

From the Pastor's Pen...

Honor Your Father & Mother

Over the next couple of months, we will be celebrating Mother's Day and Father's Day respectively. The older I get, the more I think about the fact that there are probably less of these special days to celebrate with my Dad and Mom. The other thing that has caused me to stop and think is the importance God has placed on honoring our parents. The Bible is not silent when it comes to stressing the importance of children respecting their parents. Here are a few verses:

Exodus 20:12- "***Honor your father and your mother***, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you."

Colossians 3:20- "Children, ***obey your parents in everything***, for this pleases the Lord."

Even Jesus shows children the right way:

Luke 2:51- "And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and ***was submissive to them***. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart."

What does it mean to honor them? Honoring is being respectful, not only in how we speak to them, but also how we act toward them. This is more than meets the eye; honor is more than lip service. Children need to have an inward attitude of respect. Yes, even our thoughts toward our parents count!

Why honor them? It is the right thing to do in obedience to God's command, but it also pleases God when we do so! The other reason why has to do with how it will positively affect our parents. I know, unfortunately, the negative effect disobedience can have. When we rightly regard our parents, there is a helpful residual effect for all involved— mom, dad, kids, & God.

This Mother's Day and Father's Day resolve to:

- Speak kindly to your parents
- Show your parents consideration
- Supply your parents with the opportunities to speak into your life
- Shield your parents' dignity

Proverbs 1:8- "*Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching,*"

Sunday Schedule

Early Morning Worship – 8:30 – 9:15am

Fellowship – 9:15 – 9:45am

Sunday School – 9:45-10:45am

Morning Worship – 11:00am-12:15pm

Prayer Meeting – 5-6pm

WOL Teens – 6-8pm

Weekly Activities

Monday 7pm – Men's Bible Study

(1st, 3rd, 5th Mondays)

Tuesday 9:45am – Ladies Bible Study

Friday 6:15pm – WOL Olympians

Special Dates

"Coming of Age" Play – May 4

Mother's Day – May 12

Olympian Gold Ceremony – May 19

Graduation Recognition – June 2

Baby Shower for Damaris Dube – June 9

WOL Teen End-of-Year Party – June 9

Olympian End-of-Year Picnic – June 14

Father's Day – June 16

Senior Social – June 29

Vacation Bible School - Daytime

July 8-12 – "Giddyup Junction: – Taking God's Love to New Frontiers"

Ages 4 – Grade 6: 9am – Noon

Vacation Bible School - Teens

July 8-11: 7pm – 9pm

Grades 7-12



Vacation Bible School

July 8-12: 9am – Noon

Age 4 – Completed Grade 6

This year we will have a western theme for our daytime VBS program with the students learning the good news of God's love through studying the lives of Peter, Philip and Paul from the book of Acts.

Each day they will be pointed toward a different demonstration of God's Love:

Day One: God Shows His Love

Day Two: God Loves All People

Day Three: God Loves Individuals

Day Four: God Loves An Enemy

Day Five: God's Love Brings Joy

Pre-registration will start on May 5th at church with the online registration going live on Monday, May 6th (ellbaptist.com). You can also pre-register through the church office at 860.872.8444.

We have a wonderful group of dedicated volunteers that faithfully serve in VBS each year. If you haven't already signed up and want to get involved please contact Vicky Mercier.

We will be asking the church family for donations for the snack time:

100% Fruit Juice (No lemonade)

Peanut Free Store-bought Cookies

(Ex: Nabisco brand)

Doritos, Chips, etc. for Evening Session

Please pray for the children that will be coming to VBS and for the workers as they minister each day.

Nighttime VBS for Teens

Calling all teens 13-18 to play games, eat food, & hear a challenge from the Word of God. Break out of the ordinary each evening from 7-9pm, July 8th through July 11th. Many of our teens will be helping out during the day and then coming back to have their own fun at night. Hope to see you there!

Olympian Program Wraps Up Another Fun Year

Every Friday night children come as Challengers (Grades 1 & 2), Conquerors (Grades 3 & 4) and Champions (Grades 5 & 6) to learn about God through the Word of Life Olympian program. By completing all of the requirements for membership as well as memorizing verses and performing acts of Christian service, the children can earn bronze, silver and gold medals.

The final ceremony of the year will be held on Sunday, June 14th, at the 11am service where those that have just reached the gold, silver or bronze level will receive their awards.

The Blais family will host an end-of-year party on Friday, June 14th, for the Olympians, the leaders, the prayer partners and the volunteer teachers that have worked with the group throughout the year. Many thanks to our church family for supporting the Olympian program!

Our Busy Teens

We have a wonderful group of teens that help through the church in ways that may not be noticed! Our teens work every week in children's church, the Olympian program and the nursery. They also provide a lot of help with VBS, church work days, the Penny Carnival and recently the senior social.

Those that are graduating will be honored on Sunday, June 2nd so please let the church office know if one of your teens will be graduating to make sure we recognize everyone!

Did you know

Anna Jarvis of Philadelphia, whose mother had organized women's groups to promote friendship and health, originated Mother's Day; on May 12, 1907, she held a memorial service at her late mother's church in Grafton, West Virginia. Within five years virtually every state was observing the day, and in 1914 President Woodrow Wilson made it a national holiday.

(<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Mothers-Day>)

Annual celebrations for dads date back to 1910, when Sonora Louise Smart Dodd organized such an event to honor the life of her father, William Smart, a Civil War veteran and who raised six children on his own after his wife died in childbirth. President Nixon signed into law a measure declaring the third Sunday of June be observed as Father's Day. (<http://time.com/4811771/fathers-day-origins-history/>)