

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

1. You will be contacted by the church office to confirm the date and details of your water baptism. At that time, you will be asked to choose someone to speak blessing over you as you are baptized (see details below).
2. On the day of your baptism, you will need to attend an instructional class at 9:00 AM in the boardroom. At this time, you will receive your Certificate of Baptism and a special t-shirt to wear for your baptism.
3. The person speaking blessing over you will be contacted directly by the church office to confirm the details and to attend a meeting with the Lead Pastor at 9:30 AM on the day of your baptism
4. Baptisms usually take place at the beginning of the worship service, so please encourage family and friends to arrive before 10:00 AM.
5. After you are baptized, you can change clothes and join the service. The water baptism t-shirt is yours to keep.

THE BLESSING

The third chapter of Matthew records the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist and the words of blessing spoken by the Father over His Son: "*This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*" Throughout the scriptures, we find a keen recognition of the power and importance of spoken words. God has always been a God who communicates His blessings through spoken words. This power can be used to minister words of encouragement or lift up words of praise. For your water baptism, you will be asked to select someone to speak a word of blessing over your life. It may be a parent, a relative, a mentor, or someone who has been a Godly influence in your life. The church office will contact you the week before your baptism to confirm the necessary arrangements.

WHAT SHOULD I BRING?

At the instructional meeting the morning of your baptism, you will receive a special t-shirt to wear. Please wear appropriate undergarments under the t-shirt and long pants. Capris are also acceptable for ladies and long shorts (below the knee) for men. Remember to bring a change of clothing and undergarments, a towel, hairbrush/comb, hair dryer, and whatever personal items and toiletries you will need. You will also need a plastic bag for your wet clothing.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

1. Enter the tank carefully at the direction of the baptism assistant in order of the list of candidates.
2. Move to the front of the tank between the pastor and his/her assistant.

Do not touch the microphone.

3. The pastor will introduce you to the congregation and ask a few simple questions which you can answer with "yes" or "no" OR you may be given opportunity to share a brief word of testimony, time permitting. If you wish to share a word of testimony, please discuss this with the pastor during the instructional class.
4. The person chosen to speak blessing over your life will be given opportunity to share briefly.
5. You will then step back to the centre of the tank with the pastor and assistant and cross your arms over your chest. The pastor will place one hand over yours and the other on your back. If you are worried about getting water in your nose, hold your nose with your right hand and grasp your right wrist with your left hand.
6. The pastor will then say, "*Upon the confession of your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as your own personal Saviour and Lord, I now baptize you in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.*" The pastor will then lower you backwards into the water until you are completely submerged and immediately bring you up to your feet again. (If you feel like shouting for joy, go ahead!)
7. Move carefully out of the tank. Remember that the stairs and floor are wet and may be slippery, so please move slowly and carefully.
8. Get changed and join the service. Many of your brothers and sisters in Christ will want to rejoice with you!
9. If for some reason you do not receive your Certificate of Baptism, please contact the church office the following week.

NOTE: We encourage you to invite friends and relatives to witness your baptism. Picture taking is also welcome!