

To the Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial:

THE SURPRISING HISTORY OF FATHER'S DAY

"Father's Day" is June 23rd. Every year, we set aside the 3rd Sunday in June to celebrate fatherhood. And honor our dads with barbecues, picnics, cards, and gifts. *But the surprising truth is, Father's Day has only been officially recognized in the U. S. since 1972, 52 years after Mother's Day became a holiday.* The story of Father's Day is, in fact, one of a nearly century-long struggle to recognize dads' contributions, efforts often of daughters who loved them and worked to make the holiday what we have today.

Historical Roots

Just as mothers have been celebrated throughout the centuries, fathers have been honored by various cultures in the past. In Medieval Europe, the feast day of St. Joseph was celebrated to honor fathers in general, while Mothering Day was set aside to honor mothers. The earliest example of a Father's Day observance was nearly 4000 years ago, on an ancient Babylonian stone tablet signed by a dutiful son named Elmesu, wishing his father health and longevity. We can imagine that this tablet functioned much like the greeting cards we give our own dads each year.

Father's Day Failures

It's difficult to pin down the first time Father's Day was celebrated in the modern U. S., because so many people tried, and failed, to start this holiday. The first recorded observance was on July 5, 1908, in Fairmont, West Virginia, by Grace Golden Clayton, who held a party at her church to honor all fathers, perhaps inspired by the loss of her own father and others who were lost in a mining tragedy. However, the tradition didn't catch on, and was not celebrated beyond the town of Fairmont. In 1911, reformer Jane Addams suggested that a day be set aside to honor fathers in her hometown of Chicago, but it was turned down by city officials. Others, including J. J. Berringer and Harry C. Meeks, also tried and failed to begin a national Father's Day tradition.

The Origins of Modern Father's Day

Another attempt was made in 1910, in Spokane, Washington, when Sonora Smart Dodd held a Father's Day celebration inspired by Mother's Day and by her own father. This event did catch on and spread to pastors throughout Spokane and beyond, each preaching on the

3rd Sunday of June on the subject of fatherhood. Even Presidents Woodrow Wilson and Calvin Coolidge visited Spokane and encouraged the celebration of Father's Day. Ms. Dodd stopped promoting the holiday during the 1920's while away at school, but began again just in time for the Great Depression. This time, however, manufacturers and retailers joined in the campaign to encourage the celebration of Father's Day, mainly hoping to boost sales with dad-themed merchandise to be used as giftware.

Dad's Day Doubters

Perhaps because of these commercial ties, many Americans initially resisted the push for a national Father's Day holiday, thinking it too commercialized. Skeptics, especially in Congress, had been against the holiday since Dodd's first events in Spokane and opposed the attempts to recognize it at a federal level, even offering a "Parents' Day" as an alternative, replacing both Mother's day and Father's Day. For decades after, Congress fought attempts to make it a national holiday, but it finally gained popular support after WWII, when it was reframed as a masculine holiday to recognize fathers who were often veterans.

And Finally, Federal Recognition

By 1956, the U. S. Congress finally recognized Father's Day. Still, it took another decade until President Lyndon Johnson officially proclaimed the 3rd Sunday in June to be a national holiday, and another 6 years for Nixon to permanently establish it as a holiday. In spite of the years of struggle, this meant a happy ending at last for Father's Day supporters. Best of all, Sonora Dodd herself lived long enough to see it happen, dying in 1978 at the age of 96.

Father's Day Today

Now, Father's Day is celebrated around the world, with over 70 countries choosing the 3rd Sunday of June to commemorate dads. Recent polls suggest that nearly three-quarters of Americans celebrate it, honoring fathers and father figures alike. Popular gifts include electronics, sporting gear, and clothes. But the most common gift for Father's day? Like in ancient Babylon, it's still the greeting card, proving that some things never change!

*Source: "THE SURPRISING HISTORY OF FATHER'S DAY",
by author Emily Basil.*

To share an article, email it to: office@gregorymemorial.org

WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR JUNE, 2024

Sunday, 2 June, 2024

Holy Communion

“2nd Sunday after Pentecost” – Liturgical Color: Green
 Guest Preacher: Rev. Nancy S. Clark

Sunday, 9 June, 2024

“3rd Sunday after Pentecost” – Liturgical Color: Green
 Guest Preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel

Sunday, 16 June, 2024

“Father’s Day”

“4th Sunday after Pentecost” – Liturgical Color: Green
 Guest Preacher: Rev. Nancy S. Clark

Sunday, 23 June, 2024

‘Sunday in the Park’

“5th Sunday after Pentecost” – Liturgical Color: Green
 Guest Preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel

Sunday, 30 June, 2024

“6th Sunday after Pentecost” – Liturgical Color: Green
 Guest Preacher: *TBA*



OUR PRAYER IN TIMES OF JOY AND CONCERN...One of our great joys and responsibilities to each other and to God here at Gregory Memorial is the regular practice of praying for each other and our community.

First-responders, world-wide Our deployed U.S. service personnel & their families Families, persons, communities affected by weather disasters & gun violence Those affected by wars in Ukraine & in Gaza People & Sovereign Country of Ukraine; Russian citizens conscripted into war Those in our community suffering from illness/loss/grief/hardship Amy Townson, Josh Ingram’s sister Becky Scott Smith Russell Heiser, Ingrid Phoenix’s grandson (health issues) Butch Meade, Glenda Mayhew’s brother Verne & Clara Smith Eddie Frankenstein Etta Holc Jerry & Ruby Hasky (health issues) Lee Harsh, Valerie Harsh's brother-in-law (health issue) Larry Brown of Chesterfield, Larry Johnson's friend (health issue) Billy Hudson, friend of Dianna L. Flaherty, Mary Lykins' daughter Emily Henry, Mary Holc’s sister (health issue) Renee' Renier, Diana Flaherty's long-time friend (health issue)	Charlie Perkins (health issue) Paula McDaniel, Pam Elder's sister (health issue) Grace Cibula (recovering at home; health issues) Moneka Suprenant, Susan Shockley’s & Sandy Eickmeyer’s friend (brain injury) John Carl Allen (recovering, orthopedic surgery) Mary Kay & Mike Schroeter (health issues) Dr. Joseph Hillier of Matoaca, Lykins family friend (health issue) Alex Courtney of Florence, SC, business associate of Dianna L. Flaherty, Mary Lykins' daughter (injured, vehicle accident) Peggy & Dennis Allen (health issues; Peggy: Petersburg Home for Ladies, Rm #18) Corey Whelan, Pat Hunter’s grandson (on-going health issue) Judy Recher (health issue) Shirley MacNeill (health issues; recovering at home) Valerie Harsh, living in Staunton, VA (health issue) Sean Godwin, grandson of Bill & Cheryl Godwin (health issue: MCV-Massey) Valerie Harsh, living in Staunton, VA (health issue) Marty Mann, brother-in-law of Donald Hunter & Pat Hunter (health issues)
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

**LAST DAY TO SUBMIT CHRISTINE BELSCHES
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS
FOR FALL 2024 SEMESTER – MAY 31ST**

The Church office will be closed to business on Tuesday, June 4 through Thursday, June 6, in secretary's absence; however, communication will be handled via Call-forwarding and email.

**"SUNDAY IN THE PARK" - WORSHIP AT SCOTT PARK
[6680 Courthouse Road, Prince George, VA]**

Don't miss our annual worship service at Scott Park on Sunday, June 23rd. ***There will be no Sunday School.*** Guest Preacher Rev. Marvin Daniel will lead the worship service under the Pavilion beginning at 11 a.m., with a covered-dish picnic lunch to follow.

The Church will provide fried chicken and beverage; congregation will provide sides and desserts. Dress comfortably for rustic seating around picnic tables. ***Plan to join us for great fellowship at Scott Park on the 23rd!***



We wish everyone a great summer and as always thank you for all of your support!

HOLY COMMUNION SCHEDULE FOR 2024

March 4, 2024 April 7, 2024	June 2, 2024 August 4, 2024	October 6, 2024 December 1, 2024
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ANNOUNCERS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

June 2 Patsy Johnson	June 9 Sandy Hunter	June 16 Larry Johnson	June 23 Susan Shockley	June 30 Rose Scott
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HOLY HUMOR

A group of professional people posed this question to a group of 4 to 8 year-olds, 'What does love mean?' The answers they got were broader, deeper, and more profound than anyone could have ever imagined!

'When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore... So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love.'

Rebecca - age 8

'When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth.'

Billy - age 4

'Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne, then they go out and smell each other.'

Karl- age 5

'Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs.'

Chrissy - age 6

'Love is what makes you smile when you're tired.'

Terri - age 4

'Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK.'

Danny - age 8

'Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and just listen.'

Bobby - age 7 (Wow!)

'If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate.'

Nikka - age 6 (*we need a few million more Nikka's on this planet*)

'Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it every day.'

Noelle - age 7

'Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well.'

Tommy - age 6

'During my piano recital, I was on a stage and I was scared. I looked at all the people watching me and saw my daddy waving and smiling. He was the only one doing that. I wasn't scared anymore.'

Cindy - age 8

'My mommy loves me more than anybody. You don't see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night.'

Clare - age 6

'Love is when Mommy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken.'

Elaine - age 5

'Love is when Mommy sees Daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Robert Redford.'

Chris - age 7

'Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day.'

Mary Ann - age 4

'I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones.'

Lauren - age 4

'When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you.'

Karen - age 7 (what an image!)

'You really shouldn't say 'I love you' unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget.'

Jessica - age 8

The Winner was a 4-year-old child whose next door neighbor was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man sitting on his porch crying, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his mother asked what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy said, '*Nothing, I just helped him cry.*'



Special "thanks" to our contributor,
Larry Johnson.

JUNE 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>No June meetings for: Circle and Session</p> <p>No Sunday School 6/23</p>						1
<p>2</p> <p>9:30a Sunday Sch.</p> <p>11a Worship serv. & Holy Communion</p> <p>Guest preacher: Rev. Nancy S. Clark</p>	<p>3</p> <p>1p Worship Cmte</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Church office closed</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Church office closed</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Church office closed</p> <p>6a Clean church</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9:30a Sunday Sch.</p> <p>11a Worship serv.</p> <p>Guest preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6p BSA Crater Dist. Order of Arrow (Fellowship Hall, multiple rooms)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7p Finance Cmte</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6a Clean church</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10a Faith Cmte meets at S. Hunter's; drivers to deliver meals to church Shut-Ins</p>
<p>16 "Father's Day"</p> <p>9:30a Sunday Sch.</p> <p>11a Worship serv.</p> <p>Guest preacher: Rev. Nancy S. Clark</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6p BSA Tr900 (Fellowship Hall, multiple rooms)</p>	<p>19 JUNETEENTH</p>	<p>20 1st day of Summer</p> <p>6a Clean church</p> <p>2p News articles due in office</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 "Sunday in the Park" Scott Park Pavilion</p> <p>11a Worship serv.</p> <p>➤ <i>5 Cents-a- Meal Offering</i></p> <p>Guest preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel</p> <p>12p Covered Dish Picnic Lunch</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6a Clean church</p> <p>2p Newsletter out</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>9:30a Sunday Sch.</p> <p>11a Worship serv.</p> <p>➤ Local Emergency Aid Offering</p> <p>Guest preacher: TBA</p> <p>2p Cmte reports Due</p>						

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Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church
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Prince George, VA 23875-0182

STAMP

JUNE 2024 NEWSLETTER



Hello, Summer!



COME AND JOIN US!
Sunday School 9:30 A.M.
Worship 11:00 A.M.

We're on: [Facebook.com/gmpcva](https://www.facebook.com/gmpcva)