

Nation Prepares for "Children's Day" on Sunday

Newtown, Conn. Plans Special Event

Immediate Release

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Communities, individuals, and churches are preparing for the coming this Sunday, June 9, of "Children's Day."

Newtown, Conn. has big plans for this Saturday and Sunday. According to the The Newtown Bee, a Saturday pre-Children's Day event "will include Peter Yarrow (of Peter, Paul and Mary), poet Martin Espada, singer Vaneese Thomas, The Old Town Hall Band (members of Flagpole Radio Cafe), and many special guests. The event will stream live from Newtown Congregational Church from 9 pm until just past midnight, celebrating Newtown's commitment to fulfilling The Sandy Hook Promise.

"Church bells at Trinity Episcopal Church, St Rose of Lima, and Newtown Congregational Church will ring at midnight as hundreds of voices young and old join in the iconic anthem 'If I Had A Hammer.'

"The National Cathedral, Grace Cathedral, and other places of worship are ringing in support during that weekend.

"The event will extend into the first minutes of Children's Day on June 9, a traditional date for this holiday in many communities. It will emphasize all the simple ways in which transformative change is possible right now in every town and city."

Children's Day observations in the United States predate both Mother's and Father's Day. The day to celebrate children dates from the 1860s and earlier. The Methodist Episcopal Church at the Methodist Conference of 1868 recommended that the second Sunday in June be observed annually as Children's Day. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in 1883 designated the "the second Sabbath in June as Children's Day."

Numerous churches and denominations currently observe the second Sunday in June including the African Methodist Episcopal Church, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, and the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

The Children's Day website, <u>www.nationalchildrensday.us</u>, offers helps and also challenges parents, individuals, churches/houses of worship, schools/places of education, government/community and businesses to sign commitment cards directed at affirming America's children.

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Mission Statement of NationalChildrensDay.us: Promoting Children's Day in the United States.



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