

Baptism at Harvest

Why baptism?

Baptism allows us to demonstrate our connection with Jesus and with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We're all members of one body under the authority of the same Lord. But it's important to remember that Ephesians 2:8-9 says faith in Jesus Christ is the only requirement for salvation, not baptism. But, to fulfill His command, we're to be baptized following our decision to accept Him into our lives.



We follow the example of Jesus who was baptized. Baptism symbolizes death to sin and our sinful nature and resurrection of a new person in Christ. Baptism symbolizes the washing away of our sins. The act of baptism in and of itself does not save us, the blood of Jesus does. But our being obedient to this public act demonstrates our love for God and our acceptance of His shed blood as forgiveness for our sins.

When we get baptized, we are modeling the gospel to the world. We are providing a visual of our faith and encouraging others to follow Jesus boldly as He commanded.

Planning ahead:

Will you be bringing guests to watch your baptism? Please email admin@harvestbc.com or text 443-735-1685 to provide a head count, so that we make sure to have adequate seating set aside.

Do you have a friend or family member willing to assist you after the baptism? This person would hold your belongings during the baptism and give you your towel after you come out of the baptismal tank. If no one is identified, the administrative assistant will help.

What to bring:

- A beach-type towel
- A plastic bag to store wet clothes
- Flip-flops (optional)
- Hair dryer and/or products, if you will need to fix your hair afterwards
- A change of clothes to wear after your baptism

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What to wear for your baptism:

We want you to wear comfortable and appropriate clothing. A dark-colored shirt and shorts/swim trunks are recommended. Jeans are discouraged because they do hold a lot of water. Please don't wear anything that gets transparent or too clingy when wet.

What to expect:

The front of the sanctuary will be set up with the baptismal tank on the front right side of the church. Every effort has been made to ensure that the water is warm and moderately comfortable for you.

When you arrive you will sit in the "Reserved Seating" area of the church, which will be in the front right section of the church, near the baptismal tank. If you have a friend or family member who will hold your towel, etc., he/she may sit with you.

After the first song in the service, Pastor Keith will explain baptism by the tank and then call you by name to be baptized.

You will go to the left end of the baptism tank.

You will step into the tank. Pastor Keith will assist you, if help is needed.

Pastor Keith will give you an opportunity to say a few words (optional) about why you have decided to take this step in faith.

You will then sit on the stool facing the wall at the opposite end of the tank.

He will ask you the following questions:

- Do you desire to be baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?
- Do you renounce the path and powers of evil and have you embraced the freedom of new life in Christ?
- Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

After each question, you would simply reply, "Yes."

At that point, you'll want to hold your nose. Pastor Keith will put one hand on your back and push you down into the water (people float!) and then raise you back up. As he does this, he will say: "Then I baptize you in the name of the father, the son and the Holy Spirit.

Buried with Him in Baptism, raised to walk in newness of life."

Once your baptism is completed, stand up and walk to the right end of the baptism tank. Pastor Keith will assist you, if needed, in stepping out of the tank. Please get your towel from your friend, family member, or the administrative assistant, and dry your body/clothes off quickly while standing on the bathmat outside the tank.

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After you have towel dried, you have two options: 1. You may sit back down in the reserved seating section to watch any additional baptisms, or 2. Proceed out to the bathroom to finish drying off and getting changed. If you wish to stay and be a witness and support, feel free! We are not concerned with our chairs getting wet, only the encouragement of the body of Christ.



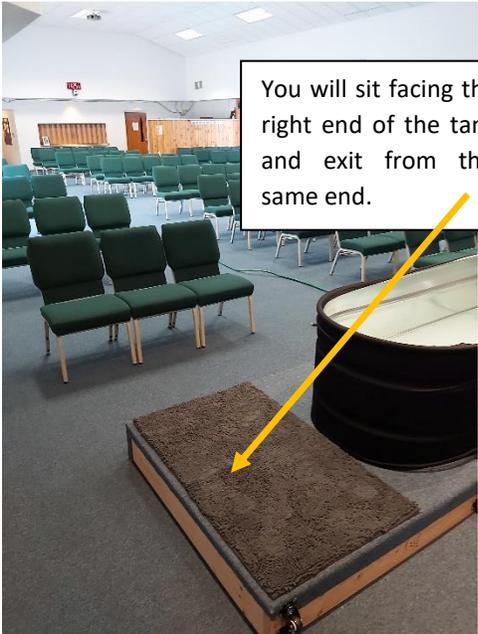
Pastor Keith will stand centered behind the tank for your baptism.

Reserved Seating will be in this vicinity. More chairs will be added as needed.

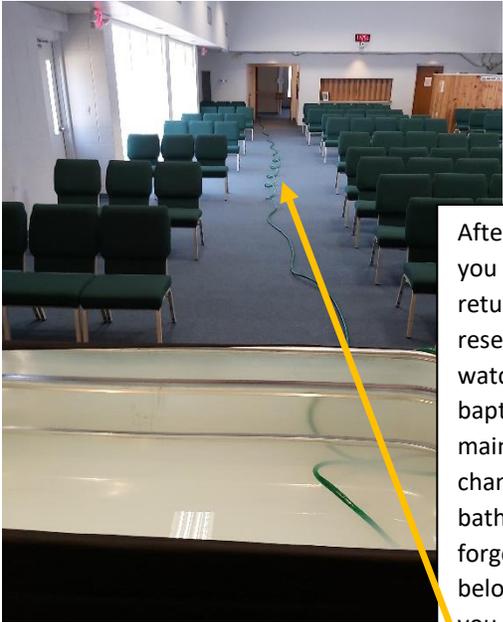
Visualize it!



You will enter the tank from the left.



You will sit facing the right end of the tank and exit from this same end.



After the baptism, you will either return to the reserved seating to watch the next baptisms or exit the main doors to change in the bathrooms. (Don't forget to take your belongings with you.)