

What do

FREE

METHODISTS

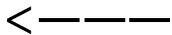
believe?

“Water baptism is a sacrament of the church, commanded by our Lord, signifying acceptance of the benefits of the atonement of Jesus Christ to be administered to believers as declaration of their faith in Jesus Christ as Savior.

Baptism is a symbol of the new covenant of grace as circumcision was the symbol of the old covenant; and, since infants are recognized as being included in the atonement, they may be baptized upon the request of parents or guardians who shall give assurance for them of necessary Christian training. They shall be required to affirm the vow for themselves before being accepted into church membership.” - Article 124

Free Methodist Book of Discipline

But what
about...?



WHAT TO EXPECT:

-Day of Baptism-

To Bring:

Friends/Family to Celebrate With
Towel for changing room
Dark clothes you don't mind getting wet

On the Sunday morning of your baptism, you'll want to bring an extra change of clothes to wear under your baptismal gown. These gowns are thin/white, so please make sure to wear darker clothes. You may prefer lightweight material that will absorb less water. You can change just before the baptism, and after you emerge from the water you will be given a large white robe to wear as you proceed out of the sanctuary to change back into your Sunday clothes.

When you are changed, we sometimes have a celebration reception together in the gym. No matter what we do Sunday morning, this is definitely an occasion to gather with friends & family to celebrate!!

Welcome to the body
of Christ!



We're excited you've expressed
interest in baptism!

Whether your new to the faith,
simply want to learn more
about being baptized for you/
your family,

want to re-affirm an earlier
moment of baptism,

or have begun pursuing
membership here at
Moundford, we're glad to help
you learn more!



BAPTISM FAQ

Who?



Anyone who has responded to the call to repent from sins and declare Jesus as Lord. (Acts 22:16)

- Any of their infants/children. (Matthew 19:14)

Why underwater?

- In short: Because Jesus was.
- Romans 6:4 “We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” (NIV)

Do I *have* to?

- We do not believe baptism is required for salvation. However, baptism has always been the sacrament through which one enters into the body of Jesus Christ. As Moundford FMC is a Christ-centered community, we do require baptism of anyone who wishes to be a full member.

I WAS BAPTIZED YOUNG, CAN I BE BAPTIZED AGAIN?

If you’ve been baptized previously in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—no matter what church, denomination, or ministry it was through—we want to affirm with you the effectiveness of that moment. No matter how old you were, or what has happened since then, you have been baptized into the body of Christ.

However, we also recognize you may be in a season of life where you want to re-dedicate your life, or even acknowledge Jesus as Lord for what feels like the first time.

If that fits your description, we’d love to serve you by including an “Affirmation of Baptism” section in our next baptismal service.

SHOULD WE HAVE OUR BABY/CHILD DEDICATED, OR BAPTIZED?

As a Free Methodist Church, we do offer baptism for infants (sprinkling), as well as a dedication service. What you choose for your child may depend on family tradition, or personal preference.

Because we affirm the complete dependency on God to make the sacrament of baptism effective, we do believe in infant/child baptism. In many instances in scripture, an entire family would be baptized simultaneously when the parents put their faith in Christ. Baptism can be a powerful way to declare over your children—“this is a foundational part of your identity.” They can then affirm those baptismal vows when they are older.

WHEN CAN I GET BAPTIZED?

If you’ve decided you’re interested in learning more, contact one of our pastors or the church office today! We look forward to sitting down with you, hearing what God has been doing in your life, and helping plan a date to celebrate your baptism. We may even offer a few gatherings to help you and others have a safe place to ask questions and learn more about the sacrament of baptism!

We usually offer a baptism service at least every Easter, but there’s no reason to wait! Contact us today to let us know you’re interested, and God may use you to stir a movement of others as well!

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