



BAPTISM

handbook



PRACTICAL PROCEDURES

Congratulations on your decision to be baptized! It is a wonderful indication of your desire and intention to follow Jesus Christ in all areas of your life. In preparation for the baptism service, please do the following:

- ☐ Carefully read through all this material. If you have any questions don't hesitate to call the church office at 713-1700.
- ☐ Please turn in the Baptism Application by the Friday before the baptism.
- ☐ Please plan to arrive 30 minutes before the start of the service for further instructions.

What to wear: Wear shorts or pants and a dark colored t-shirt. Think about what you will wear when you are wet! Think modesty!

What to bring: A plastic bag for your wet clothes, flip flops and a towel.

What comes next?

Your baptism is one of many significant steps that you will need to take on your journey with Jesus Christ. To help you on your way, we encourage you to take these next steps, if you haven't yet:

1. Party with the Pastors
2. Peak Performance
3. Small Group

The Big Picture

We have an amazing, all-powerful, righteous God who is also defined by His love, grace and mercy. What a balance! What a privilege! Everyday we come face to face with our own lack of perfection and His total perfection.

The Bible clearly states that we owe a penalty for our imperfection, our missing the mark that God had planned for us, and that penalty is eternal separation from Him (Rom 6:23). There is one solution, a loving replacement offered on our behalf through Jesus Christ (Rom 3:25). We accept this free gift (Rom 6:23b) by faith in Him and His shed blood (Eph 2:8,9).

Do you believe that Jesus Christ is God? That He died on the cross as a replacement for your sins? That He is now Lord of your life? Have you put a stake in the ground, asking Him personally for forgiveness and offering Him your life in return? If yes, then it is time to announce it publicly and celebrate!

What is Baptism?

Baptism is exactly that, a public announcement of an inward transformation. It's a celebration of your life and love for Jesus. After all, look what He did for us. Baptism does not save, it comes after salvation as a celebration announcement. First comes belief, and then baptism.

Baptism is an outward symbol of inward life change, and of divine miracle. As taught in the Bible, we use water as a symbol of cleansing and change. By being immersed under water (representing the death of Jesus into which we were buried) and then raised up (representing the new life we have in Jesus Christ) we are celebrating this transformation experience in Jesus (Rom 6:1-6).

When Should I be Baptized?

As soon as possible! We have baptisms at least two times per year and would love to get you signed up for our next baptism service.

What is Required to be Baptized at Harvest?

First, you need to have trusted in Jesus as your personal Savior. After all, that's what it is all about. Second, you need to fill out a baptism form and send that in to the office. That's it. We will get you set up for our next baptism service and celebrate with you all that God is doing.

If I was Baptized as a Baby Should I Be Baptized Now?

In a word, Yes. Remember, first belief, then baptism. The commitment your parents made to you and the Lord was reflected in your infant baptism. This baptism as an adult, after accepting Christ, is your declaration of personal belief. It is in no way speaking ill of what your parents were doing, but it is saying what you now believe!

If I was Baptized at Another Church, after Believing, Should I be Baptized at Harvest?

Nope. Baptism is a one-time event after trusting in Jesus that says I am following Him and love Him. It is not necessary to repeat.



Baptism Application

Name (please print) _____ Date _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

If under the age of 16 please list age _____ T-Shirt Size (S,M,L,XL,2XL,3XL) _____

Circle preferred service time 9:00am or 11:00am Email _____

I grant permission to HBCP to record and use my testimony for future promotional pieces. ☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Non-Member (Complete below) ☐ Member (Do not complete below)

1. What was life like before trusting Jesus Christ (actions, thoughts, struggles)?

2. How did you come to trust Jesus as your Lord and become a follower?

3. What is life like now that you are His child?

Office Use Only:

APPLICATION INFORMATION	
Turned in Application	_____ Date _____
Baptized	_____ Date _____
Certificate Sent	_____ Date _____
Computer Record Updated	_____ Date _____