

Is Baptism by immersion required for membership?

Membership at First Baptist of Geneva does require baptism by immersion. You may however be involved in teaching, serving, singing in the choir and many other activities prior to being baptized.

How and when can I be baptized?

Baptismal services are conducted inside our Sanctuary during the Fall and Spring. We also have an outdoor baptismal service during the summer. Contact the church office at 630-232-7068 for the next scheduled baptism. You will be required to attend a one hour pre-baptismal class about one week prior to the service.

Our baptismal services include:

- Worship and singing
- A personal statement of faith by each candidate for baptism
- A “sponsor” (person who played a significant role in candidate’s spiritual life) who enters the water with the candidate, if desired

Following Christ in Believer’s Baptism



First Baptist Church of Geneva

East Campus: 2300 South Street

West Campus: 3435 Keslinger Rd

Geneva, IL 60134

630-232-7068

www.fbcg.com

A Place to Believe, Belong and Become

FBCG

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Why do we

Baptism is obedience to Christ

Jesus said, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” When we love Jesus Christ, we want to do what He says. Just as Jesus was obedient to the Father by submitting to baptism by John, so also we submit to Him by following His command that we be baptized in His name.

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit...”
Matthew 28:19

The New Testament clearly teaches “believer’s baptism”

The New Testament consistently teaches that baptism is a step of obedient commitment and public confession made following conversion to Christ. Peter outlines that process to the early church in Acts 2:38: “Repent and be baptized every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ.”

Why do we baptize by immersion?

The word “baptize” comes from the Greek word “*baptizo*” which literally means to dip, plunge, or place into a liquid. Just as a cloth placed into a vat of dye is “identified” with the dye, so in baptism one is identified completely with Jesus Christ. Immersion not only seems to have been the New Testament practice, it is also the most complete expression of identification with the death, resurrection and forgiveness of Christ.

practice

Do you have to be baptized to be saved?

Salvation comes through faith in Jesus Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8-9); therefore baptism is not necessary for salvation. Rather, baptism is an external symbol of an internal spiritual event. Baptism is perhaps the most powerful public witness of personal faith in Jesus Christ.

Do we baptize children?

While we do not baptize infants at FBCG (see brochure on The Dedication of Children) we do baptize children who are able to understand and make a personal confession of faith in Christ. When a child expresses interest in baptism, parents are encouraged to:

- read through this brochure and explain the meaning of baptism to their children;
- attend a baptismal service with their children;
- arrange to attend a baptism class or make an appointment with a pastor.

If your child is interested in baptism, please schedule a meeting with Chris Sarros (Children’s Ministry), Bruce McEvoy (Middle School Ministry) and Jeff Frazier (High School Ministry) for more information. There will be notification a few weeks prior to the class in the Sunday Bulletin.

We believe the “readiness” of a child to participate meaningfully in baptism is best determined by parents and pastor.

Baptism?

Why is baptism so important in the life of the church?

Baptism is a celebration of the power of the Gospel.

“...having been buried with Him in baptism and raised with Him through your faith in the power of God, who raised Him from the dead.” (Colossians 2:12) Every single baptism is an acting out of the gospel story.

Baptism is a celebration of our common bond in Christ.

“...for we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jew or Greek, slave or free — and we were all given the one Spirit to drink” (1 Corinthians 12:13)

What if you were baptized in another tradition?

Many coming into our fellowship were baptized as infants. If that is true for you, we encourage you to think of believer’s baptism by immersion as a reconfirmation, as a believing adult, of what your parents did for you in faith. Those who choose to follow the Lord in believer’s baptism by immersion find their experience to be a deeply personal and wonderful experience of faith.