



## **BAPTISM**

### **What We Believe...**

We believe baptism is an outward sign of the grace of God in the life of the believer. It is a symbol of salvation, not part of salvation. Since it is a symbol, we believe that only those who profess a personal faith in Jesus Christ should be baptized.

### **What Is Baptism...**

Baptism is the next step in your life as a follower of Jesus. Baptism is an external demonstration of the internal choice you have made to believe in and follow Jesus. It expresses your faith that Jesus defeated death, and has changed your life. In baptism, you declare that you have been raised to life through Jesus' death and resurrection, and are in with Jesus' mission, Kingdom and family.

### **Who Should Get Baptized...**

Anyone who believes and follows Jesus, and can give personal testimony to what Jesus has done for them, should be baptized. It does not matter if you have followed Jesus for 30 minutes or 30 years, you should be baptized!

## **Why Should Someone Be Baptized...**

Jesus modeled for us being baptized.

*Matthew 3:13-16, 'Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. But John tried to talk him out of it. "I am the one who needs to be baptized by you," he said, "so why are you coming to me?" But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires." So John agreed to baptize him. After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy." '*

Jesus commanded us to be baptized.

*Matthew 28:18-20, 'Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." '*

It proclaims the Gospel to those who see a baptism and hear the testimony of Jesus' love and forgiveness for the one being baptized.

*Romans 6:1-5, "Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it? Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives."*

## **What If I Was Baptized As An Infant...**

An individual needs to decide for themselves if they want to acknowledge their baptism as an infant where they understand God's prevenient grace in their lives that has been active through the Holy Spirit guiding them to the point in their lives where they understand Jesus' forgiveness of their sins through His saving grace and the life they have in Christ to follow Him and live for Him.

An individual can also decide to be baptized now that they have made the choice for themselves to receive Jesus' forgiveness and to follow and live for Him.

## **How Does Baptism Happen At The Wesleyan Church of Hamburg...**

The first step is to decide when you would like to be baptized.

We host baptisms several times a year and in each of the services at all our campuses. Due to time constraints on our weekend worship services, we must limit the number of those being baptized in each service. We encourage you to sign up for baptism and select your service of choice as soon as possible when you know the dates we will celebrate baptisms.

Secondly, turn in this completed information and testimony form to the Wesleyan Church of Hamburg by dropping your information off at the Church Office (weekdays, 9 A - 5 P) or stop by and give it to the Connection Center Team (before or following a weekend service) or email your responses to the questions to [gclements@wchamburg.org](mailto:gclements@wchamburg.org) .

Next, schedule a time to share your testimony (God-story) through video.

The Communications Department offers a schedule of times when you can come to the production suite at the McKinley Campus for them to capture the story of what Jesus has done in your life through video. A portion of your testimony will be shared at the time of your baptism. Once you have selected the date and service for your baptism, and turned in your info and testimony, please go to <http://baptism.youcanbook.me> to schedule your video shoot.

To help you best share your God-story, write out your responses to the following questions:

- What was your life like before you chose to believe and follow Jesus? How were you broken and needing Jesus to bring wholeness into your life?
- What happened to make you decide to believe and follow Jesus? Who reached out to you; who impacted you for Christ; how did you hear about Jesus?
- How is Jesus' love and forgiveness changing your life?

The more thought and detail you put into your story, the more meaningful and impactful it will be. We ask that your story not speak unkindly about anyone or any other church specifically.

Invite family, friends, co-workers...!

We encourage you to invite those in your life that you would like to have celebrate this major milestone in your spiritual life, and those you would like to have witness this moment and to hear your God-story.

Come celebrate!

Meet at the baptistery twenty (20) minutes prior to the service in which you are being baptized. Please wear something that you do not mind getting wet. Suggestions: males - dark swimsuit trunks and dark t-shirt; females - swimsuit under dark shorts (mid-thigh length) and dark t-shirt. Bring a change of clothes, a towel and any personal items you may want or need for changing and doing hair after your baptism.

A seating area for you and guests of those being baptized will be reserved at the front of the worship areas. You are welcome to be seated with your guests until a time in which will be indicated to you that you should make your way to the baptistery.

**Questions...**

Please do not hesitate to contact Becci Wood, one of our staff pastors, (bwood@wchamburg.org or call the Church Office at 716.649.6335) with any questions or concerns you may have, or if you just need to speak with someone further about being baptized.

**Upcoming Baptisms...**

October 21/22, 2017

**Personal Information...**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Best Phone Number to Reach You \_\_\_\_\_

Campus You Attend (please circle one)    Bayview Chapel    McKinley    South Creek

Date of Baptism \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Service (for McKinley only) \_\_\_\_\_

Any health or personal concerns for being baptized \_\_\_\_\_

Please write out the responses to the questions above due and develop your testimony in the space below (use a separate sheet of paper if needed):