

## Why Baptism?

We are so excited that you are considering baptism! The Bible clearly teaches that baptism is the first step of obedience after making a commitment to Christ. Baptism allows a believer to communicate to the world their heart-felt commitment to Christ.

People often have questions regarding baptism:

- “Why should I be baptized?”
- “I’ve already been baptized. Do I have to do it again?”
- “Does it matter if someone is sprinkled or dunked?”

We have prepared this document to help answer these questions and a few others, too.

### *Why should I be baptized?*

#### **1. To follow the example of Jesus.**

Baptism was the first thing Jesus did before beginning his ministry.

“As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.” (Matthew 3:16)

#### **2. To obey Jesus’ command.**

Baptism was the last thing Jesus called for after his resurrection before returning to heaven.

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19–20)

#### **3. To join with the historical church—the body of Christ.**

There are two sacraments of the church, two things that Jesus did and asked his followers to do: communion and baptism. The church has responded faithfully to Jesus’ call to observe these practices for 2,000 years. By being baptized you are joining billions of others who have put their faith in Christ and made this decision public.

### *What is the meaning of baptism?*

The word “baptize” means “to dip or immerse”. It illustrates Christ’s death, burial and resurrection.

“Having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.” (Colossians 2:12)

### ***What if I was baptized as an infant?***

Being baptized as an adult can actually be a way to honor your parents' decision to have you baptized. You are honoring your parents by making the choice for yourself as an adult that you desire to live fully into the Christian faith that they committed you to as a baby. At The District Church, we do baby dedications to commit the children of our church to the Lord; but we ask people to follow the example of Jesus in being baptized once they are old enough to make the decision to follow Christ for themselves.

### ***What if I still have sin in my life that I'm wrestling with?***

If you wait until you are perfect you will never be baptized! Being baptized is a step toward surrendering your life fully and becoming more like Christ. In fact, baptism is a visual symbol of God washing away your sins and is an appropriate signifier of beginning a new life in God.

### ***What if I have a fear of going under water?***

You are not alone; many people have this fear. Thankfully, you don't need to know how to swim; just hold your breath for a second. We have never heard of anyone drowning from baptism in 2,000 years of church history!

### ***How do I register?***

If you want to get baptized or know more, you can register online at [www.districtchurch.org/get-involved/baptism](http://www.districtchurch.org/get-involved/baptism) or fill out a connection card on Sunday to let us know. Someone will then follow up with you about our upcoming baptism opportunities.