

# Baptism FAQ's

## What is the meaning of baptism?

### **It illustrates Christ's burial and resurrection.**

*Christ died for our sins... He was buried... and He rose again. — 1 Cor. 15:3-4*

*For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ. — Col. 2:12*

### **It illustrates my new life as a Christ follower.**

Baptism doesn't make you a believer - it shows that you already believe. Baptism doesn't save you - only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring - it is the outward symbol of the commitment you make in your heart.

*When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun. — 2 Cor. 5:17*

*By our baptism then, we were buried with Him and shared His death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead... so also we may live a new life. — Romans. 6:4*

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith... it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast. — Eph. 2:8,9*

## Why be baptized by immersion?

### **Because Jesus was baptized that way.**

*As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water. — Matthew 3:16*

### **Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion.**

*... then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water... — Acts 8:38-39*

The word 'baptize' means "to dip under water."

The Greek word 'baptize' means "to immerse or dip under water."

'Immersion' is symbolic of being buried and then resurrecting.

## Who should be baptized?

### **Every person who has believed in Christ.**

*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*

## When should I be baptized?

### **As soon as you believe!**

*Those who believe... were baptized... that day! — Acts 2:41*

*Then Philip began with the scripture and told him the Good News about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the man said, 'Look, here is water! Why shouldn't I be baptized right now?' Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' The man answered, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.' So they went down into the water and Philip baptized him. — Acts 8:35-38*

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

## I want to be baptized. How do I let you know?

You can check the Baptism box on your weekly Communication/Decision card, or call the church office, 1-408-779-4914.

### On the day of my baptism...

1. We ask that you arrive 30 minutes prior to the service, so that a pastor can walk you through the process.
2. Someone (a host) will be there before the service (and through the process)... you will not be alone.
3. During the service, or right before your baptism, a pastor will ask you two questions:
  - Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God--that He came to earth, lived, died, and rose again from the dead for you?
  - Have you asked Jesus to forgive you of your sins, and to be your Lord and Savior?

A simple 'yes' answer will do!

4. Your host will keep you updated on when you'll need to leave the service to change into your baptism attire. Once you have finished changing, they will escort you to the baptistry.
5. You will be directed to enter into the water and wait while a pastor speaks briefly to you. The pastor will ask you to plug your nose, he will then lower you briefly under the water, and help you raise out of the water. You can then exit the water and either watch others being baptized or change back into your street clothes.

After changing, we encourage you to rejoin the rest of Community, in the after-service fellowship--people will want to congratulate you!

### What should I wear when I am baptized?

Since you'll be immersed in water... bring the appropriate gear: one-piece swimsuit, towel, change of clothes, blow dryer, etc.

### Invite your friends and family!

One of the purposes that Jesus gave us in baptism, is that we have the ability to celebrate your decision with those who do and those who do not know Jesus! It's a powerful time when, in simplicity, you explain that you are following Jesus. Our prayer is that your decision will impact others... that they too, might know this amazing God who loves us.

### Congratulations! After your baptism...

1. In the weeks following your baptism, you will receive a baptism folder that contains your baptism certificate and a letter from our pastor.
2. Make sure you stay connected to relationships that encourage your walk with Christ.
3. Read your Bible. If you don't have one, let us know, and we will provide you with one.

# Water Baptism at Community Christian