

Baptism at the First Baptist Church of Rockport, Massachusetts

Thank you for your interest in baptism at the First Baptist Church of Rockport. Baptism is a symbolic act rich with significance both at First Baptist Rockport and throughout the global and historic church. As you ponder the act of baptism, you are encouraged to review the many biblical accounts and exhortations made regarding baptism (for example: Mark 1:1 -11, Matthew 28:16- 20, Acts 2:37- 41, Acts 8:9 – 25, Colossians 2:6-15, Romans 6:1- 4).

As Baptists we believe that Jesus established baptism as an act of obedience to him. We believe that baptism should be practiced as a symbol of a personal confession that Jesus is Lord.

Traditionally baptism symbolizes three things:

A) Baptism is a public symbol and witness of your desire to embrace the call of Jesus. Through this act you recognize the new life and forgiveness of sins available through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. In this public confession you are declaring that you have personally embraced this forgiveness and new life, graciously provided in Christ.

B) The act of baptism also symbolizes the way in which through the Triune God the Christian is called to die to an old life of sin and embrace a life of obedience, bearing fruit and righteousness. The act of going into the water and coming back up, vividly pictures this reality. The physical picture also symbolizes the death and resurrection of Jesus, to whom the Christian is called to worship, follow and serve.

C) The public nature of baptism also symbolizes the manner in which through Christ, the Christian is part of a covenant community – the Church. This community is called to lovingly, graciously, truthfully and patiently guide you towards Christian maturity. Through the act of baptism you are also symbolizing a desire to be part of this community and engage in its mission. You are inviting others to help you as you seek to live out life in Christ.

The Church Leadership would like to partner with you in this step of faith!

In an effort to encourage and support you in this step of faith, the deacons ask that you take three steps in your journey towards baptism.

A) Prayerfully consider this step and the points and Scripture referenced above.

B) Meet with the Pastor to review your desire to be baptized.

C) Informally meet with a group of the deacons to share your story.

After you have met with the deacons and pastor, we will plan your baptism! The First Baptist Congregation will be delighted to join in celebrating this step of faith in your life. Typically there are two options for baptism at First Baptist Church. The baptism can take place at a local beach (usually Old Garden) or in our baptismal tank which is under the pulpit. During warmer months we encourage beach baptisms.

Thanks for considering this important step of faith and obedience.

Approved by the Board of Deacons
October 20, 2009