

The Circle of Life

Life is a gift from God. In the Christian tradition, we celebrate all of life each time we worship God. But, we also mark important stages in the passage of life at specific times in worship services.

From a Christian faith perspective, birth and death are part of the natural cycle of life. In the cycle of life, there comes a time to recognize a person's basic identity as a son or daughter of God. This happens in the sacrament of baptism. There is also a time to recognize the decision to live life in an ongoing relationship with the Christian community. This happens at a time we call "confirmation". At yet another time in life comes the decision to bond for life with a partner. This decision is recognized during a wedding service. Then comes the time when we mark the end of life and the passage into life after death, during a memorial service or funeral. We do all this knowing that the God of Life is with us from before our birth, on into the community of faith, and all the way past the end. At each stage, and every day, we renew our relationship with God and our belonging to the community of God's people.

*In life, in death,
in life after death,
God is with us.
(A United Church Creed)*

A United Church Creed

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus,
crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

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**Baptisms,
Weddings,
Funerals
at
Salisbury
United Church**



Connecting hearts, minds and lives
in community with God.

Baptisms



At Salisbury United Church we are part of a Christian religious tradition that regards baptism as a basic building block in the life of faith. Whenever a baptism takes place, we take joy in the opening up of a person's life to their essential identity as a son or daughter of God. Baptism recognizes that a child, youth or adult is placed to live out that identity within the Christian religious tradition. With each baptism, our church community remembers once again how God loves many, many kinds of people from all walks of life.

Baptism is open to people of all ages. Infants and young children are presented for baptism by their parents, after the parents have taken a baptism preparation program. Parents, at the time of their children's baptism, affirm their own faith and their ongoing participation in the church community. Youth and adults present themselves for baptism, after their own program of preparation. All baptisms, whether child, youth or adult, are performed on a Sunday during a regular service of worship.

Confirmation, another step in a person's faith journey, happens when someone personally owns the faith of their baptism for themselves later in life. It can also happen any time a youth or adult renews their faith commitment and affirms for themselves their belonging to the Christian community of God's people. Confirmation also takes place during a regular service of worship.



About The United Church of Canada

Salisbury United Church is affiliated with the United Church of Canada. The United Church of Canada is a union of several Christian denominations: Methodists, Congregationalists, Presbyterians and Evangelical United Brethren. We draw on the traditions of each denomination to create diverse expressions of being an open and welcoming church across the country. To find out more about The United Church of Canada visit our national website at: www.united-church.ca.

Weddings



Salisbury United Church belongs to a Christian religious tradition that views marriage as a "good and honourable estate". That means that marriage, even in its contemporary forms, provides a "home-base" within which two people can create a loving shelter for their lives, and grow in love, understanding, forgiveness and compassion together over the years.

When you come to Salisbury United Church to celebrate your wedding and begin your marriage, you will work with our minister, an experienced licensed marriage officiant. We offer a basic ceremony outline which we adapt with you. The ceremony includes spiritual components like prayer, a scripture reading, your vows as a couple, and a blessing of your intention to live in marriage together. It also includes the secular aspects of the ceremony, in order for your marriage to be legally registered. We also refer you to a local marriage preparation program which is required for all couples. And we ask you and your wedding party to attend a rehearsal, usually on the Thursday for Saturday weddings. All of this is preparation, not only for your wedding ceremony, but for the years of married life which will follow your successful wedding day.

Funerals



The death of a loved one is a difficult time. It is natural to mark a loved one's life with a special service or gathering. Salisbury United Church belongs to a faith tradition that regards death as a passage rather than an ending. We believe in a good and loving God who grieves our losses with us, and who is with us in compassion as we struggle with how to say good-bye. We bring this particular Christian faith perspective to the celebration of your loved one's life at the time of a memorial gathering or funeral service. At the same time, we recognize that many people today come from varied faith backgrounds in the same family. We also recognize that many people are looking for flexible funeral service planning that has room for personal touches and tributes. We are privileged to work with you in sensitivity and understanding through your time of grief and recovery.

When it comes to contacting us about a funeral or memorial service, you likely will be in touch with us *after* you have first had a conversation with a funeral service provider. Usually the funeral service provider contacts our minister, and confirms the date of the service. Our minister then in turn gets in touch with you and arranges to meet with you to plan a loving celebration that honours your loved one and lifts up the presence of God in the midst of death. If you are planning your loved one's funeral or memorial service on your own, do not hesitate to contact our office directly. We will be available to meet with you and assist you any time.