

MVBC STEPS TO BAPTISM

WHAT IS BAPTISM

A Public Declaration of Faith

Baptism is one of the most meaningful steps a follower of Jesus can take. It's an outward expression of an inward change—a public testimony that you have placed your faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

At MVBC, we believe baptism is a believer's first step of obedience after salvation. It doesn't save a person or wash away sin, but it powerfully symbolizes the salvation that has already taken place in your heart.

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM

A Picture of the Gospel

Baptism is a beautiful symbol of what Jesus has done for us: Going under the water represents His death and burial. Coming up out of the water represents His resurrection and our new life in Him.

"We were therefore buried with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead... we too may live a new life." Romans 6:4

An Act of Obedience

Jesus Himself was baptized, not because He needed forgiveness, but to set an example for us to follow. He also commanded His followers to baptize others as part of making disciples.

"Go therefore 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

When we are baptized, we are following Jesus' command and identifying ourselves as His disciple.

A Testimony to Others

Baptism is a way of saying publicly, "I belong to Jesus."

It's a declaration to your church family, your community, and the world that you have trusted Christ and desire to live for Him.

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED

We believe baptism is for believers only—those who have personally trusted Jesus Christ for salvation.

It's not something we do to earn God's favor, but a response to the grace He's already given us.

HOW IS BAPTISM DONE

At MVBC, we baptize by **immersion**—completely lowering a person under the water and then raising them back up.

Why immersion?

Baptism represents the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. (Rom 6:4, Col 2:12)

The word “baptize” in the original Greek (baptizo) literally means “to immerse” or “to dip.”

It is the example Jesus gave in his baptism. (Mark 1:9–11, Luke 3:21–22)

WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED

As soon as you have placed your faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior, baptism is your next step.

There's no reason to wait—baptism is the beginning of your journey of obedience, not the end of it.

If you're unsure whether you've ever made that decision, our pastors would love to talk with you about what it means to follow Christ.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Baptism connects you to your church family. It's both a personal testimony and a community celebration.

After baptism, you'll be encouraged to:

- Grow in your faith through Bible study and prayer.
- Get connected to a Sunday morning Bible study and/or Homegroup.
- Find ways to serve and live out your faith daily.

MVBC BAPTISM CHECKLIST

- Plan to arrive 30 minutes early and meet with the pastor. He will walk you through the process and answer any additional questions you may have
- Wear loose-fitting, dark clothes that will be modest when wet. We recommend knee length shorts and t-shirts for both men and women. Please do not wear swimsuits unless they are under your clothes.
- Bring a towel and a change of clothes.
- Leave your change of clothes and towel in the library (Room right of the stage)
- You will enter the baptistry from the library and exit the same way.
- You will change into dry clothes in the library or bathroom.
- After service, you and your family are encouraged to take a picture together in our lobby so we can further celebrate your baptism.