being confirmed.

**Adult Baptism:** Membership in The Garden City Community Church, United Church of Christ, is predicated upon an individual’s baptism. We recognize all baptisms. If an adult has not been baptized, it is necessary to do so before membership into the church.

**Family Baptism:** Often times families worshipping with us have come from a tradition in which no one has been baptized. We feel baptizing the entire family at once can be very spiritually uplifting for the family’s Christian growth and development.

**Scheduling:** Call the church office to discuss scheduling a date. Baptisms are usually done during our Sunday Worship Service.

**Appointment with Minister:** A minister of our church will meet with the parents, youth or adult before the baptism ceremony to explain fully its meaning and reverence.

**Sponsors:** Recognizing that there are many persons who touch the lives of children beyond their parents, sponsors or godparents are called to assist in providing opportunities to grow and discover the child’s faith and relationship with God. Sponsors do not have to be members of The Garden City Community Church, but they do have to be baptized Christians.

**Certificates:** Upon being baptized, you will be given a certificate with the church seal. It is imperative you fill out information sheet with the church office.

## The Service

**Pews:** The ushers will rope off two pews for the family and sponsors. If additional space is needed, kindly ask your guests to sit with the congregation.

**Private Baptism:** Infant baptism is a covenantal relationship between the parents, the congregation and God, therefore it is incorporated into the worship service.

**Clergy Presiding:** Baptisms to be performed in The Garden City Community Church will be presided by one of the available pastors. Visiting clergy will be permitted to assist in the ceremony.

**Flowers:** If you would like the flowers to be in honor or memory of someone, contact the church office for more information.

**Photographs:** In order to preserve the dignity of the worship service, all guests are asked to refrain from taking photographs of any kind during the baptism ceremony. For your convenience, photographs may be taken in the church after worship.

**Remuneration:** Because Baptism is a sacrament there is no fee. However, if you would like to give a thank-you offering to the church it will be much appreciated.

### Our Mission Statement

*We, the members and friends of the Garden City Community Church, believe it is our mission to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed to all the world.*

*Relying on the grace of God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we seek to fulfill our mission by being a community of spiritual growth that welcomes all people, teaches Christian faith, cares for its members, and reaches out in service to those beyond the church walls. Celebrating our diversity, we are working to build a loving fellowship*

- *where people are supported and families are strengthened;*
- *friends are made and hurts are healed;*
- *justice is sought and the world is served;*
- *God is worshipped, and above all,*
- *Jesus Christ is Lord.*

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# *The Sacrament of Baptism*



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### THE MINISTRY

The Congregation	Ministers to the World
Rev. Arlen G. Vernava	Intentional Interim Pastor
George Bashian	Licensed Minister