



PLEASANT VALLEY CHURCH

BAPTISM

What is Baptism?

Baptism is a public declaration that says, "I am a follower of Jesus Christ." Baptism does not save us from our sins, but is a major step in our discipleship. Being saved from our sins is experienced totally by grace through faith. This is a free gift of God to all who believe that Jesus already paid the full price for their sins. (Eph 2:8-9, John 1:12, John 3:16)

The symbolic meaning of baptism is best portrayed in baptism by immersion. When a person goes under the water, it symbolizes the death of Jesus, when they come up out of the water, it symbolizes the resurrection of Jesus. (Romans 6:1-7, Col. 2:12)

Who Should be Baptized?

Every person who believes in Jesus.

"Those who believe and accepted His message were baptized..." Acts 2:41

"Simon himself believed and was baptized." Acts 8:13

"But when they believed Philip as he preached the Good News...and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." Acts 8:12

At Pleasant Valley Church, we wait until children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them. Some churches practice an infant baptism. Although Christians debate this, we should never divide over it. At PV we don't baptize infants because every baptism record in the Bible occurred when someone was old enough to make a faith decision. Jesus blessed kids, but He didn't baptize them.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO BE BAPTIZED?

To follow the example set by Christ.

"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river." Mark 1:9

Because Christ commands it.

"Jesus said, 'Go then, to all the people everywhere and make disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.'" Matthew 28:18-20

WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have received Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are perfect, you will never feel "good enough."

"Those who accepted his message were baptized...that day". Acts 2:41

WHAT SHOULD I WEAR?

We will provide you with a t-shirt. Please wear medium or dark colored pants or shorts, and slip off shoes. Clothing that retains minimal water is recommended. You will be given time to change before the service. Please bring a change of clothes and a plastic bag for wet clothes for after the service. We will provide an area for changing and towels for your use.

WHAT HAPPENS AT AN INDOOR DURING-WORSHIP-CELEBRATION BAPTISM SERVICE?

Please meet in the back of the ministry center (by the kitchen window) 20 minutes before the service begins. You will be given your t-shirt and can then go change. We will go over any questions, let you know the order of the baptisms, and pray. All those being baptized will go sit in the front row in front of the baptismal.

As people come into the Ministry Center, they will receive a handout with the pictures and a brief story about each person being baptized.

Baptisms will take place during worship. The service will begin as normal and after the first song, the Pastor will welcome everyone and give a brief explanation of what the service will look like. The person who is doing the first baptism will come forward and the first to be baptized will follow. After the first person is baptized, the next will come forward, and so on. When its your turn, the person baptizing you will ask you a few simple questions. The conversation between you and the person baptizing you will not be heard by the audience. When the person baptizing you reaches out his or her arm, grab on to it with both hands. Hold your breath and be ready to lean back/sit into the water.

You will then be immersed into the water. You will only be under water for a few seconds. Then you will exit the pool and be handed a towel. When ready, make your way off stage, walking down the side of the Ministry Center. Head to the bathroom to change, then come back into the service.

A photo gallery of the baptism will be available on facebook a few weeks after the celebration.

** Please leave your wet towels in the tote provided in each bathroom.