

## *Believers' Baptism by Immersion*

Baptism is one of the most debated practices in the Church. Because it is fundamental to the command of the Church and the preaching of the gospel (Matt 28:18–20), how baptism is done is important. Baptists have historically believed that baptism must be by immersion, and that only those old enough to have made a decision to accept Christ as Savior should receive baptism.

The biblical record has *no occurrences* of the baptism of anyone before they have confessed a belief in Christ. Where it is *possible* that children in a household might have been baptized without confession, there is no clear evidence that it was the case (Acts 17:5, 16:33; 1 Cor 1:16). So, those who see it there are reading something into the text that is not explicitly stated.

As to the mode of baptism, the confusion comes not from the Bible but from historical interpretation. The Greek word *baptizō* means “to immerse” in every known usage outside of the Bible, but has always been transliterated as *baptism* English because of the diversity of denominations and interpretations. The adoption of other methods of baptism such as sprinkling or pouring water on the head can be identified in the historical record. They were initially compromises because of the health or mobility of individual believers as the Christian Church spread throughout the world.

*If you would like to be baptized in public declaration of your faith and in obedience to Christ, please see one of our elders.*

## *Contact Information*

Website: <http://bedfordroad.org>  
Streaming: [youtube.com/@bedfordroadbaptist](https://www.youtube.com/@bedfordroadbaptist)  
Phone: (603) 424-9623  
Mail: PO Box 443, Merrimack, NH

## *Financial Summary*

<b>2023 Budget</b>	\$224,885	<b>Budget to Date</b>	\$64,875
<b>Weekly Budget</b>	\$4,325	<b>Giving to Date</b>	\$72,050

*Thank you again to all for your generous stewardship. You can give via the offering box in the back of the sanctuary, via mail, or online at [bedfordroad.org/giving](http://bedfordroad.org/giving).*

*April 16, 2023*

**BEDFORD ROAD  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

*Welcome*

*Creating environments where people  
encounter Jesus and journey together*

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## - Exploring the Scriptures Together -

6 Southern NH Rescue Mission  
7 Youth Group Interest Meeting, after worship  
14 Mothers' Day  
21 Music Team Meeting, after worship

At 7:00pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, there are group Bible studies that are open for everyone.

Have a Bible question you've always wanted answered? Or a part of the Bible you wish someone would explain? Email your question or idea to [\*\*pastor@bedfordroad.org\*\*](mailto:pastor@bedfordroad.org) for inclusion in our summer topical series (June 4-July 9).

## Aftermath (John 20:19-21:25)

[illegible]

## The Big Idea:

Nursery is provided 9:30-11:30am for children ages 0-3.  
On the first Sunday of each month, older children stay with their families.  
On all other weeks, there is an age-appropriate teaching time for children ages 4-10.