

Sacrament of Baptism at Buffalo United Methodist Church (Boy)

Pastor: {This morning we have the joy of celebrating the baptism of *{first and last name}*. I invite *{first name}*'s family and sponsors to join me at this time.

Baptism is the entry point into the Christian church and the church is God's people at work in the world. That means that through baptism, each of us becomes part of God's mission in the world to restore the earth and the people on it. This requires a new life, filled with the love of Jesus and the power of God's Holy Spirit. That's the kind of life we at Buffalo UMC want for *{first name}*, and that's why we're gathered here today to support this family, both online and in-person.

Pastor: (to congregation) Congregation, today we promise to live so that *{first name}* can see God's love in everything we do. Today we promise to love *{first name}*'s family, and to care for them in every time of joy or trouble. Today God promises to give *{first name}* the gift of the Holy Spirit. To wash him in righteousness and to make him a part of God's family.

Pastor: (to parents & sponsors) There are some important things that the church wants to ask you. These are essential parts of what it means to be baptized into the church and to belong to the people of God.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ as your savior?

Parents & Sponsors: I do.

Pastor: Will you nurture *{first name}*'s faith in your home and through regular involvement in the ministries of the church, so that he may be guided to accept God's grace for himself and live joyfully as a disciple of Jesus Christ?

Parents & Sponsors: I will.

(The water is poured and blessed)

Pastor: We baptize *{first name}* with water today, in the name of Jesus, because Jesus himself was first baptized with water, and because Jesus commanded that we do the same. Water has long been a symbol of the Holy Spirit, ever since the Spirit descended on Jesus at his baptism in the Jordan River.

O God who gave us life through the power of your word: Pour out your Holy Spirit to bless this gift of water and he who receives it, to wash away his sin, and cloth him in righteousness throughout his life, that, dying and being raised with Christ, he may share in his final victory.

All: Amen!

{One parent comes to pick up bowl of water and then returns to where the other partner and sponsors are standing}

Pastor: (to parents): Who is this beautiful child, made in God's image, that we'll be baptizing today?

Parents: {*full name*}

{Parent dips hand in water and then places hand on child's head as Pastor reads below, usually once each for Father, Son, and Holy Spirit}

Pastor: {*full name*}, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit work within you, that being born through water and the Spirit, you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. Amen.

{The sponsors or parents are invited to light the child's baptism candle. Parent holding the bowl should return the bowl to the stand}

Pastor: Congregation, this is your brother in Christ, {*first name*}!

Pastor: Please join me in the unison welcome of our new brother in Christ.

All: We are all one in Christ Jesus. With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you, {*first name*}, as a member of our family. We commit to do our best to nurture you, to challenge you, to encourage you, and to comfort you. We will stand beside you and celebrate with you as you grow in faith and come to realize who God is creating you to be.

Pastor: We pray that we will have the joy of celebrating each of the faith stepping stones along {*first name*}’s life, and that in another 15 years or so he’ll be appearing before us to confirm the baptismal vows his parents and sponsors have taken for him today!

{Certificate & blanket are given; Congregation applauds; Everyone returns to their seats.}