

## *Neighborhood Child Dedications*

Child Dedication at Neighborhood is a joyful recognition that every child is a gift from God. Parents have a responsibility to develop that gift—to mold and shape, to shepherd and nurture this precious life. Dedication is an opportunity for you to publicly commit yourselves before God, family, and friends to raising your child in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

A child dedication ceremony is something that is done for both the parents and the child. It is a public acknowledgment that children belong to the Lord and parents need His help.

Psalm 127:3 states, “Behold, children are a legacy from the Lord; the fruit of the womb is His reward.” A child is a God-given trust. Parents dedicating their children are committing to uphold that trust. Parents will devote themselves to raising their children in accordance with the Bible.

The people of Neighborhood are committed to providing a loving, biblical community that supports and prays for your family. Colossians 3:16 states, “... Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom...”

## *The Parents’ Commitment*

### *Parents testify that:*

- You have personally received Jesus Christ as your Savior and that Jesus is Lord of your life.
- Jesus will be at the center of your home—that the Bible will be honored as the Word of God, read and obeyed.
- By committing your child to the Lord, your desire is that he/she will someday receive Christ as his/her personal Savior.
- You will invest time, energy, devotion, and prayer for your child and help them cultivate a relationship with Christ.
- You need God’s help to be godly parents for your child.

## *Dedication and Baptism*

We believe that baptism is a public declaration of an individual’s decision to follow Christ. Since infants are not capable of making that decision, we reserve baptism for a time when an individual is old enough to understand their decision to accept Christ as their Savior. Faith is not passed on to a child through dedicating a child. Parents are making a commitment to raise their child in the training and instruction of the Lord with the desire that one day their child will accept Christ as their personal Savior and choose to be baptized.

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

### *Is membership at Neighborhood required?*

No, child dedication is open to all parents. If you desire to dedicate your child, please contact the Children’s Ministry office to obtain more information at (530) 221-5683.

### *What is required of the parents during the ceremony?*

The parents stand before those gathered and respond together to the Parents’ Commitment statements above.

### *When are Child Dedication Services?*

We have a special Child Dedication Service once a year on a Saturday close to Mother’s Day.

### *More questions about Child Dedications?*

Visit [neighborhood.cc/kids](http://neighborhood.cc/kids) or email Children’s Ministry Director Diane Lyons, at [dlyons@neighborhood.cc](mailto:dlyons@neighborhood.cc)