Happy Mother’s Day

There is a Jewish proverb which says “a child without a mother is like a door without a knob.” Through her love and nurturance, a mother has the potential to provide her children with a knob to open the door upon a world of endless possibilities.

In his epistle, the Apostle Paul recognizes the importance of mothers in the life of a young man named Timothy, a fellow missionary and traveling companion, who would later become a leader in the church in Ephesus. In his letter, Paul writes

“I thank God… as I constantly remember you in my prayers…recalling your tears, I long to see you that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois, and in your mother Eunice, and now lives in you. For this reason, I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love, and self-control.” – 2 Timothy 1:3-7

From Paul’s words, we can reason several characteristics about Timothy. First, having shed “tears” for Paul, we can see that there was a vulnerability and tenderness in Timothy that endeared him to Paul. While fathers have become more emotionally available to their children in recent generations, these attributes were most likely inherited from his mother Eunice and grandmother Lois. It is still often left up to mothers to model and teach familial feelings of healthy affection, affirmation, compassion, and empathy. It is, more often, our mothers who provide a knob for their children to gradually open the door to emotional maturity and intimacy.
The second quality that the Apostle Paul sees in Timothy is a “sincere faith that first dwelt in his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice and now...lives in [him].” A recent Pew Research Poll reaffirms what we have known for centuries that children mostly credit their mothers for their religious faith captured in the Spanish proverb “an ounce of mother is worth a pound of clergy.” A mother whose faith is sincere can do more for her children than all the pastors and Sunday School teachers combined. She can provide her children with a knob to open the door not only to emotional maturity but to a healthy faith.

Finally, it appears that the matriarchs in Timothy’s life helped to equip him with a spirit of power, love, and self-discipline. A spirit of power (dunamis) is the inherited strength, from one generation to the next, to say “Yes. I can do this.” A spirit of love (agape) is the inherited life-force of self-giving on behalf of others, and a spirit of discipline (sophranizo) is to remain well balanced regardless of life’s circumstances.

Having given my mother a run for her money, it became clear to me, long ago, being a mother isn’t easy. I’m sure Timothy gave his grandmother Lois and mother Eunice, a run for their money too. But, together, it appears, they were still able to provide him with knob to open the door upon a full, if not perfect, but fruitful and meaningful life.

However, you look at Motherhood, it is an act of faith and courage to bring a child into the world and to raise them. Thank you to all of our mothers, biological and otherwise, who made this choice. Thank you to mothers who gave us a knob to open the door and the courage to walk through, from childhood, to adolescence, to adulthood, preparing us as best as they could, for what would lie ahead. - Pastor Dave

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**A Prayer: To the Moms Who Are**

To the Moms who are struggling, to those filled with incandescent joy.
To the Moms who are remembering children who have died, and pregnancies that miscarried.
To the Moms who decided other parents were the best choice for their babies,
To the Moms who adopted those kids and loved them fierce.
To those experiencing frustration or desperation in infertility.
To those who never wanted children, and the ways they have contributed to our shared world.
To those who mothered colleagues, mentees, neighborhood kids, and anyone who needed it.
To those remembering Moms no longer with us.
To those moving forward from Moms who did not show love,
or hurt those they should have cared for.

Today is a day to honor the unyielding love and care for others we call ‘Motherhood,’ wherever we have found it and in whatever ways we have found to cultivate it within ourselves.

– Hannah Kardon, Pastor at Elston Avenue United Methodist Church
Twinspires

Twin spires stand high
in the crisp blue sky
as green paints the trees
and each blade of grass.
Bonnets of beauty
are a ladies’ high
to match her,
the best of ladies’ dress

Trumpets are sound before their joyous cry.

The bell rings,
fourteen break before the gate
as hooves are heard
beneath the turf of green.
The turn,
two break forth
round the bushes green,
come the stretch,
and now the win,
Beauties Gate.

Trumpets are heard before their joyful cry.

Riders up,
as silk dressed jockeys’ saddle.
The break;
silk and saddle,
horses battle,
They pitch and turn
to see who is best.
With roses,
the winning horse
is now dressed.

Rob Patridge
Thank you to everyone who gave to our Second Mile Giving over the Lenten season. We were able to raise $8,240 for Mission Giving. As a result of our Second Mile Giving Campaign and other mission giving, we were able to send a check for $5,240 to Camp Pecometh for Camper Scholarships, and retain $5,000 for a Rise Against Hunger meal packing event in the fall. To date, this year, St. Paul’s has been able to give close to $40,000 towards missions including Friendship and Neighborhood House in the city of Wilmington. While there will be no mission trip this summer, we are looking forward to sponsoring a Mission’s workday/event over the summer. We will keep you informed. - The Missions Team

Camp Pecometh is our conference camp located on the Chester River just north of Centreville, MD. Its mission is “to provide sanctuary for Christian hospitality and programming that promote God-inspired, like-changing experiences through camp and retreat ministries.” Its summer camp program has run continuously since 1946, serving campers in Maryland, Delaware, and beyond. “A week of camp is filled with faith, fun, and fellowship for children and youth to grow in their spiritual journey”. To make sure no child is denied this camping experience, campers may apply for a camping scholarship based on financial need. Thank you for making these camperships possible.

Rise Against Hunger is an international hunger relief organization that distributes food and life changing aid to the world’s most vulnerable. It operates meal packaging locations in 28 cities throughout the U.S. and five international locations. With the money raised during our Second Mile Campaign, we are hoping to host a meal packaging event in the fall. At present, events are being scheduled with safety guide-lines in place. We will let you know when we have a date. Thank you for making this event possible.
Children's Sunday School - The Last Few Weeks

Since spring weather has arrived, Sunday afternoon family activities are in full swing, and St. Paul's church services end by 10:30 am, **we will start the last weeks of class just a bit earlier at 10:30 am.** Please adjust your schedules accordingly. We will wrap up the class and conclude at 11:30 am. And, please remember that we will meet outside each Sunday morning. Dress appropriately for cool morning temperatures.

**We will end our class year with a mission project and a special treat (surprise!) on May 23.** Specific items will be collected for our friends at Family Promise of Northern New Castle County and our friends at Neighborhood House. We ask each family to please bring at least one or two items listed below:

**Family Promise of New Castle County - Helping families secure stable housing** - Cleaning supplies such as: disinfecting wipes and spray (i.e., Lysol); all-purpose spray cleaner; laundry detergent; dish soap/dishwasher detergent or tablets; window cleaner; toilet cleaner/toilet brush; sponges; paper towels.

**Neighborhood House - Individual wrapped snacks for summer camp programs** - Granola/cereal bars; goldfish/pretzel snack packs; cracker packs; fruit/applesauce cups; raisins/craisins; juice boxes/Capri sun.

St. Paul's Congregation members are welcome to support our collection on May 23. Please place your items on/near the Sunday school desk or near the back door of the Children's Sunday School wing on May 23 before the 9:30 am church service until about 11:30 am when Sunday school ends. You can also support the effort by adding your pennies (and other change) to the collection jar located in the Narthex. Our penny jar/’change for change’ collection for the school year will end on May 23.

Any questions? Contact Karen Pollack or Nicole Macturk.
Pentecost Hymn Sing: Songs of the Spirit

On Pentecost Sunday, May 23, from 6:30-7:30 pm, Rob Kennan, our Director of Music, will lead us in singing songs and hymns of the Spirit out on the back lawn of the church. Please let us know if you have a special request so we can make sure the words are available for everyone. It’s been a long time since we have been able to sing together, so I hope you’ll come and make a joyful noise!

Staying Safe

Church groups are now welcome to use the church grounds and/or building. When meeting outdoors, groups are asked to adhere to CDC recommendations including wearing masks and standing 6 feet apart. Groups wanting to meet indoors are also required to wear masks, to keep social distance, and to meet in well ventilated rooms. Each group is also asked to keep a list of all participants in the event contact tracing is necessary.

All groups interested in meeting indoors are asked to contact Pastor Dave by email at DaveMcMillan@Comcast.net with your meeting date, time, and the name of the room where you would like to meet.
Part-time Director of Children and Youth Ministries

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is currently searching for a new staff position, a part-time Director of Children and Youth Ministries. Please keep our search in your prayers…

St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, 1314 Foulk Road, Wilmington, is looking for a part-time (20 hours/week) Director of Children and Youth responsible for designing and facilitating a children and youth ministry program focused on building young disciples for Christ. A bachelor’s degree is required with demonstrated knowledge and experience in children and/or youth ministry. If interested in the full job description, please contact the church by emailing stpaulsumcde@comcast.net, Attention: Pastor David McMillan.

Freeborn Garrettson Adult Sunday School

The Garrettson Adult Sunday School continues our Social Justice Bible Challenge. These are the challenges and Bible readings for the next month. We are working through various New Testament books in our readings.

05/09/ 2021 Day 40 1 John 4:1-21 - God is love. Behavior matters. God is calling us to serve.

Coming soon to a Zoom Sunday School near you!! Our friend, Connie Hastings, is the author of a blog, entitled “The Trouble with Jesus.” From May 16-June 27, 2021 the Garrettson Class will be using the blog and the discussion questions that Connie is creating for us and will send to each class member each week. In fact she will be joining us each Sunday via Zoom! How exciting. If you are interested in joining us on Sunday mornings at 11 via Zoom for this excellent opportunity please send Agnes Barkley your information at shewho46@gmail.com.
Ways to lay down your life

No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” - John 15:9-17

Gomez Gonzalez was a butterfly advocate. More precisely, he was an advocate for the monarch butterflies that make El Rosario Reserve, part of the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve, their winter home.

The reserve in the Michoacán state of Mexico was declared an UNESCO World Heritage site in 2008; the concentration of monarch butterflies was called a “superlative natural phenomenon.” Gomez, a former local commissioner, was among the leaders who pushed for tourism over logging in the rural community of El Rosario. As the manager of the El Rosario Reserve, he fought illegal logging and advocated for the replanting of trees that are the monarch’s habitat.

Gomez’s body was found in January 2020 at the bottom of a holding pond in an agricultural area. It wasn’t an accident. He was murdered. The autopsy reports that he died of “mechanical asphyxiation by drowning of a person with head trauma.” Nor was it related to a robbery. Whoever killed him left the equivalent of more than $500 with his body. “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” There are many kinds of friends to die for and many ways to do it.

Pastors Chat

Everyone is invited to meet with our pastors, Pastor Dave and David, every Thursday afternoon, at 1 pm, for a brief devotional followed by an opportunity to discuss current events, church life, and to ask questions. This Thursday, we’ll consider motherhood. Click

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86024126920?pwd=WEIKcU5KZnA4b2NaWWF3bUtQbmJZUT09
Preaching Schedule for Eastertide

Eastertide is a festal season in the liturgical year of Christianity that focuses on celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a period of 50 days, spanning from Easter Sunday to Pentecost. Come and worship on Sunday mornings and witness the various ways in which the risen Christ continues to make Himself known in the midst of our daily living.

May 9  Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; I John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17  Pastor Schuler
May 16  Acts 1:1-26; Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53  Pastor Finch

More Church News

The Messenger
I am always Looking for contributions to our weekly *Messenger*. Please consider sending in prayer requests, poem, jokes, baby pictures, reflections, etc. to DaveMcMillan@Comcast.net.

Pastoral Care & Emergencies
Pastor Dave (484-883-1050) and Pastor David (the older one - 302-545-3232) are available for pastoral care. If you have any concerns, or would like to talk, please give them a call.

Quarterly Contribution Statements Available
In recent years, St. Paul's United Methodist Church sent out individual contribution statements at the end of each year. Our updated financial tracking software now allows us to send individual contribution statements by email more regularly without incurring postage costs. During April, St. Paul's emailed our financial supporters individual contribution statements covering the First Quarter of 2021. If you did not receive your contribution statement and would like to receive a quarterly statement of your contributions via email, please email our Financial Secretary a request at: finsec@stpaulsumcde.org
Prayer Requests

Please pray for:

Carol Apanowicz (healing)

Carol’s father, David Wiggins, 96 ½, going into hospice care

Frederick Smith (hospice care)

Carole Burdge (healing)

Shirley Erickson (healing)

Jim Jenkins, son-in-law of Dolores Garritano, who is still recovering from back surgery

Dot Wood (healing)

Elaine Linton (heart)

Florence Seney and Joan McGhie (back)

David Finch (healing)

Rick Stout (healing)

Rick Gamble (healing)

Kia, a friend of Elisabeth Parisi, who is having problems with her pregnancy

Our church, including caregivers

Our nation: leaders, citizenry, and the refugees in our