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.

In Preparation for Baptism -

1. **Prepare a brief testimony**, a two minute statement of :
   - How my life was before I met Jesus
   - How I came to accept Jesus as my Lord & Savior
   - How my life has changed since this relationship began.

2. **What to bring to the baptism**:

   Wear: We will not be using robes, so wear something modest over your swim suit.
   Bring: 2 men's handkerchiefs (white)
   Dry underwear and clothing
   Bath Towel
   Plastic bag for wet items
   Hair dryer or other grooming tools

Other Questions can be directed to Pastors Bob or Bill at:

New Hope Community Church
370 Main Street South, Cambridge, MN 55008. 763 552-7979

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"

A. *"Why do we do it?"*

1. Jesus was baptized as He came under God's authority through the Prophet, John.

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."*** So then John baptized him.

2. Jesus instructed His disciples to baptize disciples to symbolize the immersing of believers in the authority of the Father, Son & Spirit.

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".* The word "baptize" mean, literally, to ***immerse.***

3. ***The early church practiced baptism***.

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."* The reference to the "name" always speaks of **authority** in Scripture.

B. *"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. At New Hope we consider that each person, at the point they are accountable for making decisions for themselves, must decide for him or her self to receive the gift of salvation. (Ezekiel 18:19-23) Until then, Scripture teaches that children are "set apart" for blessing by the faith of a parent (1 Corinthians 7:14). At New Hope, we celebrate this through ***child dedication***.
2. Other churches practice a **"baptism of confirmation"** for children. This ceremony is seen as 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. These customs began about 400 years after the birth of Christ, after Christianity became a "state" religion.
3. The "baptism" found in the Bible in the New Testament, and the baptism we practice at this church, is a **"baptism of confession."** The Bible stresses that baptism is 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***.

"...*baptism now saves you* ***— not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience,…"*** **1 Peter 3:21** NASU

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…"***

C. *"Why do we baptize by immersion, putting people 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."