

**Announcements:**

1. This Tuesday is the last Bible Study before the summer holidays. Let us know if there is some one you would like included in prayers.
  2. The next worship service will be next **Sunday, June 28 in Wabash**. It will be outdoors—“Celebrate Creation & Bless the Animals”. Bring a lawn chair & sun hat. Families will sit 6’ apart with lots of hand sanitizer. Bring your friends & family. All are welcome.
  3. Services in August will be in **both churches on August 16, 23, 30** provided we are still at stage 2 – or better. Bothwell Council is meeting Monday, August 10 to access the COVID situation. 4.
  4. If you would like to support the Caring Cupboard for the summer months, make cheques out to Bothwell United Church 178 Elm St. Box 187 Bothwell, ON. N0P 1C0. Our thanks to Karen Balazsity & Patty Walters who keep the cupboard replenished. 4.
- Please keep in your prayers, Andy Harrington. He is taking on the responsibility of executive director of Canadian Foodgrains Bank (a Christian response to global hunger).

Peace & Grace to you, Dear Friends,

**Happy Father’s Day** to all the FATHERS! This is YOUR DAY.

And we have all had fathers—we remember them today. How we admire and love the men in our lives.

Father, what image does that evoke for you?

Now Mother—this word evokes warm images of comfort, healing, giver of unconditional love.

Father, on the other hand gives us most often images of protector, provider, giver of wisdom. But we know, fathers too, can give comfort--- be gentle healers and teachers of life’s greatest lessons. It is probably true that some fathers don’t express their feelings verbally, (the women tend to be the talkers) but they do feel just as much emotion and this very deep unconditional love that Jesus models for us.

A poem about fathers:

**Dad, God’s Masterpiece**

God took the strength of a mountain,  
The majesty of a tree,  
The warmth of a summer sun,  
The calm of a quiet sea.

The generous soul of nature  
The comforting arm of night,  
The wisdom of the ages  
The power of the eagle’s flight.

Then God combined all these qualities,  
When there was nothing more to add.  
He knew his masterpiece was complete  
And so he called it Dad

--by anonymous

I also found this short little poem by anonymous. I was drawn to it because of the picture that accompanied it: a little boy about 5 and his Dad sitting on a river bank, just getting ready to fish.

Said the little boy:

Dad, you know that I like Batman  
And Superman’s cool  
But I don’t really need them

As long as I have you!

It's the presence of each other that really matters. It is **“presence” that is the best present.**  
The best gift you could ever bring.

The scripture for Father's Day is from the gospel of **Luke 15:11-32**. Let us hear it now: (turn to your Bible and read this passage in Luke)

This passage is probably the Bible's most famous father-son scene. It is often referred to as “the Prodigal Son”--or the story of the Lost Son. After squandering all of his inheritance, the son has decided to go back home. He has taken the initiative; the father has anxiously waited for his return. In fact, he thinks of his son, every day. And so when the son repents, comes home, the father gives matching forgiveness. The prodigal son experiences the **restoring embrace of welcome**. Jesus' call to us through this parable is to return to the Father, mend the breach—with our God & with our fellow human friends and family members: Father, son, mother, daughter, friend—they may be anxiously waiting. Take the initiative.

I have found a modern story that gives us perspective to understand the scripture of today. It is a true story about a father & son the title is “How I Got into the Movies”. The father, Gunter David writes about his relationship with his son, Peter David.

“I was only 18 when I came to the States, writes Gunter. I told my parents I was coming to study journalism. Secretly, I planned to get into the movies—be a Hollywood star. It was actually 45 years later that that fantasy came true—thanks to my eldest son.

My son, Peter David is a NY Times bestselling author of science-fiction novels. (Star Trek and The Hulk). His script for Backlash was being filmed in Romania and Peter had written a cameo part for me. Peter, as a youngster, was my faithful companion in the newsroom, pounding away on the typewriter with his little fingers, just like Dad.

Now this invitation to join Peter in Romania was totally unexpected. My son & I had grown apart by geographic distance and the demands of his busy career. Also, he had a wife & 3 kids. Now I knew very little about his life. As I was feeling my age, I felt time was running out for us. But I could never express any of this to Peter. He was not one for sentimentality. However, on our trip high above the clouds, a few hours into the trip, Peter began to open up to me. Outwardly, he seemed so self-confident. But he told me that nothing he was writing was ever good enough. He said he had a great need for the approval of others. And sometimes he feared that his flow of ideas would suddenly dry up.

I felt badly for him, but I was joyous at the same time. My son was sharing himself with me as he used to do at home, growing up. I felt my son was coming back to me. Now, Peter's films were all a blend of westerns and science fiction. When I saw the set, I exclaimed, “Peter, you have such imagination!”--A space ship was parked at the train station.

He smiled and said, “ Well you know when kids play, they want their parents of see them. I guess I brought you here so I could say, ‘Hey, Dad, look at me. See what I have accomplished.’ At that moment, I realized how much he loved me, as I loved him. And how he needed my acknowledgment and approval. I told him how impressed I was and how proud I was of him. Then the big day came for my movie debut. “Action!” the director yelled. Then a 7' actor appeared, dressed in black. He played a funeral director with psychic powers and his appearance often meant death would soon follow. I stammered to the shopkeeper, “I--I think I'll be back later”. With a great deal of noise, I dropped the canned goods and dashed out of the store. The director shouted, “That's a take”. The cast and crew applauded. And leading the applause was my son.

On the plane on the way home, I saw Peter writing in his diary on his laptop computer. Peter had thoughtfully obtained my hat, script & costume for me as a souvenir. I ask him to put a few words on the script as the cast members had signed it. He said, “I can't put my feelings into just a few words. He looked at me & continued. “When I started last week in my diary, I referred to you as my father. As time went on, **I began referring to you as Dad. Why do you think that is?”**

My eyes filled up with tears, I wanted to reach over & give him a hug, right there on the plane. But I was afraid to embarrass him and perhaps myself. So instead, I reached over and took his hand in mine and squeezed it. Tight. Real tight.

My son squeezed my hand in return.

Today, we acknowledge that God blesses the fathers. We bless them too and give thanks to God who holds our hand –tightly—as we squeeze it in return.

Thanks be to God for this wisdom! Amen!

Let us go now to God with our prayers of thanksgiving and concern:

PRAYERS for healing, comfort & courage:

All victims of racial discrimination & violence. The Police to have fair & responsible police practices. Without abuse of power.

All persons on the front lines battling COVID- 19 We pray for ourselves too. Help us to be safe, take precautions & not be in constant fear. May we have a realistic perspective.

In our faith community: Joe Anderson, Dorothy Sinclair, Frank Sinasac, Cheryl Fisher, Lisa (Downie) Power, Donna Jewett, Larry Saylor Shirley Bolton, Deb Griffith, Luis Pereira. Rev. Ross & Mary Williams.

PRAYERS for blessing, praise & celebration:

Congratulations to Jessica Dias & Nick Van Loon who have recently become engaged.

Jessica is the daughter of Melanie & Adam Wolfe and the granddaughter of Marlain & Larry Wolfe. Also, congratulations to the graduates, Hannah Logan and Glen Martin. God bless them as they begin a new stage in their life's journey.

Birthdays for June 16 to June 30—Dave Neely, Joel Malott, Allison Hutson, Laura-Ellen Anderson, Sofia Abdulhakim.

Birthdays for July---Bailey Lowry, Dave Annett, Kaeden Elliott, Nina Wilkins, Donna Jewett, Shelley Wilkins, Steve Ashton, Jonathan Vanek, Bob Boylan, Paul Hutson, Shirley Bolton, Lisa Herr, Benson Herr, Diane Parks, Steven Ross, Diane Logan, Connie Martin, Karen Smith, Meg Patterson, Nash & Harper Bentley

**Let us say our Lord's prayer together:**

**AMEN**

### For THE MERRY HEART

1. Everything for this summer has been canceled.      Let's just put up a Xmas tree and call it a year!
2. A young ant talking to his Dad: "Dad, why don't we get coronavirus?"  
Well son, we have anty bodies.
3. How do you know carrots are good for your eyes?      You never see a rabbit wearing glasses.
4. Want to hear a roof joke?      The first one's on the house.
5. What do dentists call their x-rays?      Tooth pics.
6. Did you hear about the restaurant to open on the moon?      It had good food, but no atmosphere.

Have a good week. Stay safe!

Shalom, Annalee

