

what is baptism?

Baptism is an outward sign of an inward change. Baptism is a reminder of our new life in Christ and that we are part of the family of God. Baptism is an act of obedience. Baptism is a demonstration of our commitment and submission to Christ.

Baptism is a Greek word *baptizo* that means: to dip or immerse. It was used to describe the process of making pickles or dyeing cloth.

Baptism was a common practice in many ancient religions as part of ceremonial washings. During the life of Jesus, John the Baptist baptized people to symbolize that they needed to change their lives and begin obeying God from the heart.

In its original context, baptism symbolized cleansing from old, wrong ways of acting or thinking and identifying with a new, God-honoring lifestyle. The baptisms also took place in public places so everyone in the community could see the difference Jesus had made in the person's life.

Baptism does not make you a believer, it shows you already are one. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

In Romans 6:1-4 the apostle Paul explains the symbolism of Christian baptism: *As Jesus died and was raised from the dead, we have died to our old way of life and have been raised to a new life as a result of trusting in Jesus.*



why be baptized?

Follow the example of Jesus:

Who himself was baptized.

(Matthew 3:13-17)

Obey Christ's command:

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.

(Matthew 28:19)

Others to know I am a believer:

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

(Acts 2:38)

when should we be baptized?

As soon as you have believed. Baptism should be done after a person has trusted in Jesus for forgiveness of his or her sins. (Acts 2:41, 8:36-39) When you sense the Holy Spirit leading you. When you understand the meaning of baptism.

If you were baptized as an infant, PCC recommends you prayerfully consider what God's Word teaches and be baptized again if you have not been baptized since you became a believer. It doesn't devalue a prior experience but simply reflects your desire to be baptized in the same way Jesus was baptized.

Every member of Pathway Community Church has been baptized as a believer.

Note: We dedicate infants to God. We baptize believers. If you would like to have your child dedicated, please contact the church office.



how does PCC do baptism?

Every few months PCC has a baptism during weekend services. If you want to be baptized at PCC:

1. Mark on your connection card, call the church office or visit pathwaycc.org.
2. Write down the story of how you became a follower of Jesus.
3. Schedule a meeting with a Pastor prior to your baptism.

- At Pathway we baptize by immersion.

- We kneel in submission to God.

- We are baptized three times forward to honor God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

On your Baptism Day:

1. Bring/wear appropriate clothing for getting wet.
2. Bring two towels.
3. Bring your family and friends.
4. Come ready to share about your relationship with Jesus and why you want to be baptized.

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 lighting on him.

[Matthew 3:16]



getting started.

Go to pathwaycc.org for the most up-to-date information on upcoming baptisms.

If you're not sure if baptism is right for you or need to discuss a special circumstance, contact the church office to schedule a meeting with one of our pastors.



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believers baptism

