



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

“A Father’s Love”

Well June is upon us, wow where did the year go? June the summer vacation starts, and before you know it summer will be history. For June reminds me of many days of summer bliss, fishing, cutting grass, making garden.

It is also the month that father was born. So, there are many reminders for me. Father’s Day, I know it really is not a holiday within the biblical context but gives to us a day to celebrate our father’s but also to honor of Heavenly Father. I often read the account of the Prodigal Son.

Text: “And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him” (Luke 15:20). So let me share just some thoughts about Father.

What is Father’s Day?

In 1909, Mrs. John B. Dodd wanted a special day to honor her father William Smart. Mr. Smart became a widower when his wife died giving birth to their sixth child. He was left to raise six children by himself. The family lived on a farm in the State of Washington.

Years later, Mrs. Dodd, who was one of the six children, realized the difficult job her father had raising six children. She knew her father was a very special man. He was a man willing to give everything he had for his family. He was a man full of love, the kind of love Jesus talked about. Mr. Smart had a sacrificial love. He was a man of God. His strength and his energy came from his Maker.

The reality of Father’s Day came about on June 19, 1910, in Spokane, Washington. The idea soon caught on in other parts of the country. Calvin Coolidge liked the idea and supported National Father’s Day. It wasn’t until 1966 that President Johnson signed the proclamation declaring the 3rd Sunday of June as Father’s Day.

Here is a cute illustration. This was an advertisement in a magazine for Father’s Day.

“**F**” is for your favorite occupation (A man is pictured asleep in a chair).

“**A**” is for the anniversaries you blew (mother is shown waiting in vain for father to come home for their anniversary dinner).

“**T**” is for talk and your sparkling conversation (dad is depicted as reading a newspaper while the children and wife are talking to him).

“**H**” is for the helpful things that you do (dad is shown poking a ladder through a window).

“**E**” is for each time you were forgetful (this shows father leaving the pregnant mother standing at the front of the house while he dashes off to the hospital).

“**R**” is for the recitals that you attended (father is shown as being literally dragged to his child’s piano recital).

The ad concludes by saying: He may not be a perfect father, but he does deserve a perfect gift. Give him an arrow shirt for Father's Day. I like the Parable of the Lost Son. I have preached this Scripture more than once, but every time I read it, I find a different message.

I can see three different father images presented. I see:

A giving father.

Jesus said, *"There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So, he divided his property between them" (Luke 15:11 &12). Our heavenly Father is a giving father. "...he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).*

A patient father.

My Father was a patient father probably one of the most patient persons I ever met. How many of you had a patient father? When my dad had to stop at the railroad crossing and wait for the train to go by, he never moaned and complained about the 100 cars being pulled by the engine. He passed the time by counting the railway cars.

He never said anything to or about the person in front of him in the check-out line who decided he or she forgot an item and had to go get it off the shelf, thus holding up the rest of the line of customers. (Something that I did not inherit from him.)

As a father, I do not have the patience of my father. I certainly do not have the patience of Job. I do admit that I fall short in this category. Patience is not one of my greatest virtues, but with much prayer and God's help, I believe I can get better. I don't mind writing and rewriting because I like my finished product to be near perfect. I don't mind doing a chore or task over several times because I want to be proud of what I have done when I have finished.

As a father, I learned that sometimes one must let children learn the hard way. Jesus said, *"Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living" (v. 13).* The father did not question the son. He was patient and he was willing to let the son learn a lesson in life. This father knew, as most fathers know, young people have the idea they know more than dad knows.

My Father was a forgiving father.

I was a normal child who did the things that normal children do. I was not disrespectful to my father, but I was not a perfect little angel. I am sure I did some things that bothered my dad, but he was always forgiving.

Scripture says, *"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him" (v. 20).*

When the son returned, he did not expect the kind of reception his father gave him. Instead of being treated like one of the hired hands, his father treated him like royalty. His father gave him the best robe, ring, sandals, a feast, and a celebration. The father forgave the son for all he had done. He was happy that the son had returned home. This kind of love the father has for each of us. If there is forgiveness, there is hope. This Father's Day is you can talk with your father, tell him how much that you love him, but also talk with your heavenly Father and express your love for him.

Side Doors to Heaven

The old Model T Ford didn't have a left front door, but it looked like it did. You could not get in to that car by a door that wasn't there. Just so, a lot of people try and get into heaven by side doors that aren't there. What are some of those side doors?

Some people try to enter by the goodness of their Ancestry. In Matthew 3:9 we read of those who thought it sufficient to be one of Abraham's children. Talk to some people of their need of salvation and they will immediately talk of their godly mother, or a dedicated grandfather, or some other good person in their background. We can't be saved by the goodness of someone else. Jesus told Nicodemus he must be born again.



Some try to enter by the side door of Morality. Living a good moral life is admirable, but that alone is not a passport into Heaven. In Mark 10:17-22 we read of the rich young ruler who seemed to have lived a good moral life, but Jesus gave him a failing grade, and he walked away from Jesus and the Kingdom of God.

Others try to enter by the side door of Charity. The world has always had a number of very wealthy philanthropists who do a lot of good with their assets. But you will find, if you try and get in by this side door, that Jesus wants more than your money. He wants our life and heart and love.

Still others try to get into heaven by the side door of Popularity. Winning an election or hitting more home runs than anybody else may give you some earthly esteem, but that will not open for you a side door to Heaven.

But there is a front door to heaven and all are invited to come in. In John 14:6 Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but by me." He also said in John 10:7, "I am the door." And in John 10:1 He said, "He that enters not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and robber." Jesus Christ is the only door by which we can enter Heaven.

No, you could not get into the old Model T through a left front door that wasn't there. And you cannot get into Heaven by any number of imagined side doors, either. So, stop looking for side doors. Please use the front door only. Thank God for the open door of divine invitation and blessing.

Jim Myer – CBC Executive Board



Saturday, June 10



Saturday, August 12



Saturday, October 14

Each of the festivals are from 4-7 PM and include hot sandwiches and delicious homemade desserts and Ice Cream. So mark your calendar and come help out as a volunteer or come and share in the good food.

We do provide take out orders.

Cooking With Pastor Don

Scrum-Delicious Burgers

Ingredients:

1-1/2 pounds ground beef
 3 tablespoons finely chopped onion
 1/2 teaspoon garlic salt
 1/2 teaspoon pepper
 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
 1/3 cup canned sliced mushrooms
 6 bacon strips, cooked and crumbled
 1/4 cup mayonnaise
 6 hamburger buns, split
 Lettuce leaves and tomato slices, optional

Directions:

1. In a large bowl, combine the beef, onion, garlic salt and pepper. Shape into 6 patties, 3/4 in. thick.
2. In a small bowl, combine the cheese, mushrooms, bacon and mayonnaise; chill.



The Youth and their leaders spent a rainy Saturday afternoon at Sight & Sound Theatre in Lancaster, PA. They went to see the production of Moses and finished the day off at wonderful eating place.



Remember to keep your relationship with Christ at the forefront of your summer activities by staying daily in God's word and being faithful in your giving.

DVD Library

We now have a DVD library for kids of all ages downstairs in the Sunday School hallway. We have many "Feature Films for Families" movies, faith-based films, and some for youth. There is no sign out. We just ask that you bring the DVDs back when you're finished with them. For more information, see Kim Bowser.



Nancy and family would like to thank the church family so very much for your prayers, cards, love, and support during the passing of Shelby. Words cannot adequately express how much it was appreciated. ~~ Family of Shelby Bennett

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECT:

The youth group is participating in Habitat for Humanity's "Rock the Block" workday on Saturday, June 10. Times are TBD but will be in the morning. If you would like to help in this special project, please sign up in the vestibule. Any questions, see Jake Rupp.



SPRING fling

On April 30, we had a Spring Fling for all the Youth Group and Pioneer Club.

There was food, balloon art, snow cones, crafts , face painting, bounce house, inflatable games, and just a whole lot of afternoon fun.



Do You Want To Help With A Disaster Response?



The Covenant Brethren Church has taken another step in our partnership with Samaritan's Purse to aid in responding to disasters. The Executive Board has named Brenda Harvey and Mark Teets as our new national disaster coordinators. This means that in the future, when you have questions about what disaster response opportunities are available and where, you can contact one of these two to get that information. Mark has been on previous disaster deployments with Samaritan's Purse. He can answer questions about how things work

when you are on deployment. Brenda can help schedule your team with Samaritan's Purse, coordinate with other teams that may be coming from other churches, help get you registered and notify you of upcoming opportunities. You can participate in different ways. You may go alone and be paired up with a team when you arrive. Alternatively, you can travel as a complete team from your church, or with other small groups from other churches. At the job sites, Samaritan's Purse normally likes groups of ten or more. If your group is under that number you may have other individuals paired with you. Mark and Brenda will be the ones able to streamline your participation with Samaritan's Purse and make it a low stress activity. You will receive the blessing of sharing the Gospel through service and interaction with the families you serve without the stress of all the logistical planning. This will work for a youth group as well as adults. These will all be domestic trips at this point, but the opportunities abound and the blessings are great. To contact Brenda Harvey, you can email her at brendaharvey@gmail.com or call her at 301-616-1367. To reach Mark, you can email him at mteets@snoweycreekdorset.com or call 304-698- 7197. Whether you have one person or a dozen people in your church who want to serve on a disaster response team, give Brenda or Mark a call, or drop them an email and let them help your dream become a reality. There are many ways to serve other than running a chainsaw or swinging a hammer. They need people to sweep, pull nails, answer phones, serve as chaplains (once trained), and even people to do laundry. There is a job for you, just call. Craig Howard – CBC Publications Committee



Center Hill Covenant Brethren Church
2039 Freeport Road
Kittanning, PA 16201
centerhillchurchpa@gmail.com
centerhillchurchpa.org

