

# BABY & CHILD DEDICATIONS



## Our Church Policy

The decision to publicly dedicate a baby or child rests solely with the Senior Pastor. To request a baby or child dedication, you must:

- Be a member in good standing, actively participating in the worship and Christian educational life of the church; **and**
- Be the parent or legal guardian of the baby or child to be dedicated.

## About the Dedication

A baby or child dedication:

1. Is not the same as an infant baptism;
2. Does not guarantee that the child will grow up to follow Christ; and,
3. Does not reflect the faith the child may choose as he or she grows, matures, or reaches adulthood.

The dedication gives parents, grandparents, and guardians an opportunity to publicly offer a baby or child to God (I Samuel 1:27-28; Luke 2:22). The dedication is a commitment on the part of the parents, grandparents, other participating relatives, and the congregation, through positive witness and influence, to raise and encourage the child to grow and one day accept and live for Christ. It is a promise to God that the parent or guardian will do everything within his or her power to raise the child in accordance with the teachings of Jesus Christ prayerfully until, he or she makes his or her own decision to accept and follow Christ. Some of the responsibilities of the parent or guardian include:

- Teaching and training the child in God's Word;
- Demonstrating examples of godliness;
- Disciplining the child according to God's ways; and,
- Praying earnestly for the child.

The members of the congregation who enter covenant with the parents and guardians of the dedicated child are bound by the same commitments.

## **Scheduling the Dedication**

Baby and child dedications are held on the second or fourth Sunday between 9:20 and 9:40 am in the Multi-Purpose Center.

The Church Office schedules all baby and child dedications. The form, "Request for Baby and Child Dedication" may be secured from the Church Office or online: [www.thecentralbaptistchurch.org/resources](http://www.thecentralbaptistchurch.org/resources).

1. Complete and return the request form to the Church Office at least 4 weeks in advance of the desired date for the dedication ceremony.
2. The Church Office schedules an appointment for the requester to meet with the senior pastor to discuss:
  - a. The purpose of the dedication ceremony;
  - b. The scriptural basis of the dedication;
  - c. The family members or other persons who will be involved in the dedication; and,
  - d. The date and time of the dedication.
3. All persons participating in the dedication should arrive at the church promptly at 9:00 a.m. on the scheduled date to meet with the senior pastor and or deacon(s) for a final review and questions.

## **Encouragement for Parents and Guardians**

"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).

1. God's Word challenges us to biblically guide and educate our children and to lay a foundation of knowledge about God. We must do this during the Sunday Worship Service, Church Sunday School, and during the fellowship life of the church.
2. We must recognize that we cannot decide salvation for our children. Everyone must make his or her own decision about a relationship with Christ.
3. "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb, a reward. Like an arrow in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth." (Psalm 127:3-4).
4. In Luke 2:22, the parents of Baby Jesus take Him to the temple "to present Him to the Lord." The Gospel also tells us that little children were brought to Jesus for Him to touch and bless them.