



LIVING WATER

A publication of the Five Rivers District of the UMC

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December 2018

Baptism 101 by Marvé Ralston

It must have been quite a sight, a woman large with child, dressed in a white robe, being fully submerged for baptism. Yet that is not what I remember about that day. I remember feeling suddenly lighter, happier, on the path to Christian growth. This was my rebaptism day, back in the spring of 1983.

I took an online class from BeADisciple.com this fall. It was part of my continuing education with Lay Servant Ministries. I suppose one part of why I took this class, was because it had been so long since my own baptism, I had lost the memory a bit.

The number of baptisms in our local churches, come into our office yearly, and they count. Why is baptism so important? Surely, it is not as important as the original decision to accept Jesus into your heart. Yet, it is important. A visible turning away from sin, and a moving toward spiritual maturity.

- 1 Corinthians 6:11. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

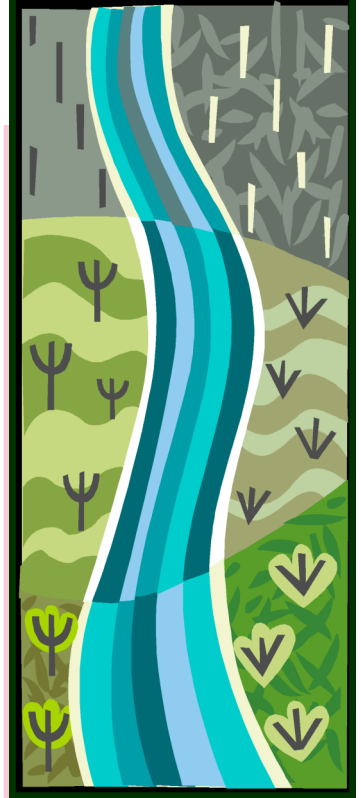
People can attend a church faithfully for years without making the decision to be baptized. Folks are often baptized as a baby or small child, and do not remember their baptism except from pictures. So why is this decision one that even Jesus obediently harkened to?

In my baptism class, we looked at scripture on baptism, baptismal fonts, beautifully ornate submersion tubs, rivers, plenty of paintings and pictures from history. Baptism is often romanticized and mystical.

My own rebaptism happened when our oldest was a baby. My husband and I were rebaptized as adults, to become members of a Baptist Church. This required rebaptism as adults to qualify for membership. It was a full submersion and I was six months pregnant with our second child. I wore a white robe over my clothes, and yes, they had one that fit.

The United Methodist Church does not believe in rebaptism. You can rededicate your life, or *celebrate* your baptism once again, but not with a formal service for rebaptism. The United Methodist Church offers the ritual for the reaffirmation of baptismal vows and this can be part of a church service.

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January 2019

Su Mo Tue We Th Fri Sat

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Scheduled Events

Dec. 21-Jan. 2nd	District Office Closed
Jan. 5-6	The One Event 2019 (see below)
Jan. 7-10	Cabinet Inventory Retreat in NE
Jan. 16-17	Orders and Fellowship (Clergy) https://www.greatplainsumc.org/OandF
Jan. 17	Marve' is having surgery. Jane Reeves in Parson's District will handle administrative issues until she returns in Feb. 620-421-9149 ParsonsDistrict@greatplainsumc.org
Jan. 18-19	Candidacy Summit Salina, KS
Feb. 9	Fresh Expressions (see below)
Feb. 11-14	Cabinet Meeting Topeka, KS
Feb. 22-27	Special Session of General Conference St. Louis, MO
March 12	Clergy Meeting Ottawa 1st, 9-Noon

UMC links on Baptism:

<http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/baptism>

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/new-service-of-reaffirmation-of-the-baptismal-covenant>

The One Event Jan. 5-6, Salina, KS For all Youth Grades 6 to 12 and their Leaders.

Information: www.greatplainsumc.org/theoneevent

Brochure: https://www.greatplainsumc.org/files/youth_imates/tow19/2019+toe+brochure.pdf

Topeka Vision Day February 9, 2019 A Vision Day is a one-day training event that provides an opportunity to discover what it means to be the Church in new and creative ways, hear from Fresh Expressions practitioners, learn how to renew existing congregations through fresh expressions of church, and discern what this could mean for your region, community or neighborhood.

Register: FreshExpressionsUS.org/event/VisionDayTopeka

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Apportionments Paid as of Nov. 30, 2018

	2018 Msn Shr	MS Pd 11.30.18	%
Baldwin City: First UMC	22,015	5,566.60	25.29
Baldwin City: Ives Chapel	6,432	4,824	75
Beagle	1,714	0	0
Big Creek	3,760	3,760	100
Blue Mound	1,594	1,500	94.10
Bronson	1,734	0	0
Burlington	18,360	16,830	91.67
Clearfield	3,255	368.00	11.31
Colony	1,596	1,596	100
Edgerton	7,832	4,000	51.07
Elsmore	2,154	1,077	50
Eudora	15,550	5,776.02	37.14
Fontana	2,205	2,003	90.84
Fort Scott: First	19,529	17,901	91.66
Fort Scott: St John	3,827	2,870.25	75
Fulton	1,767	1,767	100
Garnett	10,613	8,844.20	83.33
Greeley	1,558	1,558	100
Gridley	6,103	5,582	91.46
Hammond	1,551	1,450.74	93.54
Hiattville	3,557	3,557	100
Humboldt	11,808	8,856	75
Iola:Calvary	9,532	6,432	67.38
Iola: Wesley	14,853	6,563.75	44.19
Kincaid Selma	5,498	3,000	54.57
LaCygne	10,037	10,037	100
Lane	3,160	2,896.63	91.67
Lawrence: Centenary	6,292	6,292	100
Lawrence: Central	9,979	9,979	100
Lawrence: First	87,318	54,633.29	62.57
Linwood	1,544	0	0
Louisburg	21,722	0	0
Lyndon	14,010	1,172	8.37
Mapleton	776	0	0
Melvern	6,624	6,624	100
Michigan Valley	2,823	2,587.75	91.67
Mildred	1,087	1,087	100
Moran	4,298	1,230	28.62
Mound City	7,663	7,024.38	91.67



Apportionments Paid as of Nov. 30, 2018 cont.

	2018 Msn Shr	MS Pd 11.30.18	%
Neosho Falls	2,194	1,800	82.04
New Lancaster	4,336	4,336	100
Osawatomie	9,985	8,320	83.33
Ottawa: First	20,445	18,915	92.52
Ottawa: Trinity	11,600	11,600	100
Ottawa: Union Chapel	1,251	1,251	100
Overbrook	15,328	6,440.41	42.02
Paola	15,529	7002	45.09
Parker	1,876	781.67	41.67
Pleasanton	2,403	260	10.82
Plum Creek	3,332	0	0
Pomona	4,211	0	0
Prairie view	2,190	2,190	100
Prescott	5,715	2,857.50	50
Princeton	1,724	1,724	100
Quenemo	1,508	1,508	100
Redfield	1,118	838.50	75
Richmond	2,396	2,396	100
Richter	4,444	4,444	100
Salem	1,680	0	0
Turkey Creek	1,771	1,771	100
Uniontown	3,208	0	0
Vassar	3,160	2,896.65	91.67
Vinland	4,183	4,183	100
Waverly	4,421	4,421	100
Welda	1,411	0	0
Wellsville	11,296	10,354.63	91.67
West Liberty	2,943	2,943	100
Williamsburg	5,192	5,192	100
Worden	19,668	18,029	91.67
Yates Center	8,910	2,900	32.55
5R District	535,168	348,592.04	65.14

As a district, we are down .04% compared to 2017. Many of you have done much better, and some of you wait until this month to pay in full. Thank you for all your effort! If you are not sure what Apportionments are, check out this link. They are your churches "part" of being in the connectional UMC system. There are many things accomplished with our connections. These could not be accomplished as a stand alone church! May God richly bless you all, for the many things seen, and unseen that you are doing!

<https://www.greatplainsumc.org/conferencegivingresources>



December in 5R:

Clearfield German Christmas Celebration on December 8th.

Wellsville Bell Choir performed.

An offering was taken up for Youthville/Ember Hope

There was traditional German food provided for the dinner and the lighting of the candles on the fir tree in the sanctuary.



Using memorial funds from former members, Vinland UMC members contracted the building of a covered entry for handicapped visitors and members. They dedicated it Nov. 18th. They are so happy with it!



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Baptism 101 continued from pg. 1

I had a pastor explain how this works to me once. As United Methodists, we believe that everything in our lives work together. There is no need to go through baptism again as an adult, if it previously took place at an earlier time, even if we were babies. God uses it all. As John Wesley, the founder of Methodism signified, this is God's "prevenient grace," taking place before we are aware of it.

So why be baptized as a child or adult if this has never taken place? It is an outward expression of what is happening on the inside. It can be an outward sign of new birth. Your life is taking on a new, deeper relationship with God. If you have never experienced baptism, study the scriptures on it.

- Acts 2:38, 1 Peter 3:21, Mark 16:16, Galatians 3:27, Acts 22:16, Romans 6:4, John 3:5, Titus 3:5, Ephesians 2:8-9, Acts 8:36.

If you have been baptized, do you remember your story? Have you talked about it with family members? How did it change your life? Why was it necessary for you? If it happened as a baby or small child, search out pictures and memories from others. We should always be prepared to share our faith story. How has this, along with your daily faith walk, and attendance, or membership in church changed your life?

Baptism is just one part of becoming a disciple. It is an outward sign of what has taken place inside. Your family and faith community nurture a promise to God, they will help provide training and prayer to guide you into spiritual maturity. If you are making this decision as an adult or older child, you are declaring faith in God and dedication to the teachings of Christianity as understood by the United Methodist Church. Reference: classroom.synonym.com/mehtodists-baptism-12084947.html

I have encouraged my grandchildren to take this step. They attend church with us, we read bible stories, talk about God and pray together. Their baptism would be the greatest Christmas gift ever to me. But this is their decision. I have talked with them about that. They are no longer babies.

Let's all pray for our personal, and faith families this year. There are many things distracting us from God and church. Certainly prayer for each of them, is the best gift we can give them.

The cost is time. We all can do this! 1 Timothy 2:1-5, Ephesians 6:18, John 15:4-5