

Believer's Baptism

Taking the Next Step in Following Jesus

Welcome to an exciting step in your Christian life! Taking the opportunity to be baptized as a believer in Christ is a tremendous step of love and obedience in your relationship with Jesus. It is also a great way to “go public” with your faith in God.

This material is designed to assist you in preparing for this very special event. Begin praying now that God would give you the courage to follow through with your baptism and to invite friends and family to witness your baptism.

WHY WE BAPTIZE

1. Jesus' example

- Jesus was baptized— Matthew 3:11-17

- He told others to baptize— Matthew 28:19

2. The Disciple's example

- They were baptized – John 3:22-33

- They baptized others – John 4:1-2

3. New believers were baptized

- Ethiopian Eunuch - Acts 8:36-39

- Cornelius - Acts 10:47

WHAT BAPTISM MEANS

Believer's Baptism is basically God's method of publicly identifying that we are followers of Jesus Christ. It is also a symbolic representation of putting our faith in Christ alone for our salvation. Baptism by immersion most closely reflects the symbolism of being buried with Christ and raised to live a new life.

Or have you forgotten that when we became Christians and were baptized to become one with Christ Jesus, we died with him? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

Romans 6:3-4

THE BENEFITS OF BAPTISM

1. Baptism is a great way to please God through your obedience and faith.
2. Baptism encourages other followers of Christ by sharing your spiritual journey.
3. Your baptism is a great way to lead others to a relationship with God.

What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun! All this newness of life is from God, who brought us back to himself through what Christ did.This is the wonderful message he has given us to tell others.

2 Corinthians 5:17-19

SHARING YOUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

Learning to share with others what Christ is doing in your life is an important part of your baptism. God can use your story to help others to begin seeking God. The following outline will help you prepare:

THREE MAIN PARTS

1. What was your life like before coming to Christ?

Did you grow up in a family where faith was central?

Did you grow up without much of a faith culture?

2. Describe how you moved from wandering to following Jesus?

Sometimes it's a defining moment

Sometimes it's a series of interactions

Sometimes it's a dramatic experience

3. Why did you decide to be baptized today?

Describe the commitment you're making

Share what has changed in your life

Tell about your love for Jesus

IMPORTANT GUIDELINES

1. Write it out.
2. Keep it short.
3. Be honest about your continuing struggles.
4. Make it clear how you came to know Christ and the difference He has made in your life.

Pray as you prepare.

Typically not everyone will share their story publically during the service because of time constraints. Instead we will select a few to share their story on video during the baptismal service.

BAPTISM COMMITMENT

Immediately prior to your baptism you will be asked the following questions:

Is it your testimony that Jesus is your Lord and Savior? And do you believe this in your heart? And offer your life to Him in response for what He has done for you?

Response – Yes!

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:9

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SERVICE

1. Meet out in the lobby 20 minutes prior to the service in which you will be baptized.
2. Bring a towel and complete change of clothes.
3. Wear casual, dark colored clothes that can get wet and are not easily seen through.

Baptism FAQ'S

1. Does the Wesleyan Church believe one must be baptized to be saved?

No, the Bible makes it clear that we are not saved based on the works we do. Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "God saved you by his special favor when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it."

2. What if I was baptized as an infant?

Your baptism as an infant was a wonderful expression of your parent's commitment to raise you up in the ways of God. The Wesleyan Church generally practices "Believer's Baptism" because of the pattern given in the Bible. If you were baptized as an infant, you should still be baptized as a believer.

3. If I have already experienced Believer's Baptism, do I ever need to do that again?

There is no reason to be baptized a second time unless your first baptism was too young to remember.

4. How should I explain my spiritual journey if I became a Christian as a young child, but then recommitted my life later?

Briefly mention becoming a Christian as a child, but focus on the changes and events that happened later in life leading up to your recommitment.