

Keeping In Touch

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF STAFFORD

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Origins of Father's Day

On July 5, 1908, a West Virginia church sponsored the nation's first event explicitly in honor of fathers, a Sunday sermon in memory of the 362 men who had died in the previous December's explosions at the Fairmont Coal Company mines in Monongah, but it was a one-time commemoration and not an annual holiday.

The next year, a Spokane, Washington, woman named Sonora Smart Dodd, one of six children raised by a widower, tried to establish an official equivalent to Mother's Day for male parents. She went to local churches, the YMCA, shopkeepers and government officials to drum up support for her idea, and she was successful: Washington State celebrated the nation's first statewide Father's Day on June 19, 1910.

Slowly, the holiday spread. In 1916, President Wilson honored the day by using telegraph signals to unfurl a flag in Spokane when he pressed a button in Washington, D.C. In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge urged state governments to observe Father's Day.

Today, the day honoring fathers is celebrated in the United States on the third Sunday of June: Father's Day 2023 occurs on June 28.

In other countries—especially in Europe and Latin America—fathers are honored on St. Joseph's Day, a traditional Catholic holiday that falls on March 19.

Father's Day: Controversy and Commercialism

Many men, however, continued to disdain the day. As one historian writes, they “scoffed at the holiday's sentimental attempts to domesticate manliness with flowers and gift-giving, or they derided the proliferation of such holidays as a commercial gimmick to sell more products – often paid for by the father himself.”

During the 1920s and 1930s, a movement arose to scrap Mother's Day and Father's Day altogether in favor of a single holiday, Parents' Day. Every year on Mother's Day, pro-Parents' Day groups rallied in New York City's Central Park—a public reminder, said Parents' Day activist and radio performer Robert Spere, “that both parents should be loved and respected together.”

Paradoxically, however, the Great Depression derailed this effort to combine and de-commercialize the holidays. Struggling retailers and advertisers redoubled their efforts to make Father's Day a “second Christmas” for men, promoting goods such as neckties, hats, socks, pipes and tobacco, golf clubs and other sporting goods, and greeting cards.

When World War II began, advertisers began to argue that celebrating Father's Day was a way to honor American troops and support the war effort. By the end of the war, Father's Day may not have been a federal holiday, but it was a national institution.

In 1972, in the middle of a hard-fought presidential re-election campaign, Richard Nixon signed a proclamation making Father's Day a federal holiday at last.

June 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Little Shop - 10 - 2
4 Worship Service 9:30 AM	5	6	7	8	9	10 Little Shop - 10 - 2
11 - Brookside Service Worship Service 9:30 AM	12	13	14	15	16	17 Little Shop - 10 - 2
18 - Children's Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Food Bank Sunday	19	20 Council - 7:00 PM	21	22	23	24 Little Shop - 10 - 2
25 Worship Service 9:30 AM	26	27	28	29	30	

TREASURER'S REPORT

Category	Year-To-Date	Budget-To-Date	Percentage
R21—Freewill	\$ 406.00	\$ 366.67	111%
R22—Pledges	\$ 6,854.00	\$ 6,666.67	103%
R23—Contributions	\$ 2,260.00	\$ 2,333.33	97%
R24—Fund Raising	\$ 1,046.39	\$ 3,333.33	31%
Capital Campaign	\$ 766.00	\$ 842.67	91%

Thru April 30:

TRUSTEES

Hello everyone. It was noticed that we had flooding in the Parish House in the bathroom. There was a slow leak behind the upstairs toilet causing water to drain through the light fixture in the lower level bathroom and leaving water on the floor. Luckily it was a very slow leak and I tightened the mechanism. I did leave the water off to that bathroom for now until I have some time to double check that it is fixed properly. I noticed a slow drip also on top of our expansion tank where the aerator connects to the pipe in the Little Shop. This left water on the floor and Williams Fuel is looking into repair for us. Lastly, I met with an Emery and Webb agent to discuss coverage on our buildings incase of fire or any other big catastrophe. He was pleased with everything mechanically and believes the coverage we have on all three buildings is fine at this time. He believes we should prepare financially for a roof on the Parish House but it looks fine as of now. We will meet again in 3 to 5 years to assess the property again and discuss if we need more coverage. If anyone wants to see those numbers or get a copy of the property declaration please let me know.

Respectfully, Andrew Greaves
Board of Trustees Chair

DEACONS

Our Brookside service will be June 11th! Remember it is BYO Chair, though we will have extra folding chairs for guests. Pastor Bob LaRochelle will be our guest minister!

IN AND AROUND THE CHURCH ...

Our Hearts and Prayers reach out to our Brothers and Sisters who have various needs and struggles: continued prayers for Ann Beebe ... prayers for Roger and Millie ... continued prayers for Lucy, Doris, Donna and Sarah. ... prayers of thanks for a fruitful job search ... prayers of strength for Roger who is rehabbing at Evergreen ... prayers for Linda, John and Joe, my friends and neighbors ... God bless our church ... prayers for the MacFeat family who lost their daughter and sister Mary ... prayers for Tracy ... prayers for 4 year old Theodore enduring chemo ... prayers for all who are in the path of war and natural disasters ... prayers for all who suffer at the hands of gun violence ... prayers for Millie ... prayers for my brother who had a pacemaker changed this week ... prayers for my brother-in-law who had heart surgery ... prayers for Jesse who had heart surgery ... prayer for the family of Roy Auclair ... prayers for Peter undergoing chemo ... prayers for Barbara who had a stroke ... prayers for all who suffer from addiction and mental illness ... prayers for Cliff who has pneumonia ...

Celebrations: all who helped at the amazing spring flea market ... grandson Ben who celebrated his 14th birthday ...

A LIGHTER MOMENT. . .

What did the puppies make their dad for Father's Day breakfast?... Pooched eggs.

* * * *

Knock knock... Who's there?... Justin!... Justin who?... Justin time to say Happy Father's Day!

* * * *

What did the ocean say to the beach? Nothing, it just waved.

* * * *

What did the waiter say to the daddy dog when he served Father's Day dinner?... Bone-appetit!

* * * *

Knock Knock... Who's there?... Hop... Hop who?... Hoppy Father's Day!

* * * *

Why do seagulls fly over the ocean? Because if they flew over the bay, we'd call them bagels.

MISSIONS

Thank you for your donations to our food basket during the month of May. We were able to deliver 22 pounds of food to the Crystal Lake Food Pantry on your behalf. Let's continue with the monthly food challenge!

Linda Sprague

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

June Birthdays

1	Raymond Bourque
6	Peg Ekenbarger
10	John DelBene
25	Kim Dickson
26	Rosalie Starvish

June Anniversaries

5	Bruce and Kathy Ladr
10	Kenneth and Linda May
21	John and Judy DelBene
22	Dan and Vi Irish
29	Joe and Florence Demars

DUCK RACE

The duck race is scheduled for July 22nd this summer. The tickets have been ordered and will soon be here for us to go out into the community and sell them giving our friends and family the opportunity to claim one of the many prizes that will be given out on race day. As usual we will offer a hot dog lunch to folks starting at Noon along with fun games for the young ones to keep them occupied until race time - 1 o'clock. It's sure to be a fun event for all who attend.

Linda Sprague
Duck Race Coordinator

BIBLE STUDY

Join us on a journey with the early disciples, as they spread the gospel to the Gentiles. We will discuss topics they were concerned with, that we also find ourselves thinking about today- leadership, separation of church and state, addressing growing diversity in our communities, wealth and distribution of wealth...

We meet on ZOOM every Wednesday, 6pm! If you need help figuring out how to get on ZOOM please let us know. If you would like to join us, message SCCBibleStudy@aol.com , and we will send you the PDF of the study. Let us know if you prefer a printout of it.

CHRISTIAN ED / SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children's day will be Sunday, June 25th. The teachers want to thank the students and parents/guardians for a wonderful year. See everyone in September when classes resume!! Have an awesome summer!

BOOK SALE

June 24th, 10am to 2pm, we will have a Book Sale open to the public, in Fellowship hall! You are welcome to bring books in good condition- no rips, mold or stains please. We were given a generous donation of books by a neighbor of ours, and rather than overfill the Barn, we wanted to see if we could get them a loving home right away, and donate any extra.

END OF SCHOOL YEAR BBQ

We will be having an end of the school year BBQ on June 17th at 3pm. Our goal was to pick a date that most of our Sunday school kids and their families would be able to attend, but it is certainly open to members and friends too! We will also be celebrating Judy's last year as head teacher.

Please sign up for food in Fellowship Hall. If you can bring a yard game, let Sarah know.

PAINT PARTY

A "Paint Party" has been set up by Kim Dickson. It will take place on Saturday July 15 at Noon when a light lunch will be served. At 12:30 the painting will begin. All are encouraged to participate and experience is not required. The cost is \$25 per person and all supplies will be provided. We held one of these before the pandemic and everyone who participated had a blast! Bring your own wine if you'd like and join in for a good time! To get your name on the list please call Kim Dickson at 413-374-3247.

YARD GOATS GAME

The Hartford Yard Goats, the local AA professional baseball team is sponsoring a "Friends and Family" day Saturday August 5. The game begins at 6:10 PM but the stadium opens before that. Tickets are a modest \$8 per person and we are all guaranteed to sit together. Twenty-five tickets have been obtained so call Kim Dickson at 413-374-3247 to reserve your tickets.