

"The Means of Grace: Treasuring Baptism and Communion"
Romans 6:1-6; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32

"The Means of Grace says...."

We preach God's Word, not our own. We sing praises to God, not men. We celebrate Christ's work, not our own. We seek God's help, not man's. We submit to God's means, not our own. We worship God God's way.

*"Baptism is a **graphic portrayal** and a **celebration** of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ that has resulted in my cleansing, forgiveness, new life, being declared righteous, and my identification with Christ. We are celebrating that we are now dead to sin and alive to Christ!"*

*"Communion is a **remembering** or **celebrating** the work of Christ. We are reminded that Christ took on flesh, His shed blood atones for our sin, and that Christ is coming again. It reminds us that Christ is sufficient for our salvation, it reminds us that we are secure in Christ, we are a part of His body, and we are called to take our sin seriously."*

- Baptism 101: (Romans 6:1-6; Colossians 2:12-13; Galatians 3:27-29)
 - All believers are commanded to be baptized (Matthew 28:19-20) in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, giving praise to all three members of the Godhead for their work in salvation (Acts 2:38).
 - Repentance (Mark 1:5; Matthew 3:11; Acts 2:38) and Faith (Acts 2:41; 8:12-13; 16:31-33) are connected with the act of Baptism. Baptism does not save, but baptism follows faith and repentance — salvation, as an act of obedience and celebration of salvation.
 - Baptism is a public declaration of an individual's faith in Christ and allegiance to His Lordship (Romans 10:9-10; Colossians 1:13). We are no longer our own (Galatians 2:20; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20), we are His, and our life will be marked by obedience to Him (1 John 2:3-6; John 3:36).
 - Baptism celebrates our union or baptism into the work of Christ. We were crucified with Him (Galatians 2:20); we died with Him (Colossians 2:20); we were buried with Him (Romans 6:4); we were made alive with Him (Ephesians 2:5); we were raised with Him (Ephesians 2:6); we are seated in the heavenlies with Him (Ephesians 2:6); we are secure in Him (Romans 8:38-39); we are a new creation in Him (2 Corinthians 5:17).
 - Baptism is a means of grace to see and be reminded of the invisible works of grace and that is why immersion is necessary to express these spiritual truths! (Matthew 3:16; John 3:23; Acts 8:38-39).
- Communion 101: (Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20)
 - When we take communion we are celebrating what Christ has done for us personally, salvifically: "This is My body, which is given for you" (Luke 22:19). We remember the grace of God that rescues sinners: "Do this in remembrance of Me" (Luke 22:19). We celebrate Christ shedding His blood for us, the means of atonement for our sins: "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood" (Luke 22:20). We also celebrate the return of Christ, when we will be glorified, and celebrate His work in His kingdom (Luke 22:18).
 - When we take communion we are celebrating our union with Christ through His blood (1 Corinthians 10:16) and being a part of His body, both universally and locally (1 Corinthians 10:16-17). We are one with Christ and we are a part of one another (1 Corinthians 12:21-26).

(continued →)

Worship: Speak O Lord — The Gettys

Christ The Sure And Steady Anchor — Matt Boswell

Service Times: Sundays: Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 6:30 & 7; Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

- As we take communion we examine ourselves (1 Corinthians 11:28) because we can take it in an unworthy manner (1 Corinthians 11:27). Communion is a time of repentance and celebration. We should ask God to search our hearts (Psalm 139:23-24). What are our motives and attitudes toward God and His Word, toward the act of communion, and toward his people (1 Corinthians 11:30-32)? We come to him for grace and mercy in our time of need (Hebrews 4:16).
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Announcements:

★**DONATIONS:** This is the LAST DAY we are collecting monetary donations for Heartbeats! You can put your monetary donations into the container on the back table or give on Venmo, please just make sure to note that it is for Heartbeats.

★**HEALTHTREE MOVES FOR MYELOMA:** We are putting together a team to participate in the 5K/1 M Walk happening on Saturday, June 3rd at Wolfe Park in Columbus, Ohio. If you are interested in participating in this, please see the board on the back table for more information, or see Joel Decker for any questions you may have. To register for the event, you will need to go online and register with Team Legacy.

★**LADIES SPRING BRUNCH:** Ladies, we are having a Spring Brunch on Saturday, May 6th, at 10am, at Jen and Breanna's house (981 Lawnview Avenue). There is a sign-up list on the table in the entryway, please sign-up to bring something to the Spring Brunch. All of the ladies are invited to join us for this time of fellowship together. Please consider carpooling, since parking is limited!

★**TRANSMISSION OF SCRIPTURE:** We will be starting a new Sunday Teaching Class on Sunday, May 21st. This class will be on the transmission of Scripture — how we got the Bible. It will be every Sunday, from 4-5pm, in the Fellowship Hall. This is a 6 week class that will be taught by Pastor Jeremey. There is a sign-up list on the table in the entryway, if you are interested in participating in this class, please sign-up!

★**MEMBERS MEETING:** *THIS* Sunday, April 30th, we will be having a Members Meeting immediately following the worship service. This meeting will be to discuss and vote on the operating budget for the rest of 2023, as well as voting on By-Law additions and changes. If you are currently a church member, please plan on staying for this meeting!