

# You are my beloved Son; with you I am well-pleased!

Hempfield United Methodist Church

*"Live Like Christ"*

September 2, 2018

## Jesus Christ is baptized by John the baptist.



The baptism of Jesus signifies the beginning of his earthly ministry. As a child, Jesus knew that he was the Son of God, yet he remained obedient to his earthly parents until the time was right for him to assume his spiritual role. In the same way, each of us is born into an earthly family yet are called also to become part of the larger family of God. Baptism is a sign of this new identification.

### Mark 1:1-11

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

**See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;  
he will prepare your way.  
A voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
Prepare the way for the Lord;  
make his paths straight!**

John came baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. John wore a camel-hair garment with a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey.

He proclaimed, "One who is more powerful than I am is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. **I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.**"

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. As soon as he came up out of the water, he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven:

**"You are my beloved Son; with you I am well-pleased."**

### ABOUT THIS SERIES:

Jesus Christ came to show us a new way of living. His work on the cross has opened the way for the Holy Spirit to come upon us. The Spirit repairs the damage of sin and opens our minds to the ways of God. Therefore, as followers of Jesus Christ, we are not only offered the forgiveness of sin but are also called to learn to live as Jesus did. Jesus once said, "A disciple is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like the teacher" (Luke 6:40). In our fall series "Live Like Christ" we will explore the stories of the Gospel of Mark and ask the question, "How shall we then live?"

# Application for Abundant Living

*bios*  
*and*  
*zoë*

In the original language of the New Testament (Greek), there are two words used for life, “Bios” and “Zoë.” Bios refers to our biological life while Zoë refers to our spiritual life. Both are good, but one is better. Jesus once said, “I have come that they might have life (zoë), and have it abundantly!” (John 10:10).

We tend to give a great deal of time and attention to our biological existence but very little time to our spiritual life, but the gift of time can be used for either. The external demands of modern living keep us so busy that there seems to be little time for spiritual matters, so followers of Jesus must learn to spend their time wisely.

Begin spending more time for matters of your soul and less time

## Scripture for Further Study

In the Sermon on the Mount, the manifesto of Jesus Christ, Jesus gave a wonderful promise for those who would make spiritual matters a priority. Read about this in **Matthew 6:25-34**

## Questions for Group Discussion

Have you been baptized? If so, were you baptized as a child or as an adult?

What does baptism mean to you?

How would you categorize your life: filled with peace, totally stressed, or a mix?

Do you find it easy or hard to focus on spiritual matters?

What would be the hardest material thing for you to give up?

If God wanted to make an appointment with you, when would be a good time?

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### Upcoming Headlines of Jesus' Life:

**9/9 Jesus Calls His First Disciples.**

**9/16 Jesus Teaches With Authority and Casts Out Demons!**

**9/23 People Flock to Jesus for Healing.**

**9/30 Jesus Touches the Untouchables!**