

— News Release —

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

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Presbyterians Set to Reaffirm “Children’s Day”

• Historic day in June could unite denomination

Batavia, Ill., March 28, 2008 (*The Religion Wire™*) —

With the help of an Illinois Presbyterian church and its local presbytery, a major Protestant denomination is getting set to reaffirm its support of “**Children’s Day**” on the *second Sunday in June*.

Children’s Day



Second Sunday in June

Last fall, First Presbyterian Church of Aurora, Ill., proposed a “**Children’s Day**” overture to the Blackhawk Presbytery which affirmed the overture at its January 2008 meeting and has sent it for consideration to the 218th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA), to be held June 21-28 in San Jose, Calif.

John Ross, an elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and an advocate for a national **Children’s Day** with the website nationalchildrensday.us, notes “I’m so happy for the support of my home church – the session and my pastor, and now the local Blackhawk Presbytery. I’m hopeful that this overture will pass the General Assembly and reaffirm the historic 1883 support of the Presbyterian Church for **Children’s Day** on the *second Sunday in June*. I believe children can be unifier for our denomination.” (a copy of overture is available at http://pdf.gospel-net.com/overture_childrens_day_2008_rev.pdf)

Add one — **Presbyterians Set to Reaffirm “*Children’s Day*”**

Children’s Day observations in the United States predate both Mother’s and Father’s Day. This day dates from the 1860s and earlier. The Methodist Episcopal Church at the Methodist Conference of 1868 recommended that second Sunday in June be annually observed as ***Children’s Day***.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in 1883 designated the “the second Sabbath in June as *Children’s Day*.” The spring/summer 2005 issue of *The Journal of Presbyterian History* highlighted ***Children’s Day*** in the Presbyterian Church.

In 2007, Illinois Governor Rod R. Blagojevich issued a proclamation proclaiming the second Sunday in June as ***Children’s Day***. The mayors of Aurora and Batavia, Illinois, also issued proclamations.

Chase’s Calendar of Events cites Children’s Sunday and notes that The Commonwealth of Massachusetts issues an annual proclamation for the second Sunday in June.

Numerous churches and denominations currently observe the second Sunday in June including the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the Church of the Nazarene.