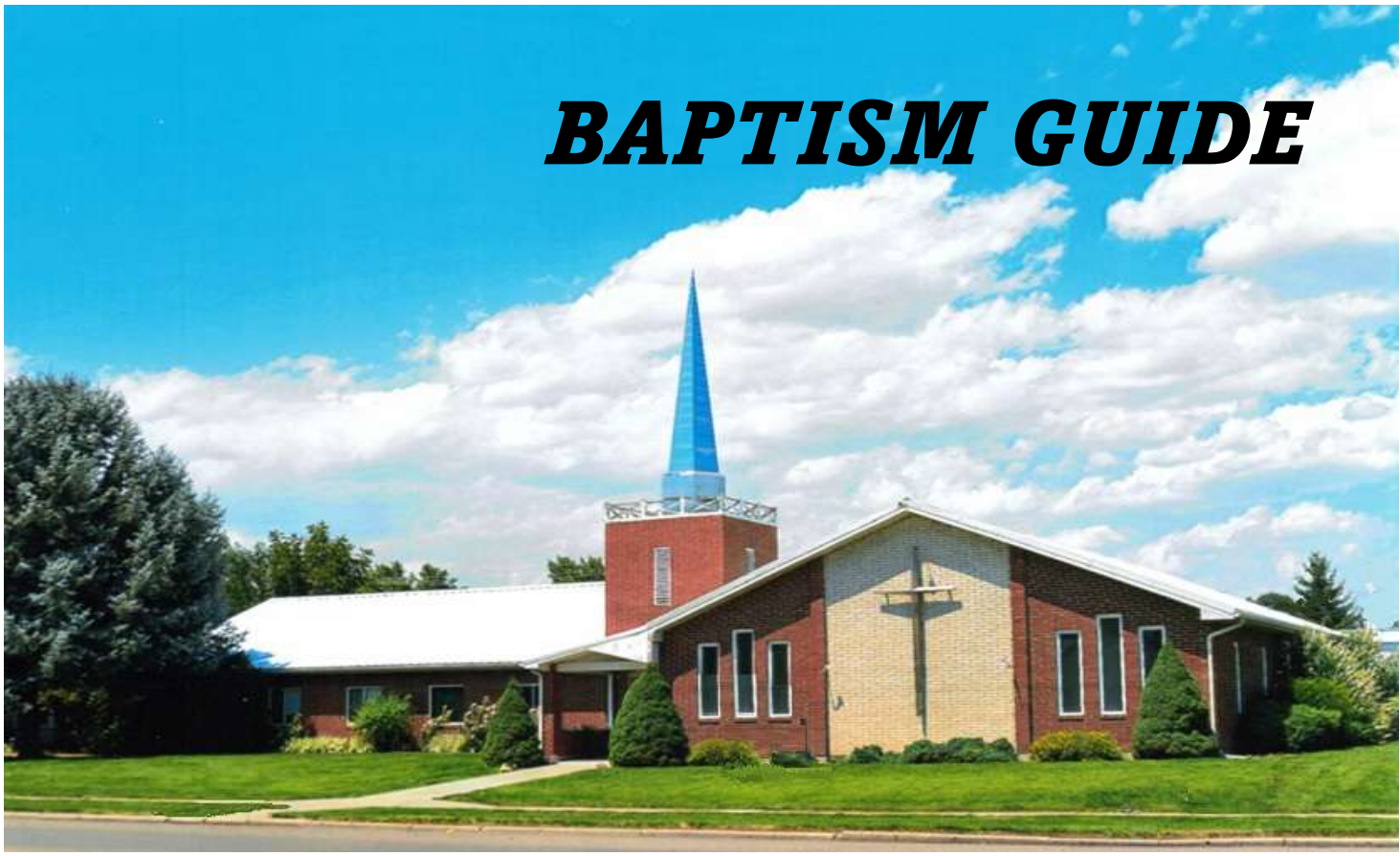
BAPTISM GUIDE



CONSIDERING BAPTISM?

As a church community, we look forward to further conversations with you about your interest in being baptized. This Guide is intended to be a tool to help you learn about faith, baptism, and communion as you grow in discipleship in Christ.

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. **Romans 6:4**

WEISER COMMUNITY CHURCH

As a church, we love to celebrate baptism as an outward sign of what God has done and is doing in the hearts and lives of our people. Baptism is a "sacrament" that the Weiser Community Church participates in on a regular basis. Sacraments are rituals instituted by Christ to be practiced in the church as visible signs of an invisible saving grace.

Our process is broken up into three steps:

UNDERSTAND

We want all who participate in baptism to have a good grasp on what they are doing and what baptism symbolizes. To that end, you will find:

- A Guide to help you work through the relevant scriptures pertaining to baptism.
- Frequently Asked Questions to help you better grasp some of the ways we as a church think about and celebrate baptism.
- Help with Next Steps including some questions to guide you in thinking about what God has done in your life and how to articulate it and move forward.

MEET

Schedule a time to meet with a pastor and/or the person you have selected to baptize you. This meeting is intended to be an encouraging opportunity to rejoice in what God has done in your life! It will provide time to:

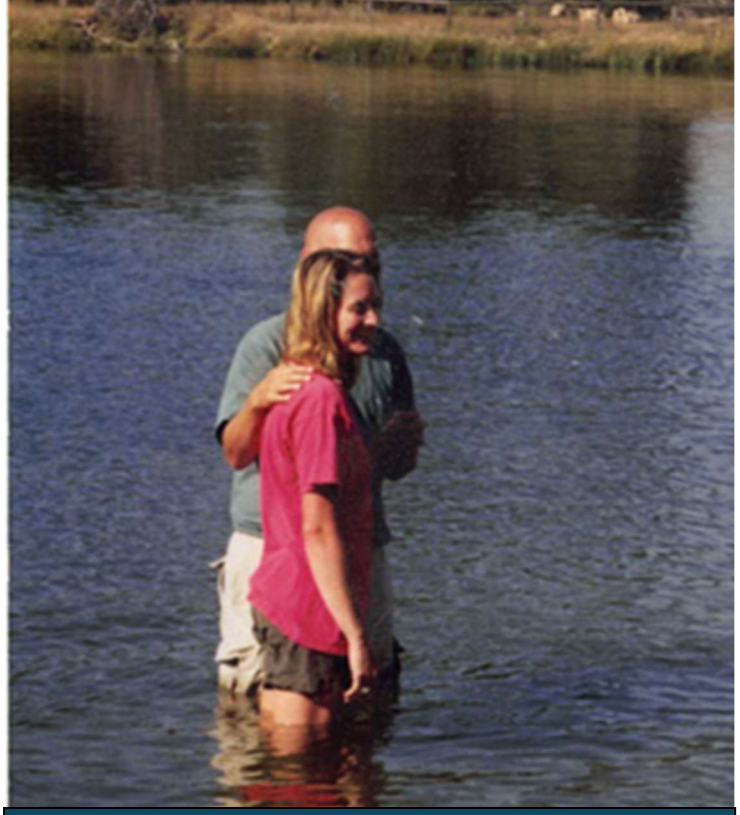
- Discuss this worksheet and any questions you may have.
- Share stories of God's work in your life!
- Discuss the nuts and bolts of celebrating your baptism on a Sunday.

CELEBRATE

Personal declaration of faith honors our Lord, encourages the family of God and creates a personal marker for yourself as you celebrate and publicly acknowledge what God has done for you by grace through faith alone in Jesus Christ.

WEISER COMMUNITY CHURCH

Understanding Baptism



What is Baptism?
The word "baptism" comes from the Greek word baptisto, which means "to dip" or "to immerse." Baptism (along with communion) is one of the "sacraments" of the church. Sacraments are rituals instituted by Christ to be practiced in the church as visible signs of an invisible saving grace. Baptism is an act of obedience to Christ. It is for those who identify with the forgiveness of sins through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Baptism is a new believer's public declaration of personal faith in Jesus Christ alone for salvation.

What Does the Bible Say?
In this section, you will be guided through several passages of scripture relating to baptism. We invite you to pray and ask God to speak to you through his Holy Spirit as you study his word. We have provided some answers to each question at the end, but our hope is that you will investigate these for yourselves first, and then consult the suggested answers provided.

"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

How Do I Know If I'm Ready? *

1. **What do the following verses teach us about baptism?**
   Matthew 3:13 - 17
   Matthew 28:18 - 20
2. **What do these verses say about the symbolism of baptism?**
   Acts 22:16
   Romans 6:1 - 5
   Titus 3:4 - 7
3. **What does baptism have to do with being part of the church?**
   Acts 2:41
   1 Corinthians 12:12 - 13
   Galatians 3:25 - 28
   Ephesians 4:1 - 6

WEISER COMMUNITY CHURCH

**Suggested Answers:*

1. What do the following verses teach us about baptism?

Baptism is an act of obedience to Jesus's command and follows his example.

2. What do these verses say about the symbolism of baptism?

Baptism is like a picture—it symbolizes Jesus' death, burial and resurrection, and a believer's identification with those truths. In other words, when you first trust in Jesus, you "die" to the old life and are raised again to new life through the power of Jesus that now works inside of you. When you go under the water and come back up, you are reenacting the way Jesus died and was raised again on the third day. It also symbolizes the washing and cleansing from sin that you received when you put your trust in Jesus.

3. What does baptism have to do with being part of a church?

It is a symbol of our entrance into the body of Christ, the Church. Baptism brings us together with the whole Christian family, both at WCC and all around the world. Jesus' followers have been doing this since the very beginning! The sacrament of baptism is intended as a one-time public testimony of faith in Christ. It is a significant celebration and marker of faith for the new believer who commits his or her life to follow Christ and live for him. By participating in the sacrament of baptism one is vowing before God and the church to live for Christ. To come forward to be baptized is, therefore, a weighty decision that reflects personal understanding of the significance of this vow.

WHAT'S NEXT?

We hope that this worksheet has helped you reflect on important questions like:

What does faith in Jesus Christ mean to you?
Why do you want to publicly identify with Christ and his church?
What benefit do you see in your baptism?
How has God encouraged you or changed your life so far?

If you would like to be baptized, please contact a pastor at WCC to schedule a meeting to discuss this and celebrate what God has done in your life. here to help and support you and answer any questions you may have! Be BLESSED!

WEISER COMMUNITY CHURCH

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS.

What about infant baptism?

We don't baptize infants who are not old enough to understand the truths of the gospel and the significance of baptism. We believe that baptism is a celebration and declaration of a person's faith in Christ and decision to follow him as a disciple. If that causes concern, our pastors and elders would be more than happy to discuss this with you.

I was baptized into a different denomination or a different faith. Should I be baptized again?

Once you've been baptized, the answer is generally, "No." A person should be re-baptized if they have studied the scriptures and believe their previous baptism was unbiblical.

What if I "fell away" and have now come back to faith – should I be baptized again?

No. The Bible doesn't teach that baptism is a way of rededicating your life to the Lord. It is a one-time occurrence as a public declaration of faith!