

***Grand Bend United Pastoral Charge***  
***Minister: The Reverend Harry Disher***

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***Celebration of the Christian Infant Baptism***

***Christian Baptism*** – Baptism is a formal acknowledgement of our acceptance into the community of faith, the church. In the United Church baptism can take place at any age. When candidates are infants or children, parents typically make baptismal vows on their behalf. Godparents may be chosen for infants or children being baptized. For all candidates the congregation may choose and appoint sponsors.

***Why Choose Infant Baptism*** – Parents promise to include the child into God’s unconditional love. The congregation has a part in infant baptism by promising to assist parents in the child’s development – i.e. to grow as a part of God’s unconditional love.

***Baptism Celebrations*** – At Grand Bend United Church baptisms occur during worship four times during the year: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Jan, Sunday after Easter, Father’s Day in June, and last Sunday in Sep.

***Preparation*** – Call the church office, 519- 238-2402, or the Minister directly. There is a preparation event consisting of three components: baptism and the child, baptism and the parents, and baptism as a part of the church community. As part of this event parents will construct a banner or other creative symbol to celebrate the three themes. That object will be displayed at the baptism celebration. Parents who live in the Grand Bend area are to attend worship at least three times prior to the baptism celebration. On those occasions parents are to make their presence known to the Greeters so that the parents can be announced to the GBUC congregation in preparation for the baptism. Parents who live outside the Grand Bend area are to have their home church send a letter indicating that they have attended at least three times prior to the baptism celebration.

***Special offering to God*** – Consider a special offering in honour of the baptism celebration. It might be an offering directed toward the new church building fund. It might be directed toward the ongoing ministry of Grand Bend United. There are also a number of current activities that assist those in our community and abroad – Caring through Sharing and Mission and Service are just a few. Whatever amount you choose to make as an offering, helps God’s work to continue. A tax receipt is given for all offerings of \$10.00 or more.