Other Symbols used in Baptism:

White Robe *(We are washed clean or our sins)* 1 John 1:9

Lighting the Candle *(We are the light of the world)* Matthew 5:14-16

Carnation *(We are a new creation)* 2 Corinthians 5:17

How do I participate?

If you would like to be baptized at New Hope or find out more Information, please call the New Hope Office or sign up for the next baptism class at Guest Central.

We are so excited that you are considering "going public" with your faith. May God richly bless you on your journey.

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New Hope COMMUNITY CHURCH

REAL PEOPLE.
REAL GOD.
REAL LIFE.

BAPTISM

"Repent and be baptized, everyone of you, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38-39

Baptism

"Going Public with Your Faith"

1. "Why do we do it?"

1. Jesus pursued it.

Matthew 3:13-15, *Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John, but John didn't want to baptize him. "I am the one who needs to be baptized by you," he said, "so why are you coming to me?" But Jesus said, "It must be done, because we must do everything that is right."*

2. Jesus instructed His disciples to do it.

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

3. **Baptism was very important to the early church.**

Acts 2:38-39, *Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, everyone of you, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.".*

2. "What is the purpose of it?"

1. Some churches practice a **"baptism of conversion"** for children. With some, this ceremony is seen as the removal of "original sin" and imparting of "grace" or salvation to the child.
2. Other churches practice a **"baptism of confirmation"** for children. This ceremony is a covenant between the parents and God on behalf of the child, or a commitment of the parents before God to raise their child to know God.
3. New Hope believes the Bible call us to practice a **"baptism of confession."** Baptism is seen as an outward physical symbol of an inward spiritual reality. Baptism is like a wedding ring — it's an ***outward symbol of a decision made in your heart***.

So baptism is a ***symbolic act*** showing our faith in Jesus Christ and decision to follow Him. It is also a public testimony that we are not ashamed of that decision. In Romans 1:16 the Apostle Paul states, *"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes…"*

3. "Why Baptism by immersion, going under the water?"

1. The word baptism translated in Greek means, *immerse* or "to dip under."
2. It gives us a picture of being buried with Christ (as we go under the water) and also rising with him (as we come up out of the water.)

In a Bible translation called "The Message", **Romans 6:3-5 says:**
"This is what happens in baptism. When we went under the water, we left the old country of sin behind; when we came up out of the water, we entered into the new country of grace- a new life in a new land. That's what baptism into Jesus means. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus. Each of us is raised into a light-filled world by our Father so that we can see where we're going in our new grace-sovereign country."

4. "When should a person be baptized?"

1. We don't set and age, but look for evidence that they have understood and answered the call to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Romans 10:9-10 says, *"For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved."*

2. When they are at an age when they can make it a statement of their own personal faith. As an expression of personal faith in Christ, baptism is only meaningful when the person has made this decision their own, and not out of obedience to another person.