

Special Note:

A word to parents who are living together as husband and wife, are not married, and have children from that relationship.

We welcome the opportunity to dedicate your child in a private or family ceremony at the church or in your home. We are not able to dedicate your child in a public ceremony in front of the whole congregation. Why? We believe that your relationship, living together but not married, is not God-honoring.

Page two of this brochure explains the commitment you, as parents, are making as you dedicate your child. Making these commitments while in this type of relationship will be difficult.

In addition, to have the dedication of your child in public is sending the wrong message to others who are observing.

Please talk with Pastor Joel about a time and place for your child's dedication service. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

To dedicate means . . .

“to set apart for God” or “to give to God”

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# Dedication of Children



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**Fairview Missionary Church**

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# Why We Dedicate Our Children

As a child, Jesus was brought by Mary and Joseph to the house of the Lord. This was an act of dedication and recognition that He really belonged to God.

Throughout His ministry, people brought children to Jesus and He placed His hands on each of them, and blessed them.

Christians are to recognize that everything we have belongs to God. The children born to our homes belong to Him as well.

This dedication is not the salvation of the child, but is a public expression of the fact that they belong to Him. This “setting apart” is an act by the parents prayerfully declaring the child belongs to God. The parents are to seek to do everything in their power, as God gives them wisdom, to see that the child grows up to respect and honor God, and to love and serve Jesus Christ.

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The dedication service is more than a ritual. It's a commitment of parents to honor the will and the Word of God. As a part of this dedication, you as parents are asked to:

1. Publicly affirm your personal faith in Christ, and renew your dedication to Him and His Word.
2. Pray daily for God's dedication in your lives and in the lives of your children.
3. Faithfully participate in Sunday church activities with your children.
4. Teach your children the truths of God's Word in your home.
5. Anticipate and seek to lead your children to a personal faith in Christ as soon as they are ready.
6. Recognize that your children belong to God and have been born to experience His love and to serve Him.

If you would like to dedicate your children to God, please complete the enclosed form and return it to the church office.

## TEACHINGS OF SCRIPTURE

### 1. Jesus Christ's Example

*“When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took Him to Jerusalem TO PRESENT HIM TO THE LORD.”*  
Luke 2:22

### 2. Jesus Christ's Teaching

*“People were bringing little children to Jesus to have Him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, He was indignant. He said to them, ‘Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.’ And He took the children in His arms, PUT HIS HANDS ON THEM AND BLESSED THEM.”*  
Mark 10:13-16

### 3. The Example of Hannah and Samuel

*“In bitterness of soul Hannah wept much and prayed to the Lord. And she made a vow, saying, ‘O Lord Almighty, if you will only look upon your servant’s misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I WILL GIVE HIM TO THE LORD ALL THE DAYS OF HIS LIFE...’”*  
I Samuel 1:26-28

*“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,  
and when you lie down,  
and when you get up!”*  
Deuteronomy 6:6, 7

*“Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the raining and instruction of the Lord.”*  
Ephesians 6:4

**Application for the Dedication of Children**

We have read the Dedication of Children pamphlet and desire to present our child to God. We agree to be diligent in fulfilling our high calling as parents.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Father's name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mother's name (please print)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

We prefer dedication in 1st service (9:00) _____ 2nd service (10:30) _____
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**For the Certificate of Dedication**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Child's full name (please print)

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

City and state of birth \_\_\_\_\_

If you know what your child's name means please indicate below. If there is a special reason you named your child this, please indicate that as well.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please provide a photo of your child if you would like.**

FMC relatives: \_\_\_\_\_