

THE wesleyan CHURCH

Made New

BAPTISM SUNDAY

What if what God starts at FOLLOW continues at home?
At FOLLOW, students encounter Jesus, respond to his grace and take steps in faith. For some, baptism may be their next step.

Why Baptism Sunday?

Made New Baptism Sunday invites Wesleyan churches to celebrate the new life Jesus brings. We're encouraging churches to plan baptisms for **January 31, 2027**, as part of a shared celebration across The Wesleyan Church.

Any student or adult ready for baptism is welcome, whether or not they attended FOLLOW.

WHY BAPTISM?

Baptism is a public expression of faith and a celebration of the new life God gives us through Jesus. It points to Jesus' death and resurrection and declares our desire to follow him.

Baptism doesn't save us; Jesus does. We celebrate God's grace and the new life we have in Christ.

Download baptism guide + resources
wesleyan.org/baptismsunday

YOUR ROLE AS A LEADER

Notice where God may be at work, make room for honest conversations and for ways to help students take a next step.

- **Pray and listen.** Ask what students are learning and what questions they have.
- **Give them time.** A response at FOLLOW may begin a longer journey. Let students explore faith and baptism without pressure.
- **Involve parents and pastors.** Partner with families and your pastor when a student expresses interest.
- **Help them prepare.** Use the Baptism Guide to explore baptism and prepare to share their story.
- **Affirm those already baptized.** Use/adapt the Affirmation of Baptism Ritual to reaffirm believers' commitment — not repeat it.

Jan. 31 is an invitation, not a deadline. Baptize when someone is ready. If they need more time, keep walking with them. Questions and conversations are good outcomes; discipleship matters more than a date.

A Practical Guide to Baptism Conversations

LISTEN BEFORE YOU ASSUME

A student's response to a message or desire to follow Jesus may signal spiritual growth, but it doesn't automatically mean they're ready for baptism.



Ask:

- What stood out to you at FOLLOW?
- What does following Jesus mean to you?
- What questions do you have about baptism?

TALK WITHOUT PRESSURE

Help students understand baptism and express their own desire to follow Jesus. They don't need every answer, but they should have room to ask questions.

Ask: What do you think baptism means? Is it something you've been considering?

INVOLVE PARENTS AND PASTORS

Listen to parents' questions, explain baptism and invite them into the conversation. Work with your lead pastor to guide preparation and next steps.

DISCERN READINESS TOGETHER

Can the student explain why they want to follow Jesus? Do they understand baptism as a public expression of faith? Have they had room to ask questions and decide without pressure? These are conversation prompts, not a pass-or-fail test. For questions about a previous baptism, consult your lead pastor.

KEEP WALKING WITH THEM

Some students will be ready; others will need more time. Make sure they know they haven't disappointed you by waiting. Keep discipling them either way.

Where do I start?

- Pray for students considering baptism.
- Talk with your lead pastor and team.
- Start conversations and involve families.
- Use the Made New Baptism Guide to help students prepare.
- Reaffirm those already baptized providing a way to celebrate.

Let's walk with people as they take their next step with Jesus.
Visit **wesleyan.org/baptismsunday** for the full baptism guide and resources.

> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:
> The old has gone, the new is here! **– 2 Corinthians 5:17**