

**Infant and Child Baptism
Information Sheet for Tom's Creek UMC**

*(After completing this form, please return to the church secretary's mailbox)
(Please fill out one form for each person)*

(please fill out one form per child)

Child's Full Name: _____

(First, Middle, Last)

Date of Birth: _____

Name of child's Parent(s) or Guardian(s): _____

Address(es): _____

Email(s): _____

Phone(s): _____

Those to stand in support of you and your child during the service of baptism:

Name _____

Relation to child: _____

Name _____

Relation to child: _____

Name _____

Relation to child: _____

Name _____

Relation to child: _____

Name _____

Relation to child: _____

For more information about baptism in the UMC, visit www.umc.org

Why Baptize Babies?

From the earliest times, children and infants were baptized and included in the church. As scriptural authority for this ancient tradition, some scholars cite Jesus' words, "Let the little children come to me...for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs" (Mark 10:14). However, a more consistent argument is that baptism, as a means of grace, signifies God's initiative in the process of salvation. John Wesley preached "prevenient grace," the grace that works in our lives before we are aware of it, bringing us to faith. The baptism of children and their inclusion in the church before they can respond with their own confirmation of faith is a vivid and compelling witness to prevenient grace.

Baptism Is Forever

Because baptism is a sacrament of God's grace and a covenant that God has initiated, it should not be repeated. However, God's continuing and patient forgiveness, God's prevenient grace, will prompt us to renew the commitment first made at our baptism. At such a time, instead of rebaptism, The United Methodist Church offers the ritual for the reaffirmation of baptismal vows, which implies that, while God remains faithful to God's half of the covenant, we are not always faithful to our promises. Our half of the covenant is to confess Christ as our Savior, trust in his grace, serve him as Lord in the church, and carry out his mission against evil, injustice, and oppression.