

THE MESSENGER

SHARING GOD'S LOVE, LIVING GOD'S WORD

BAPTISM

At Oakwood Community Church, we practice Believer's Baptism by immersion. The New Testament teaches that baptism is to take place once a person admits his sin and turns to Christ for salvation. Baptism is the step of obedience in which one publicly declares his faith to others. Baptism is an important step of obedience in the life of a believer and is one of the requirements for membership at Oakwood.

In the New Testament, baptism was "a pledge made to God from a good conscience" (1 Pet. 3:21 TJB). So important was this step that, as far as we know, every single convert in the New Testament was baptized. With the exception of the thief on the cross, there is no example of an unbaptized believer.

Here are some of Pastor Max Lucado's answers (edited) to common questions in regard to baptism:

1. Which is more appropriate: to baptize babies or to baptize people who are old enough to make a personal decision?

Obviously there are bright, Godly people of both persuasions. It is evident in the New Testament, baptism is a willing pledge made by those who are old enough to recognize their sin, mature enough to comprehend the significance of the death of Christ, and independent enough to commit themselves to him.

It is appropriate to have baby dedications. At Oakwood Community Church we offer parents of young children an opportunity to come forward for prayer. But these are dedication ceremonies, not baptisms.

2. What if I was baptized as an infant? What should I do? I have been baptized, but not by immersion.

First, you should be grateful that you had parents who cared enough about you to set you apart for God. Adult baptism is not a sign of disrespect toward your parents. In fact, it can be seen as a fulfillment of their prayers. Be thankful for the heritage of concerned parents, but also be mindful of your responsibility as an adult to make your personal pledge toward God in baptism.

All the Greek dictionaries of the New Testament define baptizo as immersion. The symbolism of immersion is compelling: lowering you under the water represents Christ's death and burial. Raising you up from under the water represents the resurrection of Jesus from the grave. The big picture illustration of immersion shows that you have been washed clean of your sins by Christ's grace and born again with a new life in Christ.

3. How much do I need to know in order to be baptized?

You need to understand and believe that you are a sinner and that Jesus is your Savior. As you grow in Christ you'll learn more about baptism. You'll learn that embodied and represented in baptism is the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38); commitment to the church (1 Cor. 12:13); and being clothed with Christ (Gal. 3:26), to name a few.

(Continued on back)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Simply Sharing for Women**
Monday, June 15th – 7:00pm
Monday, June 29th – 7:00pm
- **Men of Christ, Raw, Relevant, Real**
Saturday, June 20th
- **Baptisms**
Sunday, June 28th at the Lake

 **Oakwood**
Community Church

5791 Oakwood Road, Ortonville, MI 48462

Phone: (248) 628-6388 Email: office@oakwoodcc.org

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm

BAPTISM (continued)

It is helpful to read Acts chapters 2, 8 and 16 to determine what the candidates in the first century knew before they were baptized. In each case there was an innocent faith and an immediate response.

4. Does it matter where I was baptized?

No. Whether you were baptized in a church, at a camp, in a lake or in the Jordan River, it doesn't matter. What is important is that you knew that you were a sinner and Jesus was your Savior.

5. Does baptism itself have the power to save people?

The answer to this is a resounding "No!" Scripture is abundantly clear that only Jesus saves. The work of salvation is a finished work by Christ on the cross. Baptism has no redemptive powers of its own. If you are trusting a dunk in the water to save you, you have missed the message of grace. Baptism is an outward sign of an internal faith, letting others know of your desire to be a Christ follower.

Baptism was important enough for Jesus to command...so it is important enough for you to obey. Baptism was important enough for Jesus to do.... so it is important enough for you to follow His example. If you would like to discuss baptism or schedule yourself to be baptized, please contact Pastor Don Jackson at the church (1 248 628-6388) or email him at pd@oakwoodcc.org.

2015 MISSION TRIP TO DETROIT

You can help Oakwood's 2015 Mission Team in several ways. They are in need of some things before they leave on July 19th for a week of work in Detroit – rebuilding homes, feeding the poor, and tending urban agriculture. The biggest items needed are an **enclosed trailer** and a **vehicle** that can pull it. Other items are:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| (2) Hoes | Hand saw |
| (2) Measuring Tapes | Pruning saw |
| (3) Pliers | Sledge hammer |
| (3) Hand pruners | Socket wrench set |
| (4) Pruning shears | First Aid kit |
| (10) Rags | Ladder |
| (2) Gravel rakes | Work gloves |
| (12) Safety goggles | Wasp Spray (LOTS) |
| (2) Screwdrivers – flat | Bug Spray (LOTS) |
| (2) Screwdrivers - phillips | Sunscreen (LOTS) |
| (5) Garden trowel | |
| (2) Coolers | 5-gallon buckets to haul/store tools (as many as possible) |
| (2) 5-gallon water coolers | |

All tools will be returned after the trip. Please label everything that you are lending to the team with your name. Items can be dropped off at the church or call Julie Gleason (248-568-6328) to make arrangements for pick-up.

DONATE FUNDS

A Special Offering will be collected on Sunday, June 28th to support the team. All donations are tax deductible and checks can be made payable to Oakwood Community Church.

PRAY FOR THE TEAM BY NAME

Lindsay Collins, Gabriele Conn, Olivia Conn, Faith Fitz-Gerald, Libby Fitz-Gerald, Amy Francis, Lauren Francis, Julie Gleason, Phoebe Gleason, Morgan Grant, Thomas Knauf, Fran Maddock, Sabrina Major, Joslyn Meixell, Patty Meixell, Travis Moore, Colton Rodela, Mark Rodela, Bobby Roop, Breanna Roop, Emily Sovis, Sam Stec, Shane Stec

VISIT WWW.OAKWOODCC.ORG FOR THE LATEST NEWS & INFO FROM OAKWOOD



SERVE OUR COMMUNITY

Dutton Farm is a faith-based non-profit organization in Rochester, MI reaching out to adults in our community living with physical, mental and emotional impairments. Their goal is to partner with these individuals and their families by providing dignified employment and activities in a safe environment all with a holistic approach to integration. Here is the reality: Less than 1% of adults with disabilities are successfully integrated into the workforce. Others that can find jobs are often found working in sheltered workshop environments where the average pay is \$2.75/hour. The statistics also show that adults and children with disabilities are among the most vulnerable when it comes to physical, emotional and sexual abuse. Dutton Farm is working to change the face of these statistics in our community through their cutting edge approach and services.

Oakwood Community Church has been given the opportunity to partner with Dutton Farm through a service project to put a fresh coat of paint on some of their outdoor structures used to house their farm animals. The service project will take place on Saturday, June 27th from 9-3pm – Any and all are welcome to participate. This is an incredible opportunity for us to be the hands and feet of Christ to the both the staff and farmers at Dutton Farm. Hopefully, this will be the beginning of a fruitful partnership focused on bringing hope to the hopeless and a voice to the voiceless. Please contact Greg McDonough if you would like to participate or have any questions. gregorymcdonough@gmail.com or 248-891-9401

For more information on the farm visit – www.duttonfarm.org