

What we believe about baptism.

Baptism is a happy occasion that is celebrated as part of the Christian journey. It joyously makes public a profession of our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and marks the entrance into the family of faith. We immerse at *the bridge* because we believe scripture shows that Jesus modeled it for us as the way to publicly acknowledge our faith in Him. Acts 2:38 says, “Repent and be baptized...” You do not come to faith in Christ because you are baptized; you are baptized because you have already come to faith in Christ.

Who should be baptized?

Christians believe that the blood of Jesus Christ, shed on the cross, provides the basis for the forgiveness of sin. Therefore, salvation occurs only when a person places his or her faith in the death and resurrection of Christ as the sufficient payment for his or her sin. If you have accepted Jesus Christ into your life, then you are ready to be baptized. If you have questions about how to begin a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, please feel free to contact any of the pastors at *the bridge*.

Why is baptism important?

Baptism is a way of showing others that you have entered into a relationship with Jesus Christ. It symbolizes what takes place in your heart at the time of salvation when you accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour. Accepting Christ into your life means you understand that Jesus died, was buried and rose again from the dead, washing us clean and forgiving our sins. Baptism by immersion symbolizes that you share in His death and resurrection and have accepted His gift of forgiveness, illustrated by going under the water (dead to your old life), then rising again (new life). Because Jesus instructed us to be baptized, it is an act of obedience. While it is not necessary for salvation, it demonstrates submission to God.

Must I become a member first?

Becoming a member at *the bridge* is not necessary prior to your baptism. We believe every person is on a unique journey as they grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. *the bridge* is a safe place to connect with God, each other and our community. As you grow in faith, opportunities are available to learn more about partnering with us when you are ready to take next steps of growth in your journey.