



Coffeeville First Baptist Church By Craig Baker, Pastor

I read of a church that had a baptismal service one Sunday morning. After the service, a five-year-old girl who was there with her parents asked them, "Why did the preacher push that guy under the water?" After the service, the little girl's mother tried to explain baptism in a way the girl could understand. She told the little girl about sin and how when people decide to live for Jesus they want everyone to know, so they are baptized to show that Jesus has washed away their sins and that they are going to try to be good. The little girl thought for a minute then asked, "If he wanted him to be good, why didn't the preacher just whip him?" We were blessed to have a baptismal service this past Sunday, and I can assure you that no one got whipped, at least not by me. Unfortunately, that mother's explanation certainly was not great, and the reason we practice baptism is something a lot of people do not understand.

Corinth, Galatia, Colossae, and to Titus. The Apostle Peter wrote of baptism in 1 Peter. The Apostle Paul began Romans 6 with a beautiful imagery when he wrote of how baptism is the external representation of the internal transformation that has happened in the life of every believer. In Romans 6:1-11, Paul wrote these words. "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore, we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, we certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise you

There are several places in the New Testament where baptism is mentioned. All four gospels mention baptism. In the Great Commission, Jesus commanded us to make disciples and baptize them. Baptism is mentioned several times in the Book of Acts. The Apostle Paul wrote of baptism in his letters to the churches in Rome,

also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

All of us who are believers in Jesus have been spiritually baptized into Him meaning we are eternally one w/ Him, so that now we are able to walk in "the newness of life" through our faith in Him. Paul wrote in Galatians 2:20 - "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain."

This passage makes it clear that believing in Jesus is not about how good we can be. There is no religious law or practice that we can follow to be saved. In fact, there is nothing we can do to save ourselves. The only way we can be saved is through faith in Jesus who loved us and gave his life for us, and when we accept Jesus as our Savior a dramatic spiritual transformation occurs in us. We were lost but now we are found. We were dead in sin but now we are alive in Christ. We were spiritually blind but now we see. We were orphans but now we are a child of God. We had no hope for a future but now our eternity is secure in God's kingdom. We were a dirty, wretched sinner, but now we have been washed clean.

The incredible transformation, the salvation and new life we receive through our faith in Jesus as our Savior, is wonderfully pictured in the act of baptism, and every person who has placed their faith in Jesus should be baptized. In doing so, we not only follow Jesus' example and command but we also publicly and unmistakably proclaim our faith in Him.

To our Members & Subscribers
Thank you!

In the aftermath of Winter Storm Fern, we want to extend our sincere thanks to our member-subscribers for your patience, understanding, prayers, and support. The damage caused by this ice storm has been described as catastrophic—comparable to the impact of a Category 2 hurricane or a tornado. Entire sections of electric and communications infrastructure were damaged or destroyed, requiring far more than simple repairs. This restoration effort has been about more than restoring power and connectivity—it has been about rebuilding a system that serves the communities we all call home. We are deeply grateful for the encouragement, kindness, and cooperation shown during this challenging recovery. Your support fuels our continued commitment and dedication.

Thank you for trusting TVEPA and TVIfiber. We are honored to serve you.



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NOTICE OF WATER RATE INCREASE

Coffeeville Residents:

Due to the increasing cost of maintaining our water infrastructure, a change in water rates for the Town of Coffeeville will take effect on March 1, 2026. This will be reflected in your April bill.

The Board of Alderpersons has delayed taking this action for quite some time. Unlike many municipalities which increase water rates annually, the Town of Coffeeville has not raised rates for water and wastewater in five years.

Unfortunately, the cost to maintain and replace old pipes and pumps, as well as maintaining the treatment pond, have made this a necessary step our town must take to protect our water supply for residents.

In short, if you use less than 1,000 gallons of water each billing cycle, you will see an increase of \$3.50 for water each month. Those customers who use additional water beyond the first 1,000 gallons will now pay \$6.75 per 1,000 gallons (an increase of \$3.50).

As for wastewater, there will be a \$19.50 per month initial sewer charge and a \$6.75 charge per 1,000 gallons of water treated in excess of 1,000 gallons. Both of these amounts reflect an increase of \$3.50.

Any sewer customer outside the town limits of Coffeeville will pay \$20.50 per month for the initial sewer charge and a \$7.50 charge per thousand gallons of water treated in excess of 1,000 gallons. These amounts also reflect an increase of \$3.50.

We look forward to continuing to provide the citizens of Coffeeville with a safe, reliable source of water.

Sincerely,
Mayor and Board of Alderpersons
Coffeeville, Mississippi



It is the **LORD** who goes before you.
He will be with you; he will *Not* leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.
Deuteronomy 31:8 ESV

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YALOBUSHA COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT IS PARTICIPATING IN MISSISSIPPI'S ARBOR DAY WITH

FREE TREES

TO BE GIVEN AWAY

FEBRUARY 19, 2026

STARTING AT 9 A.M.

**114 Front Street
Coffeeville, MS**

Persimmon seedlings will be given away.

**Location:
USDA Service Center
114 Front Street
Coffeeville, MS 38922**

For more information contact the Yalobusha County Soil & Water Conservation District at

662-675-8000 ext. 3