

BAPTISM

If you are a follower of Jesus Christ and would like to be baptized, this is a wonderful thing. Being baptized is an act of obedience on our part, once we have begun a faith relationship in Jesus Christ. This brochure answers some commonly asked questions about Baptism, and, in light of what the Bible teaches, lets you know how and when Baptism services happen here at Chesapeake.

What is Baptism?

The Bible teaches that the very moment we acknowledge ourselves to be a sinner and accept Jesus Christ as our Savior, He forgives all of our sins—past, present, and future—and the Holy Spirit regenerates our hearts. At that moment, our salvation is complete, and we become God’s son, or daughter, to live for Him.

As a sign of our faith in Christ, the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, and of the new life we have in Christ, we should then be baptized with water. Baptism identifies the believer with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and with the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Titus 3:4-7; Galatians 3:27; John 3:5-18; Acts 2:38-41;
Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12

Who should be baptized?

The act of baptism does not save us; it is only a sign. Still, every believer should be baptized, if physically possible, as part of his or her public profession of faith in Christ.

Acts 2:38-39

Should we have our children baptized?

We see examples in the New Testament where adults who accepted Jesus Christ also had their “household” baptized, including young children and infants. When a child or infant is baptized, the believing parent or parents commit to God and the Church to teach their child about Christ, in the hope that their child will someday come to faith in Christ. The Baptism of children is witness to the truth that God’s promise and love claims people before they are able to respond in faith. In Baptism, these children are brought into the covenant relationship God has with His Church as children of believing parents. As this Baptism anticipates the child’s response to Christ, it is not repeated again later.

Acts 2:39; Acts 16:14-15; Acts 16:33

When are Baptisms held and is membership required?

Baptisms are normally held twice a year during our regular weekend services and are announced several weeks in advance. You need not be a member of Chesapeake Church to be baptized. The only requirement is that you have come to a personal, faith relationship with Christ.

What is the process for being baptized?

Once we announce the dates of an upcoming Baptism service, visit chesapeakechurch.org/baptism to schedule an interview with an Elder. The interview's purpose is to ensure that you understand what Baptism is and to hear your profession of faith in Christ.

What happens in a Baptism service at Chesapeake?

During the service, a Pastor or Elder will ask those being baptized to come on stage, collectively. Family members are welcome to stand with you. A Pastor or Elder will then ask those being baptized:

Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope apart from His sovereign mercy? Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel? Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as fully devoted followers of Christ?

After the group has given a positive response to each question, a Pastor or Elder will go to each person individually and either sprinkle them with water or immerse them in the baptismal pool (based on their chosen preference) and say, “I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.” Once all have been baptized, the group returns to their seats. Being baptized is a courageous way to solidify our profession of faith in Christ before our Church community as an act of obedience to Christ. Yet, those who have witnessed a Baptism service at Chesapeake know that it is designed to be as comfortable as possible. So again, if you have a faith relationship with Christ and have not yet been baptized but would like to be, we look forward to the day when you are baptized as a part of your public profession of faith in Christ.