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***T H E G O O D N E W S L E T T E R***

**First United Methodist Church**

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**Learn** the story. **Live** the story. **Tell** the story.



Br Scott’s Scrawling’s “Happy Father’s Day”

Several years ago, I had an awesome retreat with a group of my clergy peers from the Seashore District and had the honor of spending time with Greg Arnold. Greg is the publisher and founder of Live Bold Magazine and is Deployed Staff for the United Methodist Men of the UMC. Greg shared this article on his website LiveBold.org and I thought it was worth sharing!

**“…So what is a man?**  How do we define a man have the privilege of working with countless different types of men from various backgrounds, economic ranges, and ages.  The definition of manhood is as wide and varied as the irregular walls of the Grand Canyon.  So what is the definition of a man? I've asked that question in various settings, and within even the smallest gathering of guys - the responses are erratic and dissimilar.   Could there be a grounding definition?  A base from which we all start?  Surely there must be a cohesive structure from which we begin to define who we are.

When someone yells, "Be a man!”  What they are really saying is - "meet my expectations of what a man looks like based on the definition I received as a child!"  But that's entirely too much to say when trying to "one-up" a guy in a face-off.

How we perceive men is greatly dependent upon how we viewed our father as a child.  Think of your father for a moment.  Remember the good moments and bad moments.  What memory shapes you most?  Perhaps you had no presence of a father as a child.  Who filled that role?  How did that shape you?

Many of our entertainment vehicles define the idea of "men" for us.  Most television shows depict men as bumbling idiots, buffoons, or shady rule benders.   You really have to seek out programming that doesn't glamorize a guy for being a clueless idiot.

If we look to the bible for the definition of a man, we struggle to take the people littered throughout scripture and post them high on a pedestal as the definition of a man.  Even doing so, you'll fall short of what is necessary to fit the bill.  The bible is full of men who missed the mark, obeyed the cultural stereotypes of their day, and fumbled the ball from time to time.

So, where do we get the idea that a man must be defined?  Outside of the physical characteristics, the definition of a man really disappears doesn't it?  It would be nice to say that a man is.... and you fill in the blank.  But to a guy who had no father as a child, what does that look like?  To a son who was beaten and abused, what does a man look like?  To a young boy who was molested, what does a man look like?  To a teen whose father loved him deeply, what does a man look like?  To the child of a war hero who died saving other people, what does a man look like?

The fallacy of this definition lies in the notion that we are using men... to define men.  And let's face it guys, we're all jacked up.  None of us are perfect - and never will be.  If we truly want to find the definition of a man, look at Christ.  Yes, it's the easy answer.  It’s the golden solution for all church people.  But let's seriously look at the traits he embodied.

Christ was self-assured and confident.  He stood before the leaders at age 12 and wowed them with His presence.  He spoke the truth, rebuked people who lied, and stood up for injustices.  He was loving and tender, but also powerful, and tenacious.  He didn't dodge a challenge and went toe-to-toe with people who opposed him.  His love for his Father caused him to ransack the temple and drive out the derelicts who didn't honor God.

Christ was intelligent, spent hours studying, teaching, and passing His knowledge to people who were cast offs.  He stepped forward to take the beatings, humiliations, and suffering so no one else had to endure it.  He died a horrible death in order to save those he loved.  He never complained.  He was determined and didn't let the scoffers and the public opinion sway his course.  Jesus Christ was tender, he was tough, he protected those who loved him and his Father to the last breath of life.

So are you man enough to walk like Jesus Christ?  Seems to me, a fitting definition of a man. We are all called to walk in his shoes…  But the real definition is reserved for those who live like Jesus Christ.

God calls us to be followers of his son.  In doing so, we become sons of God.  The true father definition is God the Father.  Honor him the way Christ honored him.  You'll find direction, definition, and unwavering characteristics that set you apart from all else.

To love others more than we love ourselves.  To be willing to sacrifice our own desires for those that we love - that's the definition of a man.” -Greg Arnold, Live Bold E-Magazine at LiveBold.org

Thanks Greg! What a challenge for our men, to rise up and be men of God! Happy Father’s Day Guys!!! Br. Scott

 Our Church in Mission:

During the last weekend in April, FUMC hosted the Fuller Center cyclists. Following is the thank you note received.

Dear United Methodist Church of Kosciusko.

Thank you for hosting the Fuller Center cyclists. You provided us warm welcome on the busy festival weekend. The pizza and salad dinner with home-made dessert were excellent and greatly nourished our bodies building God’s work and cycling. May God bless you all.

**DISASTER RESPONSE:** With the recent weather tragedies with Durant, Goodman, and Kilmichael, a group of workers from Mid-Tennessee came with tools and expertise to help. FUMC provided lodging and a central station for them. Thank you to several ladies in our church who provided meals.

**LIFE HELP:** Again this summer, the halls of FUMC will ring with children’s laughter and learning. We welcome “Life Help,” with Therapists, and assistants, will provide continuous services to 20 children in most need of intensive behavioral services.

**African University:** During the months June- September, special funds are being collected to provide scholarships to UMC sponsored African University. Your “change” can make a “change” in a person’s life.

**Allie’s Joys:** In March of 2017, Allie Grayce Gibson’s inspiration for helping other children with chronic health conditions became an official Non Profit called “Allie’s Joys.” With the help of supporters, 165 baskets which included a devotion booklet about Jesus or a New Testament Bible, toys, hygiene products, coloring books, and journals were delivered to children throughout the state. The next big project for Allie’s Joys will be at Christmas!

*A View from the Pew by Peggy A. Keady, June 2017*

***Righteousness***

 Today we live in a world of contentiousness. There seem to be hateful words and acts of intolerance on every side. This is nothing new. The tongue has been causing trouble ever since Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden.

 What are we to do in light of this barrage of unrighteousness? I believe we can be instructed by the words in Titus 3:1-2 (NIV)

 “Remind people to be subject to rulers and authorities to be obedient to be ready, to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, always to be gentle toward everyone.”

 We also would be wise to heed the words in Proverbs 18:21.

 “The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.”

**News and Activities for the June**

**Book Club News**: The Reader’s Group book club meets in the conference room on the 4th Monday of every month at 12:00 o’clock and is opened to everyone.

Assigned books are read and discussed every other month with Reader’s choice on the remaining months. Upcoming books: July-- “1984” by George Orwell; September-- “Trials of the Earth” by Mary Hamilton; November—“A Gentleman in Moscow” by Armor Towles.

**Children News**

Everyone wants to win at sports and at life, but what does it take to get to victory? Kids will discover 3 important things they can do to become winners as they Conquer the Day.

Join us **June 11th, 12th and 13th from 5:30-7:30 pm** for Mega Sports Camp. Registration is Sunday, June 11th at 5:00 pm. Early registration forms will be available in the fellowship hall on Sunday, May 28th or email whitney.pettit@gmail.com to have a form emailed to you. If registering early, please return your forms to the basket in the fellowship hall by Friday, June 9th.

Sports Camp activities will include the following:

**Sunday:** basketball

**Monday:** soccer

**Tuesday:** cheerleading and baseball

Please bring a ball/glove/etc which corresponds with that day’s activities if you already have one. We will have extra so don’t go out and buy anything. Everyone bring your friends!!!

**Holiday Happening:** During this summer, there will be workshops for anyone interested in helping with crafts and projects for Holiday Happening on Nov. 4..Come join the group on June 13 and 27 at 10:00 to participate. Feel free to bring a lunch.

**After School News:** After School finished another successful year!  Kendra Coleman who served as Pre-K teachers this year will not be returning so if you know of someone interested in that position please contact the church office.  We currently have a few openings for next fall.

**WOW and Homebound:** WOW will not meet in June and July but will resume August 9.

Meals will be provided for our homebound friends during the month of June.  If you would like to help with this please contact Mary Al Alford at

601-663-5825.

 **Choir:** JOIN US for SUMMER CHOIR! Practice will be on Sunday Mornings at 9:30. If God is leading you, come join us. Our anthems for the month of June will be *“Our Holy* *Spirit”* a beautiful contemporary hymn by Keith Getty; *“Wonderful Merciful Savior;” “For* *the Beauty of the Earth;” and “Freely, Freely.”* July 2, will feature patriotic music.

**Painting class** will be offered on June 28, at 10:00 am led by Sarah Bond. Cost is $20 which cover cost of 16 X 20 canvas, paints, and supplies. Call office by June 21 to sign up. You will have an original for your home.

**Lunch Bunch:** Watch bulletin for announcements of summer travel.

When making your will, don’t forget the ENDOWMENT FUND!!!

**Thank You**

Dearest Friends in Christ:

 “There are three things that last: FAITH, HOPE, and LOVE, but the GREATEST of these is LOVE.” (1 Corinthians 13:13) Thank you, Ladies of the church, and everyone who participated for showing your love and compassion towards us through this difficult time.

Love in Christ, Jackson, Julie, Jade, Julianna, Hunter, Rosalind, Harrison, Parker, and Lillian Jordan.

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Vacation time is here and many plans are being made, but don’t forget your church doors are open for worship and waiting for everyone to come. During these months remember to pray for your church family and count your many blessings. Invite a friend to join you this summer.

 Nancy Josey

Rejoice and let everyone give praise. School is over and summer is here. This is a time to enjoy a picnic, go to a friend’s house, go to a water park or swimming pool and just have fun. Don’t forget to add church to your summer plans.

 John Robert Hillman

 Greeters for the Month of June are Dorothy Harmon and Maudie Smith.

 **FINANCE NEWS FOR April 2017\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**The 2017 Budget for KFUMC is $393,460.08.**

**Receipts through April 30 are $106,386.96**

**Monthly Report for April 2017**:

Budget Tithes and Offering Received: $36,305.70

Budget Expenses --$29,733.67

Mission Shares: $27,765.01

**Designated funds Received:**

SOSA--$18.41

Pastor Discretionary Fund--$238.00

General Memorials-

$443.00

Passion play-$823.00

Trustees--$180.00

Capital Improvements--$600.00

Kitchen Range $390.00

Permanent Endowment $225.00

Mission Shares $167.00

Traveling Bunch $31.00

If any church member desires to see the detailed monthly reports as approved by the finance committee, these reports are always available upon request during normal business hours in the church office.