



FAQ's ABOUT BAPTISM

This whole thing is so new to me. How can I be sure that I'm really ready to be baptized?

- That's a great question. Baptism isn't something that anyone should feel forced to do. Each person should only do it when they're ready. Having said that, some people worry that they have to live perfectly from now on. Some even have expressed "there are some things that I need to get out of my life before I get baptized." It's great when we want to bring our lives in line with Christ's instructions, but being baptized is more about starting the journey with Jesus than having everything in your life in order. Things start to fall into place in good time. So relax. Baptism is about celebrating God's forgiveness and the new journey ahead.
- Of course, if there are things in your life that you know conflict with what Jesus wants for you and yet you have no intention of ever letting those things go, that probably indicates unwillingness to let God guide you. Be assured that God still loves you and will be patient with you on your journey, but you might want to think through if you're ready to embrace following Jesus. While we've all got things in our life that we struggle to turn over to God, a bold unwillingness to follow God in a known area of your life conflicts with the statement baptism makes. Struggling to surrender is normal and to be expected. Open defiance probably indicates you're not quite ready, at least to say you are following Christ.

Why at Westwinds do we baptize by "immersion" (fully under water)?

- While we don't believe immersion represents the only valid way to baptize someone, we do believe that it is what they did when scripture was being written. The word baptism means "to dip" or "immerse".
- We believe that baptism by immersion clearly portrays the reality of someone who identifies themselves with Jesus as so closely aligned with him that it is like dying along with him and being raised with Christ to new life. In a nutshell, baptism by immersion symbolizes best what really happened to Jesus – and to us when we trust him.
- There are some cases in which it might be impossible or unhealthy for a person to be baptized by immersion. In those cases we are more than willing to baptize people through another common mode called "pouring". If you have a health concern with being baptized by immersion, please give us a call so we can discuss your options.

If I was baptized as a baby or young child, should I get baptized again?

- Two questions can help you clarify this issue. First of all, since baptism is a conscious choice on the part of the person to be baptized, did you make that decision on your own? If not, then becoming baptized may be a good way for you to personally express your desire to follow God today.
- Secondly, when you were baptized, did you understand what Jesus had done for you and were you sincere in your intention to give your life to him? If not, but you now would say those things are true for you today, then baptism would be a great next step.
- The bottom line is ... baptism is something that should be done after one understands and decides to follow Jesus.

What would I say to my parents (who had me baptized as a baby) if I choose to be baptized again?

That's certainly something that would require prayer and careful consideration. But our perspective is that it is an opportunity to tell anyone you like about your faith journey.

You might look at your story as the completion of the journey your parents desired for you when you were young that you would truly know and follow Jesus. So your baptism as an adult is you coming full circle to fully embrace the truths your parents hoped you would understand on your own. Sure, you may not choose to do it in the same church, but it is the same Jesus you are following.

Try to avoid focusing on anything negative about your church experience as a child or any difficulty you might have with their current church situation. Celebrate the things you have in common and keep the focus on following Jesus with all sincerity.

So can a child be baptized?

- We believe that baptism is a personal decision. It's not something that anyone else can decide for another person, even a child. We believe that a person should be old enough to decide for himself if they want to announce their intention to follow Jesus by being baptized. For that reason, we do not baptize babies although we offer parents the option of dedicating their young children to God.
- If your elementary age child has expressed an interest in baptism, we want to support parents by providing information that may help you discern if your child is ready for baptism. Please contact Terri McGarry at terri.mcgarrry@westwinds.org to set up a time when we can meet with your son or daughter. Baptism is a wonderful and powerful celebration of a kid's spiritual journey. We want to make it a memorable experience for your child and family.

What is my next step in the process of “taking the plunge” to get Baptized?

To get started you will need to complete the information listed below and turn it into the office M-Thu 8am-5pm or the (Near) Genius Bar on Sundays in the church lobby prior to the first of two preparatory meetings. The first meeting will be to lay the historical and biblical foundation of Baptism as well as provide some reflection questions about the step you are about to take in your faith journey. The second meeting will be to discuss your answers to the reflective questions as well as provide the needed information for the day of your Baptism. Both are necessary to attend.

Thank you for taking the time to read through these FAQ's. We do hope they have been helpful in providing some of the answers you may have been looking for. Should you have further questions, feel free to contact the office at 517-750-1111 or email at info@westwinds.org. We look forward to being part of this exciting new journey!

Blessings

The Westwinds Staff

BAPTISM REGISTRATION FORM
PLEASE COMPLETE PRIOR TO THE FIRST BAPTISM MEETING

PLEASE PRINT

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Cell Phone

OK to Text

Email

Date of Birth

I would be willing to let you use all or part of my story in one of The Cue services or on the website.

I would be willing to share my story but ONLY for it to be used anonymously.

A SPECIAL NOTE: You may request a pastor or someone other than one of the pastors to baptize you, such as your satellite group leader, the director of your ministry team, a person on staff, an elder, a person who was instrumental in leading you to Christ, or a special friend who is a Christ follower.

Name of person you would like to baptize you. And if that person is not available, please list your second choice.

1.

2.

Because we can only accommodate so many people in each of The Cue services, it will be our discretion as to which service you will be baptized. However please state your first and second choices.

1.

2.

In attempt to get you know you better, Please briefly respond to the following questions:

- When did you first start attending Westwinds?

· What or who influenced you to visit Westwinds?

· Where would you describe yourself spiritually when you started attending? Check one.

Cynic

Seeker

Growing Believer

Skeptic

New Believer

Stagnant Believer

Spectator

Other

· Are you currently in a satellite group or serving on a ministry team? If so, which group or team?

· What motivated you to get baptized? Check one.

Friend

Satellite Group

The Cue Messages

Reading my Bible

Ownership Process

Community Email

Why is now the right time for you to get baptized?

Thanks again for registering for the Baptism APP.
We look forward to sharing this exciting time with you.