

# BAPTISM

## Why Should I Be Baptized?

- **To follow the example set by Christ.** “At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river.” (Mark 1:9)
- **Because Christ commanded it.** “Jesus said, ‘Go then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciple, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and then teach them to obey everything that I have commanded you.’” (Matthew 28: 19-20)
- **It demonstrates that I really am a Believer.** “We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands.” (I John 2:3)

## What Is The Meaning of Baptism?

- **It illustrates Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection.** “Christ died for our sins...He was buried...and He rose again.” (I Corinthians 15: 3-4); “For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ.” (Colossians 2:12)
- **It illustrates my new life as a Christian.** “When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and the new life has begun!” (II Corinthians 5:17); “We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new Life.” (Romans 6:4)
- **Baptism doesn’t make you a Christian.** Only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring—it’s the outward sign of the commitment you have made in your heart (see Ephesians 2:8-9)

## Why Be Baptized By Immersion?

- **Because Jesus was baptized that way.** “As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water.” (Matthew 3:16)
- **The word “baptize” means “to dip under water.”**
- **It best symbolized a burial and resurrection (see Romans 6:1-11).**

## Who Should Be Baptized?

Every person who has believed in Christ. A Believer is someone who has realized that their sin separated them from God. They have given up all efforts to reach God through good works or religious activity. They have concluded that Jesus Christ’s death on the cross for their sins is the only thing that can bridge the gap between them and God. A Believer is someone who has decided to trust Christ alone for their salvation. If you have come to that point in your spiritual journey, then you are ready to be baptized (Acts 2:41; 8:12-13).

## Child Dedication

In the Scripture we do not have any recognition of children being Baptized. As a matter of fact all the baptisms are "Believer Baptisms. That means people recognized their own sinfulness and their own need and turned to God, surrendering their will to his mission for their lives. For our children, we do hold a ceremony where we dedicate our children to the Lord and we take this very seriously. It is a time to recognize our need to dedicate our homes, our marriages and then our children to God and his kingdom. For us this means that, we pledge to raise them in such a manner that they see the benefit, and joy of living their lives surrendered to Christ's Kingdom; a kingdom of peace, love and healing reconciliation. In this manner they will be a part of changing the world. We do this during the Sunday morning service as the opportunity arises.

## When Should I Be Baptized?

As soon as you believe. Acts 8:12 *But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.*

## What Do I Wear?

Dress in clothes you don't mind getting wet! You should wear a dark shirt and shorts. Remember to bring a change of clothes to wear home. There is a changing room available. A towel will be provided for you. Arrive 30 minutes before the service is scheduled to begin for some last-minute instructions.

## How Do I Register?

We are so glad that you are considering baptism. To register, please sign up at the HUB. Then, we will contact you with our upcoming baptism service dates.

If you have any questions, please call the church office at (859) 661-2319.



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