

— News Release —

For Immediate Release
For News and/or Community and/or Religion Editor(s)

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10 Ideas for America's Churches on "Children's Day"

• Christian Educator Marlene LeFever Shares List

Batavia, Ill., May 21, 2007 (*The Religion Wire™*) —

The American church has played a vital role in the birth of both Mother's Day and Father's Day. So it should be of no surprise that the revival of "**Children's Day**" on the *second Sunday in June (this year June 10, 2007)* also looks to the church for energy.

Children's Day



Second Sunday in June

The website, www.nationalchildrensday.us, and its mirror www.childrensday.us, are offering **10 ideas for the American church** to use on "**Children's Day**" as compiled by **Marlene LeFever**, vice president education development, Cook Communications Ministries, Colorado Springs, Colo.; and the author of *Learning Styles: Reaching Everyone God Gave You to Teach* (September 2003, David C. Cook Distribution) as follows:

1. Put the names of all the children in the Sunday school into offering plates. Make sure names are upside down. Pass the plates and ask adults who are willing to pray for a child to pull out a name. They are to find the child every Sunday and say hello. They are to pray weekly for their child.
2. A small church idea: Ask the pastor to write each child a personal letter telling him or her how important the child is to the church. He could include a prayer for the child.
3. Have a testimony time where people in the congregation tell about things they did for Jesus when they were a child or decisions they made. All the children should be in the church to hear these "children's" testimonies from adults.
4. Encourage missionaries that your church supports to send messages directly to the children and write about the children's ministries and needs in their country. Give each child in the church \$5 and tell them they are to use the money to make more money for one of the children's needs the missionaries spoke of.

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5. Have bumper stickers made up: "The children of First Church are amazing." "We celebrate our kids at First Church."
6. Take out an ad in your local paper and have the pastor write a message directly to the children of the church.
7. Plan a missional trip in your community where children serve others in a significant way—not because the people they serve will one day come to their church, but because what they are doing is what Jesus would do. Make this a *Children's Day* activity where parents and children serve together.
8. Using chalk get adults to paint the sidewalk to the church with kids names and welcomes.
9. In honor of the church's children, ask adults to donate one new children's book to the church library. Hand out a list of new books and encourage kids to check them out immediately.
10. Make a video tape of the church's children sharing why they like the church and what they are learning there. Encourage them to think of ways they are a better disciple this year than last year. Play the video as the morning's sermon.

The "***Children's Day***" website is also challenging parents, individuals, churches/houses of worship, schools/places of education, government/community and businesses to sign commitment cards directed at affirming America's children. They pledge to "commit myself(ourself), in the coming year, to love, cherish, nurture(physical, mental, emotional, & spiritual needs), and affirm..." They can also make a commitment beyond America to the world's children.

"***Children's Day***" observations in the United States predate both Mother's and Father's Day. This day dates from the 1880s and earlier. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in 1883 designated the "the second Sabbath in June as *Children's Day*." Last year, the Illinois House passed a resolution proclaiming the day. The *Chicago Tribune* also ran an article.