

We're excited that you are interested in baptism. We believe that baptism is an important step of obedience for every person who has accepted Jesus Christ as his/her Saviour and Lord. The following pages have been designed to explain baptism at our church and the steps necessary to being baptized at an upcoming service. This package is designed to contain all that you'll need in order to initiate the process.

We consider it a privilege to walk with you as you take this next step on your life journey.

Who should be baptized?

Once a person admits that he or she is a sinner and turns to Jesus Christ for salvation, the Bible says that a person should proclaim the life change that has occurred: the watching world needs to know. Baptism has always stood as a public testimony for people who have moved from being a seeker to being a believer.

Believers are those who have realized that their sin has separated them from God. They have given up all efforts to reach God through good works or religious activity. They have concluded that Jesus Christ's death on the cross for their sins is the only thing that can bridge the gap between them and God. A believer is someone who has decided to trust Christ alone for his or her salvation.

If you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, then you are ready to be baptized. Just like a bride and groom show others their love for one another by wearing wedding bands, your baptism is your opportunity to show others that you have accepted Christ and are now walking with him.

Why should I be baptized?

Jesus commanded that all Christians be baptized (Matthew 28:19). The apostles also commanded that all Christians be baptized (Acts 2:38) and the New Testament church practiced it. Therefore, Christians should be baptized because their God and His servants command it.

What is baptism?

Baptism is a way of showing others that a person has entered into a relationship with Jesus Christ (Rom 10:9-10). It symbolizes what took place in our heart at the time of our confession of sin, repentance and acknowledgment that in Jesus alone we are saved. It also declares that we have a new life and a new Lord.

Baptism is also very symbolic, like a drama (Rom. 6:4-5). We share in His death and resurrection by going under the water (acknowledging death to our old life), then rising again (symbolizing our new life dedicated to Christ). Dying to self means surrendering our priorities and adopting the priorities of God.

While it is not for salvation that we engage in the act of baptism, it does demonstrate our submission to God.

Matthew 28:19

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

Acts 2:38

Peter replied, —Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.

Romans 10:9-10

That if you confess with your mouth, —Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Romans 6:4-5

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.

Some frequently asked questions

What about infant baptism?

In some denominations of the Christian faith, infant baptism (or christening) represents a decision by the parents to dedicate their child to Christ and thereby establish salvation for that child under the faith of the father and mother. The Bible speaks most often about believers being baptized – this is called believers baptism.

It is important to remember that if you were christened/baptized as a baby doesn't make you a Christian. Only a personal acceptance of what Christ accomplished through His death and resurrection for the world, including you, can do that.

What if I've already been baptized?

If you have been baptized as an infant, we would encourage you to consider being re-baptized as a sign of your personal decision to follow Jesus Christ. If you have been baptized as a follower of Christ before coming to Renfrew, there is no need to be baptized again – baptism is to declare you are a follower of Christ, not a specific local church.

Why do we baptize with total immersion instead of sprinkling?

In Greek (the language in which the New Testament was originally written), the word that is translated —baptize, means to dip, plunge, or immerse. For example, secular ancient Greeks used this word to explain such things as the sinking of a ship that had been submerged in water. This was the way that Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River, and it is the way that Christ's apostles and the new believers in Bible days were baptized. Immersion is the only mode that portrays the powerful signs of burial and resurrection that the Bible describes.

How old does a person have to be in order to be baptized?

The issue is not age but a demonstration of belief and understanding. We baptize anyone who is able to demonstrate repentance of sin and an express of faith in Jesus Christ

Does being baptized mean that you are automatically a member of this church?

No. Baptism involves a pledge and covenant with God. Membership is a personal commitment to a particular local body of believers.

The process for being baptized

The baptism process at Renfrew is designed to be both simple and meaningful.

1. Read over the baptism information package.
2. Fill out the attached Baptism sign-up form and meet with the Pastor.
3. Prepare your "story" - see "What to Say" below to help you prepare.
4. Get baptized! Baptisms take place during the 3 morning services.

What will happen at the Baptism Service

What to Wear:

Besides what you would normally wear to church, also bring these items.

- Clothes to wear during your baptism (shirt/shorts/pants).
- Bath Towel
- Extra undergarments
- Plastic bag for wet cloths
- Comb, brush, etc.

We ask that you arrive at the church 30 minutes before the start of the service where you will meet with the pastor in charge of the service. During the service you will head back to the change rooms and prepare for the baptism portion of the service.

Once you are introduced, you will come into the tank and share with the congregation.

What to Say:

1. Introduce yourself.
2. Your life before accepting Jesus Christ—please do not mention previous denominations.
3. How and when you accepted Jesus as your personal Saviour.
4. How Jesus has affected your life – *this should be the bulk of your testimony.*
5. Thank one or two people who have helped you in your walk (optional).
6. Your public profession (eg., "I'm here today to let you all know that Jesus Christ is my Lord and Saviour.")

At this point you can cross your arms and hold your nose if you like, and the person baptizing you says, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit." Now lean backward and the pastor will immerse your head in the water.

You then exit the tank and get changed. Once you are changed, you can enter the worship service by the main doors, and take your seat.

Who will Baptize you?

We invite you to think about whom you want to baptize you. We would encourage you to consider having the person who led you to Christ play a part in this special day (perhaps to respond to your testimony before your baptism) or your small group leader or someone who has played a significant part in your spiritual journey. If these suggestions do not work out, it will be a privilege for one of our pastors to baptize you.

More Questions?

If you have any other questions regarding baptism that you would like to speak with a pastor about, please contact:

BAPTISM INFO FORM

Please provide the following information if you would like to be baptized.

First

Last

Email

Street Address

City

State / Province

Zip / Postal Code

Phone

Birthday

I have read the Baptism Information booklet and I understand what Baptism is, and why I need to be baptized.

MY STORY

Using the outline below as a guide, share how God has been working in your relationship with Jesus, and the changes He has been making in you as you trust and follow Him.

Tell us a little bit about yourself (background, family, etc.)

Your life before accepting Christ:

(ie. What was your attitude towards life and people before you committed your life to Jesus? How is your life different now that you are a Christian?)

How and when you accepted Christ as your personal Saviour:

How Jesus has affected your life:

(ie. How is your life different now that you are a Christian? Is there a change in your attitudes, lifestyle, perspective, etc.? What are you especially thankful to God for what He has done in your life?)

Are there some significant people who have helped you in your walk? Is there a specific Bible verse that has been especially meaningful for you?

What does it mean to you to be baptized?

MY SPIRITUAL COMMITMENT:

Have you confessed and repented from your sins, received God's forgiveness and accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour?

- Yes
- No

Do you acknowledge and process the Christian faith as taught in the Bible?

- Yes
- No

Are you determined by the grace of God to live the Christian life?

- Yes
- No