



It is wonderful that you have come to the point of wanting to baptise your child into the life of our Church.

This brochure will help you in making a well informed decision

If you have any other questions please don't hesitate to ask.

Minister: Rev Ralph Mayhew
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Seymour, 3660
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Service Times:
Avenel - Sunday 9.15am
Seymour - Sunday 11am
Sunday School: 3 y.o. - Grade 6
Seymour - 10.00am (in the hall at the rear of Church property)

Seymour Uniting Church

Child Baptism

at

Seymour & Avenel Uniting Church

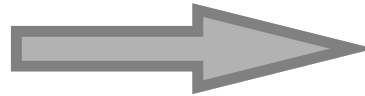


A Church
ONTRACK

What is Baptism?

Baptism is an outward sign of an inward change. It is the public acclamation of two things: 1) That the values Jesus Christ taught us are accepted by one or both parents, 2) A decision to come to know and follow Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour has been made by one or both parents. This means that you enter into the life of the Church, growing in faith, stepping into relationship with other Christians, discovering how God has gifted you and then seeking to serve in the place God calls you to.

Baptism is the event in which the one being baptised enters into the life of faith and also the life of the Church. If the one being baptised is only a child, then the decision to become part of the Church rests on the one or both parents. In seeking to baptize your child you are saying that you want to join the Church and grow in your understanding of who Jesus is.



What other options are available?

If at this point you are thinking that perhaps Baptism isn't for you or your child, then you may be interested in a thanksgiving service for the life of your child. This service is similar to the baptism service, however there is no water, and the minister does not hold your child. The service consists of giving thanks for the life of your child and praying a blessing over the life of both the child and the family. It is a special service and is in no way subordinate to the baptism service, but works along side it.

The questions asked of you in the baptism service reflect this decision:

Do you each acknowledge this faith and claim it for yourselves and for your child?

Do you, as this child's parents, who have affirmed your faith in God, promise that you will do all within your power to bring up this child in this faith and in the fellowship of the Church of Jesus Christ?

You will know that you are ready to have your child baptised when you are able to answer yes to these questions. A further question is then asked of the congregation:

Will you who are part of the Body of Christ strive to be faithful; in your witness and in your service such that this child might grow up, not only hearing the Christian faith but seeing it in action?

This question is asked because baptism is not a private decision, it is a public celebration, in which the entire Church is included, and responsible for.

We want to be able to help you in making this important decision with yours and your child's best interests in mind. Therefore we would love to speak to you some more on this issue. Please call Ralph Mayhew (the Minister) and he and an elder will sit down with you to discuss the next step.