



BAPTISM FAQ's

What is baptism? Baptism, along with Communion, is one of two ordinances (rites ordained by Jesus to be carried out by His church) of our faith. The apostle Paul explained that baptism symbolizes the believer's union with Christ: *"Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life"* (Romans 6:3-4).

Immersion during baptism **symbolizes** the end of the old way of life. Coming up out of the baptismal waters pictures the new life found in Christ. The person who was previously dead in sin has been made spiritually alive by the same power that raised up Jesus from the grave. United with Him, the believer is released from the power of sin in order to obey God. Paul portrays this life change as putting on new clothes: *"for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ"* (Galatians 3:27).

Water baptism identifies a person as a disciple of Christ and celebrates the passage from the old life into a new life in Christ. **Simply stated, it is an outward sign of an inward change.**

Who should be baptized? Baptism is not a pre-requisite of receiving God's salvation. However, in following Jesus, Mendham Hills encourages all who have trusted in Christ for eternal life to be baptized as a step of obedience. Again, simply put, if you have come to a decision point to follow Jesus with all of your heart, soul, mind and strength, then you should be baptized.

How old should my kids be to be baptized? Though the Bible does not state a minimum age at which a person may be baptized, a believer should be old enough to understand the significance of baptism. We encourage parents to have a thorough conversation with their kids about following Jesus in this act. You, as their Mom and/or Dad, will be the best judge of the right time.

What will happen during the ceremony? Those who are going to be baptized will enter the water one at a time (or perhaps together if they desire). They will be asked if they would like to share a word about their story and why they are choosing to be baptized. If you are shy, you will simply be asked if you have decided to follow Jesus. Then, you will be slowly lowered into the water, immersed completely, and then raised again. Then the celebration begins!

Who can or will baptize me? Typically our pastor(s) perform the baptism ceremony, however It is our belief that it is very appropriate for those who have led you to this moment of faith and obedience to be part of this step as well. They are invited to join our Pastors in the water and can baptize you and/or stand with you as you make your declaration of faith.

What should I wear? We will provide you with a Mendham Hills t-shirt (while supplies last). Most folks wear bathing suits, shorts, t-shirts, etc. You should err on the side of modesty and remember anything you wear will become wet, thus it's best to avoid white T-shirts, which can become too revealing.