

Can extended family participate?

We encourage families to invite as many extended family members, friends and neighbors as they would like to the service of dedication.

When the time comes for the officiating pastor to pray for the child, he will invite all the extended family and special guests to stand, recognizing the special role they play in the life of that particular child.

For more information please call the church office at 630-232-7068.

*Dedication
Of
Children*



FBCG
Reach, Connect, Equip, Serve

First Baptist Church of Geneva

East Campus: 2300 South Street
West Campus: 3435 Keslinger Rd
Geneva, IL 60134
630-232-7068
www.fbcg.com

Reach, Connect, Equip, Serve

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.”

~Proverbs 22:6~

It is our tradition at FBCG to offer a service of Dedication of Children twice each year during Sunday morning worship typically on Mother’s Day and the Sunday following Thanksgiving. This is a special time set aside to celebrate the gift of children and the promise of parents to raise their children in the training and instruction of the Lord.

A brief informational class is offered the week before the dedication service. To register for the next class call the church office at 630-232-7068.

What is the Dedication of Children?

The tradition of child dedication has its origins in the Bible. The Israelites, on the 8th day of a child’s life brought their children to the priests for a blessing. Hanna brought Samuel to Eli, the priest, to dedicate him to the Lord. (1 Samuel 1) Mary and Joseph brought baby Jesus to the temple for his dedication. (Luke 2)

We recognize that faith comes to a child through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Faith is not passed

“These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”

~Deuteronomy 6:6-7~

on to a child through a dedication service. Parents are, however, promising to raise their children in the training and instruction of the Lord, with the desire that, one day, their child will receive Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

The Dedication of Children, then, is a three-fold covenant:

1. It is a covenant of parents to God as they promise to teach their children to love and honor God.
2. It is a covenant of parents to children, as they promise to love them unconditionally and provide for them.
3. It represents a covenant of the church body to support parents in the task of raising children in the faith.

Is dedication the same as infant baptism or christening?

The dedication of children is different from infant baptism or christening. While these rites are significant in many faith traditions, it is the practice of FBCG to dedicate children.

Infant baptism was developed in the early church history as a means to insure the salvation of infants before they could make

“He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which He commanded our forefathers to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children.”

~Psalm 78:5-6~

a personal decision to trust Christ and become a Christian. We believe that the Bible clearly sees infants as automatically destined for heaven should they die before reaching what is called “the age of accountability.” After his infant child died, King David said, “I will go to him, but he will not return to me.” (2 Samuel 12:23)

Can my child wear a christening gown?

Yes, these are often family heirlooms with a meaningful history in the extended family. Special clothing is appropriate, but not necessary.

Is there an age limit for child dedication?

There is no specific age limit, however dedication is most appropriate for children under the age of about six.

Can my older children participate?

Yes, we encourage families, when possible to make it a family celebration by including their older children in the dedication.