



NEW HOPE



BAPTISM

WE ARE CELEBRATING WITH YOUR
DECISION TO LET THE WORLD KNOW
WHAT JESUS HAS BEEN DOING!

WWW.NEWHOPEGILBERT.COM

WELCOME TO ONE OF THE BEST MOMENTS IN THE LIFE OF A BELIEVER

We're thrilled that you are taking the next step in following Jesus through baptism!

This is a big deal! It's a joyful, public declaration of your faith and a celebration of the transforming work God is doing in your life. Whether you're just beginning your journey with Jesus or you've been walking with Him for a while, baptism is a beautiful way to say, "I belong to Christ."

At New Hope, we love celebrating life change—and baptism Sundays are some of the most powerful and joy-filled moments we experience together as a church family.

In the guide below, you'll find everything you need to know about what baptism is, what to expect, and how to make this moment as meaningful as possible.

We're honored to walk with you through it. We're going to celebrate big and excited about this next step in your journey!

In Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Fran.", followed by a period.

WHAT IS BAPTISM ABOUT?

WHAT IS BAPTISM ALL ABOUT?

Baptism is an outward sign of what God has been doing inside.

It's a way of publicly saying, "I've put my trust in Jesus, and I want the world to know."

In the early church, baptism was the very first step people took after deciding to follow Jesus. In Acts 2:38, Peter said, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins." Just a few verses later, we're told that 3,000 people were baptized that same day (Acts 2:41). Even Jesus was baptized—not because He had sinned, but to set an example for us and to "fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:13–17). His baptism marked the beginning of His public ministry, and it showed the importance of obedience to the Father.

Before Jesus returned to heaven, He gave His followers this instruction in what we now call the Great Commission:

"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."
—Matthew 28:19–20

That's why we believe every follower of Jesus should be baptized. It's not about joining a denomination or checking a box. It's a meaningful, biblical step that shows the world you've chosen to follow Jesus.



Let's be clear: **baptism doesn't save you.** It's faith through

The Bible teaches that we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus alone (Ephesians 2:8–9). Baptism isn't a requirement for salvation—it's a response to it.

It's a powerful act of obedience that declares: "Jesus has changed my life, and I want to follow Him." Baptism is a visible way to show what God has already done in your heart—a celebration of new life and faith.

And it's not just a New Hope thing—it's a global, historical, and biblical practice. No matter the church, denomination, language, culture, or century, followers of Jesus have always practiced baptism. It's one of the few things that every Christ-centered church has done from the beginning—including Jesus Himself, who chose to be baptized to set the example for us (Matthew 3:13–17).

Jesus also commanded His followers to baptize new believers as part of making disciples (Matthew 28:19–20). That's why we say: every believer should take this step.

Baptism doesn't make you a Christian—but it boldly shows that you are one. It's your opportunity to say publicly, "I believe in Jesus, and I'm ready to follow Him with my life."

BAPTISM FAQS



What Happens During the Baptism?

Baptism is a celebration—a visible, powerful moment where we get to cheer you on as you go public with your faith in Jesus. It's one of our favorite things we do as a church because it reminds us that God is still changing lives.

We baptize during the service using a baptistry placed near the stage. There will be someone there to help you up and down the stairs. It looks like a small hot tub—but don't worry, it's not inflatable. 😊 It's clean, warm, and easy to step in and out of.

Before you're baptized, you'll have the opportunity to introduce yourself and share a short testimony—just a minute or two. You can briefly talk about why you've decided to follow Jesus or what He's been doing in your life.

Once you're ready:

- You'll wear dark shorts and a dark t-shirt.
- You'll step into the water with a pastor/elder and/or a parent, family member, or friend who will help baptize you.
- We'll ask you: "Do you believe in Jesus as your Lord and Savior?"
- You'll respond: "Yes!"
- Then we'll gently help you lean back, fully submerge you in the water, and bring you back up—symbolizing the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

After everyone has been baptized, we'll gather and pray over those who were baptized—including your family if wanted asking God to bless you as you continue your journey of faith and follow Jesus wholeheartedly.

That's it! 🎉

Do I Have to Be a Certain Age?

No, baptism isn't about age; it's about understanding and choice. What matters most is that the person being baptized understands what baptism means and is freely choosing to follow Jesus.

At New Hope, we don't baptize babies, because we believe baptism should come after a personal decision to trust in Jesus. Instead, for infants and young children who aren't yet old enough to fully understand faith, we offer child dedication which is a beautiful moment where parents commit to raising their child to know and follow Jesus, and the church commits to supporting them.

We do baptize kids, as long as they're able to articulate what baptism means and why they want to take this step. If your child is ready, we'd love to come alongside your family to help make it a clear, joyful, and meaningful experience. This is usually around 2-3rd grade from our experience.

Do I Have to Talk in Front of Everyone?

We want this to feel joyful, not stressful. We usually ask each person to share a short story—about a minute or less. It can be more detailed as well depending on what you choose to share or it can be something simple like:

"I grew up in church, but now I understand what Jesus did for me. I believe in Him, and I want to show the world that I'm His."
If you're nervous, you can:

- Write it down and have someone read it for you.
- Have a parent or pastor share your story on your behalf.

Can Family Be Involved?

Yes! If you'd like a parent, spouse, or spiritual mentor to help baptize you, we'd love to make that happen. We want this to be personal and meaningful. They're part of your spiritual journey and this means so much to them as well.

What if I was a baptized as a baby?

We honor the intention behind infant baptism, but we believe baptism is best practiced after a personal decision to follow Jesus. Many choose to be baptized again as an adult to affirm their own faith.

Can I be rebaptized?

Yes. If you were baptized before understanding the Gospel or made a recommitment to Jesus after a long season away, it can be meaningful to reaffirm your faith publicly.

Can I be baptized privately?

Because baptism is a public declaration of faith, we typically do it during services. Especially since we're your church family! But in rare cases where privacy is necessary (e.g. health, safety, trauma concerns), we can talk about special arrangements.

What if I was baptized in another faith tradition or religion?"

We're so glad you're asking this. Baptism is specifically a public declaration of faith in Jesus Christ. If you were baptized in another religion or a non-Christian context (for example, as part of Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, or another faith tradition that doesn't affirm the biblical Gospel), we would lovingly encourage you to be baptized again this time as a follower of Jesus, in line with what Scripture teaches.

The Bible shows us that baptism is an outward sign of an inward decision to trust Jesus as Savior and follow Him as Lord. So if you've recently made that decision, or you're now understanding the Gospel in a new way, this is a beautiful opportunity to declare it publicly and biblically.

What Should I Wear?

- Dark shorts and a dark shirt (something that won't become see-through when wet).
- Bring a towel and a change of clothes.
- We'll have a private area to change in before and after.

Invite Your People!

This is a huge moment in your faith journey. We encourage you to invite friends and family to celebrate with you. We often have multiple baptisms during each service—and it's always a moment of worship, celebration, and joy.

Still Have Questions?

If you're interested in seeing what baptism looks like here you go:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/3Nx1l6EEZ40?si=pha-ft4y1wh53k-9&t=3475>

Let us know if you have any questions. We'd be happy to meet and help you talk through next steps. You can call or text us at (602) 755-7444 or email us at hello@newhopegilbert.com

We can't wait to celebrate this milestone with you.

How to Sign up If you haven't already signed up for baptisms let's do it! You can sign up here:

www.newhopegilbert.com/baptism