



Indian Creek Church of the Brethren
821 Main Street, Harleysville, PA 19438

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Sunday Schedule

9:00 am – Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship

Office Hours

Monday-Friday
9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Church Staff

Mark E. Baliles
Pastor
Susan Gallen
Administrative Assistant
Don Ziegler
Custodian

Kathy Moyer
Wee Folk Director/Teacher
Heather Thomsen
Wee Folk Assistant Teacher

Reflections on Honoring Fathers

In Romans 13:7, we are instructed to give honor to all to whom honor is due. Last Monday, our nation set aside a day to honor the men and women who gave their lives serving and defending our country. Next Sunday, June 11th, we will honor the high school and college graduates within our church family. Then on June 18th, our nation will observe a day set aside to honor our fathers. Among the Ten Commandments is this one: “Honor your father and your mother” (Exodus 20:12). What does it mean to give honor to someone, particularly to our earthly fathers?

I would suggest that honor starts with respect. Fallen soldiers, graduates, and fathers certainly deserve at least the same basic respect that is due all people who are created by, loved by, and bear the image of God. Yet, honor goes beyond that. It carries the idea of giving a person something (our time, a gift, meaningful words, or public praise) that conveys gratitude and recognition of some merit deserving acknowledgment.

Some people deserve honor for what they have accomplished (graduates) or for how their life has impacted others. Fallen soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice in giving up their lives to help keep our country safe. Fathers specifically impact their children, whether because of biological participation in giving life, because of participating in the provision and nurturing of that life, or both. There are few people in our lives (mothers being one) with the potential to impact us for good as much as fathers.

But just as we acknowledged last month in relation to Mother’s Day, things can also get a little complicated on Father’s Day. Not everyone had a father who was present, let alone a father who saw them, understood them, affirmed them, equipped them, provided for them, loved them, or even liked them. Fathers can also leave deep wounds. How do we respect a father who in some ways was not respectable?

A few decades ago, it seemed like every sitcom was making fun of fathers as being irresponsible and childish. Conversely, in the decades prior (and still sometimes today), many fathers lived as though they were entitled to be respected and honored as kings, even though they acted like tyrants and treated their family like slaves.

Neither of those is healthy for our society—and certainly not within our churches. Fathers are called to lead by loving and serving, just as Jesus did. At the same time, I believe it is possible to give respect and even honor to our fathers even in the midst of a reality that may be far short of the ideal. It is possible even to love and to forgive fathers and to seek to be better and to do better for our children. Let’s also make room in our hearts and homes for those whose fathers were/are not present—literally or relationally, and for those who wanted to be fathers but are not.

Pastor Mark (Your partner in the journey)



Deacon Ministry

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105 (NRSV)

The curvy county road narrowed as the fields of bluebonnets encroached on the blacktop, reducing it to one lane. If a car approached from the opposite direction, it couldn't possibly pass without hitting mine. Not that I'd seen another vehicle on this desolate road pitted with neglected potholes. *How in the world did I end up here? Did I take a wrong turn?*

With no cell service, I couldn't ask Siri to navigate. I considered turning back, but there was no place to turn around safely. I had no other choice but to slow down, keep driving, and enjoy the view.

Beyond acres of purple wildflowers stood grand hills covered in green foliage, topped by a bright blue sky. I saw a doe and her spotted fawn drinking from a creek as I drove across a low water bridge. The dogwoods and redbuds along the bank saluted in full splendor. A few miles farther, the road opened up. The highway I sought was ahead. I sighed with relief. I'd ended up right where I needed to be.

Finding unexpected beauty during my road trip was not unlike some spiritual journeys I've taken. Problems, misunderstandings, or neglecting my prayer life have landed me in a few desolate places, leading me to ask Jesus, "How did I get here?"

Like the surprising splendor I found along the roadway when I thought I was lost, Jesus shows me the beauty that can come when I trust Him with the twists and turns of life.

~Karen Sargent

Faith Step: Recall a time you thought you were on a road to nowhere. What beauty or blessings came out of that journey?

From *Mornings with Jesus* devotional.

Submitted by Pat Bub.

Summertime

The countryside dons a softened peace
When summer days appear;
The fields, meadows, and mountains, too,
Rest free of haste and fear.

And every quiet brook and stream
Meets the rivers silent flow,
And lakes with sunlit, softened gleam
Give scenes a regal glow.

Summer fields with upturned face,
With harrowed rows of grain,
Nod and wave in perfect rhythm
To the fall of summer rain.

Wild birds of every hue and size
Fill the limbs of leafy trees,
And every branch seems to sing,
Accompanied by the summer breeze.

Summer with its quiet peace,
The stars, the moon, the night,
Makes sweet the joys of living
In the summer's golden light.

~Mamie Ozburn Odum



He shines in all that's fair;

The mountain trails where full of Him. The flowers revealed His glory, the waters spoke of His unending goodness, and man was renewed in His image.

In the rustling grass I hear Him pass,

The clumsy bear came begging, the grazing moose stood in the water, the keen elk stopped at a safe distance, and the shy deer ran away. With it went the summertime.

He speaks to me everywhere.

And so it is no more. But every time I close my eye, every time I open my heart, the vision is restored. And I hear God's voice: "I shall be with you until the end of the world."

Adapted from "This is My Father's World," by C.C. Shaffer.



OUR 2023 GRADUATES



Brydon Bateman graduated from the University of Pittsburgh. He was president and captain of the Rugby Team. His favorite memories of ICCOB are making things for the church auctions and helping run the auctions. Another favorite memory is the global village experience at the Heifer International workcamp.

He is currently working full time in the nuclear energy industry as a Design Engineer at Curtiss-Wright EMD. Brydon is not 100% sure yet about future goals but he's learning a lot in the position and will be able to grow and figure things out from there.



Trent Detweiler graduated from West Chester University of Pennsylvania. At school he was in the Marching Band, Multiple Jazz Ensembles including the Criterions Jazz Ensemble on Guitar, a part of Drum Corps International where he marched on mellophone with The Cadets, and many more ensemble performances.

His favorite memory from Indian Creek is vacation bible school, both when he was a kid AND when he was a volunteer. Also NYC in Colorado was one of his favorite trips associated with the church.

His Immediate Summer/Fall Plans are to continue to teach private lessons on trumpet, guitar, piano, drumset and voice over the summer, and he is currently applying for a school music teacher position in the Fall.

As for future goals, he would love to begin as an elementary school general music teacher and eventually move up to the high school level as a band director. In the future, he would like to get his Master's degree and someday teach at a university as a music professor.



OUR 2023 GRADUATES CONTINUED



Grace Moyer graduated from Boyertown Area High School. Her extracurricular activity was cheerleading. Her favorite memories from ICCOB are church auctions, Bible school and the NYC trip to Colorado. Grace's immediate plans are to work all summer and attend Coastal Carolina University in the fall. Her future goals are to graduate college with a bachelor's in Elementary Education to begin teaching!



Helen Spiegel graduated from Souderton Area High school. Her extracurricular activities were newspaper, choir, and students against violating earth. She really loved the yearly Christmas parties and also the bake sale/ car wash. Helen's immediate plans are working in the summer and starting at Montgomery County Community College in the fall. She is potentially going into education or psychology.



Montgomery County
Community College

familyFUN

Article and photos by Donna Parcell



Our May Nurture activity was a lawn game day on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. It was conveniently held right after a carry-in lunch so everyone was fueled and ready to go! There were lots of choices of games. It was great to get outside and enjoy the nice weather and have a little fun too. Sarah Duett and Claire battled it out in badminton, and later Dennis Moyer challenged Claire in corn hole. It seemed that Claire Spigel was the one to beat.



Kevin Bedell and Chris McBreen also made a fine showing in corn hole, while Dennis and Micah Duett championed the playground and chalk drawings. The most competitive game by far was croquet lead by Bryce Mininger. Cheryl Rostick, Don Moyer, Pam Bedell, Jane Spigel, and Noah Baliles did their best to keep up with Bryce. Nobody realized how many rules there are! Sue Moyer, Reba Baliles, Chris Spigel, and Donna Parcell lead the cheerleading. Everyone's efforts were rewarded by delicious ice cream popsicles!





Article and photos by Donna Parcell



In May we celebrated National Youth Sunday by having our senior high youth participate in the church service. Jadon Bateman, Grace Moyer, Helen Spigel, and Nathan Stevens all did a great job serving as worship leaders and participating in the ever popular scripture jam. As seniors, Grace and Helen each shared their perspectives on the theme “Stand up even if you stand out.” Grace shared about how she gained independence and developed relationships with members of the congregation by attending church with her grandparents and being active in the youth group. Helen shared struggles she had with bullies and stressed the importance of standing up for those who are marginalized. Both were though provoking and their insights were very much appreciated.



Summer Strawberry Dessert



PREP TIME: 30 Minutes

INGREDIENTS

- 1 Package of Instant Vanilla Pudding
- 1 Container of Cool Whip
- 1 Block of Cream Cheese Whipped
- 1 Pint of Strawberries Sliced
- 1 Sleeve of Graham Crackers—Crush 'em up!

INSTRUCTIONS

Step #1: Prepare the vanilla pudding.

Step #2: Whip the Cool Whip and the cream cheese, and then mix them together with the pudding.

Step #3: Layer: creamy mixture, crushed graham crackers, sliced strawberries—Repeat!

From thislittlehomeofmine.com



Building Memories

You guys go on without me. “You’ll have a great time—I’m sure of that. Sorry, family, but I have to work.”

The place? Montgomery, Alabama.

The time? Several years ago.

The situation? A dad, who really loved his family and wanted them to enjoy a summer vacation, had to work. The press of business kept him tied to the office. But being committed to their happiness, he assured them of his desire that they take the trip and enjoy the fleeting summer days.

He helped them plan every day of the camping trip. They would load up the family station wagon, drive to California, camp up and down the coast, then travel back home together. Each day was carefully arranged—even the highways they would travel and the places they would stop. Dad knew their whole route, the time they would reach each state—planned almost to the hour—even when they would cross the Great Divide.

It’s what he didn’t tell them that made the difference.

The father took off work (he’d planned it all along) and arranged to have himself flown to an airport near where his family would be on that particular day of the trip. He had also arranged to have someone pick him up and drive him to a place where every car on that route had to pass. With a wide grin, he sat on his sleeping bag and waited for the arrival of that familiar station wagon packed full of kids and camping gear. When he spotted the station wagon, he stood up, stepped out onto the shoulder of the road, and stuck out his thumb.

Can you visualize it?

“Look! That guy looks just like ... DAD!”

The family assumed he was a thousand miles away, sweating over a stack of papers. It’s amazing they didn’t drive off into a ditch or collapse from heart failure. Can you imagine the fun they had the rest of the way? And the memories they stored away in their mental scrapbook—could they ever be forgotten?

When later asked why he would go to all that trouble, the creative father replied, “Well ...someday I’m going to be dead. When that

happens, I want my kids and wife to say, ‘You know, Dad was a lot of fun.’” Talk about a unique domestic game plan! What an outstanding model of a father who wants to be remembered for more than just the basics...

“...turn out the lights.” “Did you get the bed made?” “Get out there and cut the grass.” “No, we can’t. I gotta work.” “How much does it cost?” “That’s too much trouble, dear. Let’s be practical.” “Hold it down—I can’t hear the news.”

Oh,—but there’s so much more in life! That beautiful music of living is composed, practiced, and perfected in the harmony of home. The freedom to laugh long and loudly ... the encouragement to participate in creative activities ...the spontaneity of relaxed relationships that plant memories and deepen our roots in the rich, rare soil of authentic happiness. Couldn’t this be included in the “all things” Paul mentioned in *Romans* 8:32 and 1 *Timothy* 6:17? The apostle tells us that our God “*richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.*”

We’re missing it—God’s best—if the fun memories are being eclipsed by the fierce ones. The world outside the family circle is dark enough. When the light goes out *within* the circle ...how great is the darkness.

If life with mom and dad has become more of an endurance course than a refreshing catalyst, then your prime time project isn’t too tough to identify. Too many of us are beginning to resemble stern-faced East German guards who once patrolled the wall rather than approachable, believable parents, building happy memories. And maybe even a few crazy ones, too. Don’t worry, God can handle it. He’s got a great sense of humor. He made *you*, didn’t He?

I’d much rather my brood remember me as the dad who tossed their mother fully clothed into the swimming pool—and lived to tell the story—than as the preacher who frowned too much, yelled too loud, talked too long ... and died too young.

~Charles R. Swindoll

From *Devotions for Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life*.



June Birthdays

- 1 Esther James
- 6 Karlene DeRosa
- 9 Lon Clemmer, George Watts
- 12 Noah Baliles, Trent Detweiler
- 14 Nancy Seachrist
- 17 Darlene Ziegler
- 25 Sue Ellinger, Donna Stevens
- 28 Joe Grau, Sr.
- 29 Donna Mansfield, Don Moyer

Early July Birthdays

- 1 Bonnie Cassel
- 2 David Whetstone

If we are missing *your* birthday, please let the Church Office know! We want to include everybody in our monthly birthday notice.

The Love of a Father

for his children
is more than provision
and protection,
leadership and guidance—

it's a part of who we are,
what we become,
and the way we serve the Lord
with our lives.

It is a strong and binding cord
That runs through the fabric of
our character...

a rock we can stand on
for courage and support...
and a foundation that lies
securely beneath us.

~Anonymous

SAVE THE DATE!!!

2023 Vacation Bible School

June 26th to June 30th

