

Baptism Information & Registration

Faith Journey Church

Theological Questions:

What does the Faith Journey Church believe about Baptism?

We believe that Christian baptism, commanded by our Lord, is a sacrament signifying acceptance of the benefits of the atonement of Jesus Christ, to be administered to believers and declarative of their faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior, and full purpose of obedience in holiness and righteousness.

Baptism may be administered by sprinkling, pouring, or immersion, according to the choice of the applicant.

(Matthew 3:1-7; 28:16-20; Acts 2:37-41; 8:35-39; 10:44-48; 16:29-34; 19:1-6; Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:26-28; Colossians 2:12; 1 Peter 3:18-22)

What is a Christian Baptism?

1. Christian baptism is the application of water in submission to the authority of Jesus Christ. It is an act of obedience, which commits one to a life of obedience.
2. Christian baptism SYMBOLIZES the cleansing from sin, a washing away of the old. (Acts 22:16, Titus 3:5, I Peter 3:21)
3. Christian baptism SYMBOLIZES the new birth by which one becomes a new creature in Christ. It SYMBOLIZES the beginning of the new life. (John 3:1-4, 2 Corinthians 12:13)
4. Christian baptism is the act, which initiates the Christian into fellowship. (Acts 2:36-41, I Corinthians 12:13)
5. Christian baptism SYMBOLIZES the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus and also of the Christian, the new convert. (Romans 6:3, Colossians 2:12.)
6. It is **not** a guarantee of heaven. If there is not faith and repentance, water baptism is invalid. (Ephesians 2:8, 9)

Is there a difference between Baptism and Dedication? Yes. Baptism is reserved for those who have accepted Christ into their lives. Dedication is for primarily young children (12 or younger) who, upon request of their parents or guardians who shall give assurance for them of necessary Christian training.

Why should I get baptized?

1. Jesus did. (Matthew 3:15)
2. The early church practiced it. (Acts 2:38, 41, 8:12, 10:47-48)
3. It is part of the Great Commission—it is a command. (Matthew 28:18-20)
4. It demonstrates obedience to God. (Matthew 3:15, I John 2:4)

Who can or should be baptized?

1. Those who repent of their sins. (Acts 17:30, Acts 2:38)
2. Those who believe in Christ. (John 3:36; Mark 16:16)
3. Those who confess their sin. (I John 1:9)
4. Those who receive Christ as their Savior. (John 1:12, Revelation 3:20)
5. Those who desire to rededicate their life to Christ.

How soon should I be baptized? The pattern in the book of Acts was “immediately” after salvation. However, due to logistics at this time, we hold baptisms once or twice per year, in a systematic manner. Ideally, the more people who receive Christ would give us the opportunity to conduct more baptisms.

Do we believe in “baptismal regeneration?” No. Baptismal regeneration means that a person is saved by the act of baptism itself. “Baptism is NOT to be understood as the actual means by which men are saved, but rather is to be regarded as symbolical of the experience of death to sin and spiritual resurrection in newness of life.” —Beacon Dictionary of Theology

Can a person be a Christian and not be baptized? To say “yes” is to say more than the Bible says. (Mark 16:16). To say “no” is to presume to be God. Once a person has said yes to Jesus as Savior AND Lord, he has forfeited all rights to say no to any of Christ’s commands. Baptism is one of those commands.

Why do we insist that a church member be baptized? Because in all biblical examples we have, this was the pattern of the early church. We do not believe that we would be following the Scripture if we allowed less than that.

Practical Questions:

Can I invite others to the baptism ceremony? This is a great celebration—a public testimony of your faith in Christ. It is a wonderful opportunity to invite family and friends to share in your new commitment and an opportunity for them to find Christ as their Savior.

What do I need to bring to my baptism? A change of clothes and a towel. Please wear dark clothes. Modest shorts are perfectly fine to wear. You can wear sandals into the water if you would like. We will provide an FJC Baptism T-Shirt for you (please see Baptism Registration) to wear.

What will take place when I am baptized? Just prior to your actual baptism, you will have the opportunity to share a brief testimony about accepting Christ into your life and what this baptism means for you (you may also choose to have someone read your testimony). If you are being submersed, you will walk into the water, and those who are baptizing you will help you into the right position. You will then be asked if you have asked Jesus to be your Savior and if you will live for Him each day. After your affirmative response, you will then be asked to cover and hold your nose. It is here when those you have chosen to baptize you will immerse you into the water and bring you back up. If you are being sprinkled or poured, all you will need to do is to close your eyes.

Faith Journey Church Baptism Registration

Please fill out the following information and return no later than July 17th

Name: _____ Age: _____

Tell about your salvation experience (This is your testimony that either you can read, or have someone read.)
In your testimony, please use the following questions (as a guide) to help you formulate your testimony.

- Have you accepted Christ into your life as your personal Lord and Savior? Yes or No_____
- When? (Date) _____ Where? _____
- Why are you choosing to be baptized?
- Is there anyone who has influenced your faith journey that you'd like to give thanks to?
- What does this day mean to you?

****Please attach a copy of what will be read and indicate who will be doing the reading for you, if other than yourself.**

Our general practice for Baptism is full submersion but if you need an alternative, please let us know and we can conduct your baptism through sprinkling or pouring water (gently, of course!)

Are there any physical conditions we need to be aware of before you are baptized?

Is there a specific elder who you would like to baptize you? Do you have someone special that you would like to have assist the elder? (Name of person)

We will be providing special 'Baptism T-Shirts', please indicate (circle) what size you will need.

KIDS: Small Medium Large

ADULTS: Small Medium Large X-Large 2X-Large Other

I have read the beliefs about Baptism at the Faith Journey Church and fully agree with the requirements and standards for my baptism.

Signed _____ Date _____

Please submit these to FJC in person (on Sunday's) or you can scan and email them to Kenny (see below). If you would like more information, Kenny can answer any of your questions as you prepare for your baptism. Kenny will walk you through the process, what you can expect and how to share your personal testimony. You can contact him at 717-629-1442 or by email at Grubecarpentry@gmail.com.