



Uniondale United Methodist Church Messenger

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June

Birthdays and Anniversaries

2nd – Brent & Paula McAfee

4th – Madison Herstad

6th – Keeghan Shuman

7th – Larry & Elaine McAfee

9th – Abigail Swineford

13th – Kasetyn Shuman

16th – Connie Hix

17th – Bryan & Natalie Swineford

18th – Larry McAfee

19th – Kent Herstad

21st – Kamdyn Shuman

22nd – Tonia Evans

30th – Cory Elzey

Upcoming June and July Events

Sunday, June 1st – Board Meeting after Church

Friday, June 6th – Queen Bees Craft Night UUMC

Sunday, June 15th – Father's Day Recognition

Sunday, July 6th - Communion

Saturday, July 12th – Family Retreat at Quabache Park

Sunday, July 20 – Church at Elzey's pond

Weekly Stewardship Prayers

June 1 – That we may learn the difference between what we want and what we need, trusting that God will provide all that we need.

June 8 – That we may give praise and glory to Jesus with our time, our talent and our treasure.

June 15 – That we may joyfully use the gifts God has given us to help spread the message of the Risen Christ to all those who need to know our Savior's love and grace.

June 22 – That we may have the zeal, dedication and love of the first Christians who shared generously and worked diligently to spread the Gospel message.

June 29 – That we may live a life of gratitude, recognizing that God is providing all that we need.

July 6 – That we learn to put other's needs before our own and help our neighbor "carry his cross".

A Devotional by Amy Cornwell (Submitted by Amanda Drayer)

"God uses broken things. It takes broken soil to produce a crop, broken clouds to give rain, broken grain to give bread, broken bread to give strength. It is the broken alabaster box that gives forth perfume. It is Peter, weeping bitterly, who returns to greater power than ever." - Vance Havner

I will never forget that day as I long as I live.

I was 21, filled with shame and regret for a year spent forgetting God and living for myself. I was at a camp meeting and the words in the sermon hit me so deeply I felt as if someone was hitting me in the chest. I escaped to the bathroom to drown out the blows.

That's when a young pastor's wife named Katrina ventured in.

"Amy," She said, lovingly, "I want to encourage you today. So many of our young people look up to you."

Her words were like salt in a wound.

"Katrina," I said with a deep sigh, "You don't even know. I am the worst sinner you can imagine." Something prompted me to then confess my sins to her. I told her how broken I felt; how I knew my sin would keep me from ever living a good life and definitely ever being used by God.

Standing there, vulnerable and exposed, Katrina said the most beautiful thing I've ever heard.

"Amy, those are lies of the enemy. If Jesus' blood does not cover everything, it covers nothing. God is going to use those hurt and broken places to one day minister to others who are hurt and broken. One day, you will be standing in a women's restroom sharing the grace of Jesus Christ with someone who needs to hear."

That day, the grace of Jesus Christ became real to me.

Years later, I was studying for the bar exam in Bloomington, Indiana. After lunch, I ventured downstairs to wash my hands before returning to the library. At the sink next to me stood my good friend, Ebony. She was wearing an engagement ring I had never seen before.

"Ebony!" I said, excited. "Did you get engaged over the weekend and not tell me?!"

Ebony dropped her shoulders and began to sob.

"Amy, I'm pregnant. I'm so scared. I actually got married last weekend. I'm so afraid that because of what I have done, God will curse my marriage or curse me. I know I can never be used by God."

Shaking my head violently, I looked her in the eyes: "Ebony, those are LIES of the enemy. If Jesus' blood does not cover everything, it covers nothing. God's blessings have nothing to do with what we've done or not done, and everything to do with what Jesus did on the cross. God is going to use this hurt to one day minister to others who are hurting. Watch how God is going to redeem and restore you!"

Never ever let the enemy tell you that you are too broken to be used of God -- those are the only people God uses! Watch how God will take your wounds in life and turn them into your areas of deepest ministry.

"The sacrifice you want is a broken spirit. A broken and repentant heart, O God, you will not despise (Psalm 51:17)."

"And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone." 1 Thessalonians 5:14 (NIV)

The first day of class, the exercise leader replaced the lighter weights I'd chosen with heavier ones. I tried to hide my skepticism as he said, "You're stronger than you think!" I shook my head in disbelief as he moved on to assess the next participant. No, I thought. I'm weaker than you think!

It had been a few years since I'd been in an exercise class, and my confidence level was low. Never an athlete, I couldn't even do one push-up. And my legs felt like rubber bands after the first set of "warm-ups." I'd signed up for the early morning class out of determination to do things differently. It wasn't at all where I wanted to be at 5:30 a.m. two mornings a week, but earlier in the year, God challenged me to break out of my comfort zone.

As I struggled to lift the heavier weights, I decided to glance at the women next to me. Normally when exercising I keep my head down and just try to survive. But that day I looked closer at my classmates. Some were older and spoke of grandchildren. Some looked like they were struggling too. I overheard one say she'd had a knee replacement.

Hmmm ... if they can do this, certainly I can, too. Maybe I could try another class or two before quitting.

The next class we all showed up, finding connection points over sore muscles. We laughed as we struggled to get off the mat. One said how hard it had been to walk up the stairs. I agreed. Maybe I wasn't the only one feeling weak. Somehow the idea encouraged me.

Each morning, the thought of those other ladies showing up and rubbing sleep from their eyes motivated me to lace on my tennis shoes and head to the gym. Little by little, I felt more comfortable admitting my weakness, even laughing about it. In one particularly hard class, as I was the last one struggling to finish sit-ups, I heard a voice from my left, "You go, girl!" Something bold rose up in me at those words, and I thought, I can do this! Determination surged through me as I finished the last few sit-ups to the counts of my classmates. My positive attitude surprised me. Where did that come from? Although I was getting stronger physically, that wasn't the only area gaining strength. The encouragement from my classmates was making me stronger mentally, too.

The first class, I wanted to keep to myself and hide my pain. But as the weeks progressed, the more I shared my struggles, the more others could speak into them. Their words encouraged me. Their presence reassured me I wasn't alone. Once again, God was teaching me how good it is to let others know I'm not perfect. This has been a problem for me all my life. I'd much rather be the one obeying our key verse from 1 Thessalonians 5:14: "And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone." I like being the one who warns, encourages and helps. I'm not so good at being patient, but otherwise I'm pretty good at obeying this verse. But for God's plan to be fully realized in the church at Thessalonica and in our lives today, at some point we need to be on the receiving end of this verse. This is the beauty of the body of Christ. God designed a loving check-and-balance system to deepen our faith and relationships. But in order for it to work, we have to accept being warned, encouraged and helped — allowing others to see our frailties. Unfortunately, there's a fierce and faulty independent streak in my thinking that fights being on the receiving end of help. My default approach is to hide my weaknesses, fears and insecurities, which opens a crack for unhealthy pride to sneak in. And yet what freedom there is in simply admitting: I can be a mess at times. When I acknowledge that, others can pray for me. They can encourage me. It's a double blessing of God's strength and that of others. God needs me to learn this truth. Admitting I need help breaks down my pride. It humbles me, which softens God's heart toward me. And it allows others to be obedient in caring for me. So, am I stronger than I think I am? Apparently so. But the best way to discover my strength is to admit my weakness.

Heavenly Father, thank You for bringing friends into my life who help me grow stronger. Forgive me for the sinful pride that has kept others from getting too close. Help me to understand it doesn't make me weaker to admit my weaknesses. In fact, it opens me to get stronger. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

How did Father's Day get it's start?



Father's Day was inaugurated in the United States in the early 20th century to complement Mother's Day in celebrating fatherhood and male parenting.

After the success obtained by Anna Jarvis with the promotion of Mother's Day in the US, some wanted to create similar holidays for other family members, and Father's Day was the choice most likely to succeed. There were other persons in the US who independently thought of "Father's Day", but the credit for the modern holiday is often given to Sonora Dodd, who was the driving force behind its establishment.

Father's Day was founded in Spokane, Washington at the YMCA in 1910 by Sonora Smart Dodd, who was born in Arkansas. Its first celebration was in the Spokane YMCA on June 19, 1910. Her father, the Civil War veteran William Jackson Smart, was a single parent who raised his six children there. After hearing a sermon about Jarvis' Mother's Day in 1909, she told her pastor that fathers should have a similar holiday honoring them. Although she initially suggested June 5, her father's birthday, the pastors did not have enough time to prepare their sermons, and the celebration was deferred to the third Sunday of June.

It did not have much success initially. In the 1920s, Dodd stopped promoting the celebration because she was studying in the Art Institute of Chicago, and it faded into relative obscurity, even in Spokane. In the 1930s Dodd returned to Spokane and started promoting the celebration again, raising awareness at a national level. She had the help of those trade groups that would benefit most from the holiday, for example the manufacturers of ties, tobacco pipes, and any traditional present to fathers. Since 1938 she had the help of the Father's Day Council, founded by the New York Associated Men's Wear Retailers to consolidate and systematize the commercial promotion. Americans resisted the holiday during a few decades, perceiving it as just an attempt by merchants to replicate the commercial success of Mother's Day, and newspapers frequently featured cynical and sarcastic attacks and jokes. But the trade groups did not give up: they kept promoting it and even incorporated the jokes into their adverts, and they eventually succeeded. By the mid-1980s the Father's Council wrote that "Father's Day has become a Second Christmas for all the men's gift-oriented industries."

A bill to accord national recognition of the holiday was introduced in Congress in 1913. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson went to Spokane to speak in a Father's Day celebration and wanted to make it official, but Congress resisted, fearing that it would become commercialized. US President Calvin Coolidge recommended in 1924 that the day be observed by the nation, but stopped short of issuing a national proclamation. Two earlier attempts to formally recognize the holiday had been defeated by Congress. In 1957, Maine Senator Margaret Chase Smith wrote a proposal accusing Congress of ignoring fathers for 40 years while honoring mothers, thus "singling out just one of our two parents". In 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson issued the first presidential proclamation honoring fathers, designating the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. Six years later, the day was made a permanent national holiday when President Richard Nixon signed it into law in 1972.



Father's Day Prayer

God our Father,
in your wisdom and love You made all things.
Bless these men, that they may be strengthened as Christian fathers.
Let the example of their faith and love shine forth.
Grant that we, their sons and daughters,
may honor them always with a spirit of profound respect.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.
Amen

Quotes from Fathers

On Leading By Example: "Children have more need of models than critics." (French moralist Joseph Joubert 1754-1824)

On Disciplining Our Children: "There must always be a struggle between a father and son, while one aims at power and the other at independence." (18th century English lexicographer Samuel Johnson)

On Making Decisions: "If the new American father feels bewildered and even defeated, let him take comfort from the fact that whatever he does in any fathering situation has a fifty percent chance of being right." (Bill Cosby)

On Keeping Perspective: "When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years." (Mark Twain)

By the time a man realizes that maybe his father was right, he usually has a son who thinks he's wrong. (Charles Wadworth)

When it comes to raising teenagers, we may not ever be able to win. If we don't offend them, we embarrass them. The key to making it out of this stage alive is to keep loving your kids - while you remind yourself daily that they will grow out of this phase.

"Train up a child in the way which he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6)

~ ~ A Little Father's Day Humor ~ ~

Dead Sea Gull

A father was at the beach with his children when his four-year-old son Bob ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore, where a seagull lay dead in the sand.

"Daddy, what happened to him?" Bob asked. "He died and went to Heaven," the dad replied.

Bob thought a moment and then said, "Did God throw him back down?"

Poor Preacher

After the church service a little boy told the pastor, "When I grow up, I'm going to give you some money."

"Well, thank you," the pastor replied, "but why?"

"Because my daddy says you're one of the poorest preachers we've ever had."

Letters between son and dad

Dear Dad,

School i\$ really great. I am making lot\$ of friend\$ and \$tudyng very hard. With all my \$tuff, I \$imply can't think of anything I need, \$o if you would like, you can ju\$t \$end me a card, a\$ I would love to hear from you.

Love,

Your \$on

The Reply:

Dear Son,

I kNOW that astroNOMy, ecoNOMics, and oceaNOgraphy are eNOugh to keep even an hoNOr student busy. Do NOT forget that the pursuit of kNOWLEDge is a NOble task, and you can never study eNOugh.

Dad

Faith Circle News

On May 17, Faith Circle completed its year with fellowship and lunch at Grounds and Grains, in Bluffton. Everyone enjoyed fresh salads and sandwiches, with an assortment of coffee, tea, and soft drinks. After a summer break, we will meet again on September 20, at Tina Barclay's home. Hope to see you all there!

A special thank you to the Espich Family for a wonderful night out at the Tin Caps game. The weather was perfect, the food was delicious, the ballgame was entertaining and the fireworks were spectacular! What a fun time to share with our church family.

Live for Christ Today!

“He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again” (2 Corinthians 5:15)

We, as Christians need to and are expected to live for Christ every day. Is it easy, no? But it is possible with Christ in us. Here are some helpful hints to help us all live for Christ.

1. We need to look for Christ.

Many Christians look to professionals more than they look to Christ, and when we do this they find disappointment. Help from others is good and should be appreciated but only real and lasting help can come only from the Lord.

2. Learn from Christ today.

Many Christians neglect the Word of Christ. We get too involved in our personal pursuits. But if we are to live for Christ today, we must read and meditate on His Word, which teaches us how to live victoriously over sin, self and Satan.

3. Lean on Christ today.

We as Christians fail when we lean on our own power, position, or possessions. We must trust in Christ today. He enables us to accomplish our tasks and bear our responsibilities.

4. Lift with Christ today.

When it comes to doing God's work, many Christians falter because of a lack of cooperation from others. We are not alone. Christ is with us, beside us, and within us. He will enable us to assist the less fortunate, comfort the sick and lonely, and witness to the unsaved about Christ.

5. Love as Christ today.

Christ loved us so much he died on the cross, taking our place. We must love God and others also. To live for Christ today we should look to him, learn from him, lean on him, lift with him, and love as he loves.

Are you living for Christ today? In all that we do in public and private shows how we love our living savior Jesus Christ. As we head into the summer months, with a stressful winter behind us let us celebrate Christ and all that He does for us every minute of every day.

God's blessings to all.

Pastor Troy Drayer

10 Companions Cluster Churches

Bluffton Epworth UMC
Pastor Richard Frederick
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