



# The Good Tidings

Arena Congregational Church

June 2018

CELEBRATING OUR PAST-EMBRACING OUR FUTURE

Affiliated with the Wisconsin Congregational Association

## Thoughts from there and there...Father's Day

A young pastor was visiting one of his church families. The father launched into a long lament about how difficult it was to be a good parent in our high-pressure, high-speed society. Finally the pastor said, "You are right, but there is only one thing harder than being a parent today, and that is being a child."



The young daughter, who had been listening immediately responded, "You're right!"

It's tough being a father. It has always been tough to be a father. Fatherhood does not end when our children become adults. You may decide to relate to your children on an adult-to-adult basis, but you never stop being a father. You continue to be a fatherly role model all the rest of your life.

As a pastor I truly know how tough it is. Very often, when my children were small, I served a three or four point charge. One year I drove 60,000 miles attempting to provide pastoral services and care to three churches in the lower third of the State of Vermont. Most of the time the children were in bed asleep before I got home. I still took a day off a week for family activities.

I have tried to do a better job with our grandchildren. On occasion Helga and I have had one of them stay with us for a night or two. We have done the usual grandparent things: trips to the zoo, to the Betty Brinn Children's Museum, McDonald's or Chuckie Cheese. On one occasion we decided to take Danissa to Karl Ratzsch Restaurant. Helga explained a little what our granddaughter would find in the restaurant.

One of the most satisfying and rewarding experiences has been to read a story at bedtime. To say goodnight with a kiss, and "I love you."

It is important to stay connected. In a scene from the summer 1991 movie "The Doctor": William Hurt portrays a cynical, successful heart surgeon whose life attitude is turned around by his own bout with cancer. When he comes home unexpectedly in the middle of the day to be with his family, his wife calls to their young son playing outside, "Come in and say hello to your father." The boy races into the room without even

noticing his father standing at the other end. Automatically his son picks up the phone, "Hi Dad...hello, hello..." Then turning to his mother, he says, "Well, Mom, we must have got cut off..." Stay engaged and stay connected. It's worth every minute of it.

Happy Father's Day,  
Pastor Shultz

## SERMON Sermons for June



SCHEDULE

June 3: Lesson: Matthew 5.1-2, 33-37,  
Sermon Title: Promises, Promises

"And don't say anything you don't mean.

This counsel is embedded deep in our traditions. You only make things worse when you lay down a smoke screen of pious talk, saying, 'I'll pray for you,' and never doing it, or saying, 'God be with you,' and not meaning it. You don't make your words true by embellishing them with religious lace. In making your speech sound more religious, it becomes less true. Just say 'yes' and 'no.' When you manipulate words to get your own way, you go wrong.

June 10: Lesson: Matthew 5.1-2, 38-42, Sermon  
Title: Getting Even

"Here's another old saying that deserves a second look: 'Eye for eye, tooth for tooth.' Is that going to get us anywhere? Here's what I propose: 'Don't hit back at all.' If someone strikes you, stand there and take it. If someone drags you into court and sues for the shirt off your back, gift wrap your best coat and make a present of it. And if someone takes unfair advantage of you, use the occasion to practice the servant life. No more tit-for-tat stuff. Live generously.

June 17, Father's Day: Lesson: Matthew 5.1-2, 43-47, Sermon Title: Family, Friends, Enemies

"You're familiar with the old written law, 'Love your friend,' and its unwritten companion, 'Hate your enemy.' I'm challenging that. I'm telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When *(Continued on [page 2](#))*

someone gives you a hard time, respond with the energies of prayer, for then you are working out of your true selves, your God-created selves. This is what God does. He gives his best—the sun to warm and the rain to nourish—to everyone, regardless: the good and bad, the nice and nasty. If all you do is love the lovable, do you expect a bonus? Anybody can do that. If you simply say hello to those who greet you, do you expect a medal? Any run-of-the-mill sinner does that.

June 24: Lesson: Matthew 5.1-2, 48, Sermon Title: Growing Up

“In a word, what I’m saying is, Grow up. You’re kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.”



### Special Days in the Secular and Church Calendar

- Mark Your Calendar! June 14, Flag Day
- June 17 (S) Father's Day
- June 21, First Day of Summer

### A Promise and a Prayer

#### Promise

I will welcome you, and I will be your father, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty"(2 Corinthians 6:17-18 NRSV).



#### Thought

The Creator of the Universe addresses us as a loving parent. God proposes to make you an adopted member

of the royal family. What a privilege this is! What responsibilities it entails. To be a child in a family, even an adopted child, means something very important. It gives one a name; it provides one a place; it creates for one an inheritance. It also means that one ought to, in all sincerity, attempt to allow the heavenly parent to help in the molding of thought, character, actions, yes, all of life.

#### Prayer

God help me to remember and to act as your child. You provide all the benefits; help me to use them wisely and well. Amen.

### Spotlight on the family

#### Powerful Family Nights<sup>1</sup>



Regular family nights create an informal setting where you can intentionally pass along beliefs and values to your children as well as provide many opportunities for informal reinforcement of those values.

These are two main points of the "Heritage Builders Association" booklet, *A Lasting Impression* (Chariot/Victor Publishing).

Here’s how to plan effective family nights.

1. Make it fun. Play and have a ball. Don’t worry if you kids don’t remember every word you say.

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<sup>1</sup> Copyright 1998 Children’s Ministry magazine, p. 55, Used by permission.

### THE FAMILY CIRCUS



Billy’s version of Bil Keane thinking of a cartoon for Father’s Day.

from *The Joyful Noiseletter*  
Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane

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2. Make a memory. Create special slogans or jingles to help the main point stick with kids.

3. Go with the flow. Start with a plan, but be willing to grab a teachable moment when an unexpected incident or question pops up.

4. Keep it simple Reinforce your beliefs by reading short Bible passages and leading quick activities that stress your point.

5. Invite participation. Ask questions, give assignments, and involve every family member as much as possible.

6. Mix it up. Use a variety of books, games, videos, songs, stories, and quick field trips to avoid routine.

7. Do it often. Set aside the same time each week, if possible. Repetition is a friendly teacher. Officers for 2017 - 2018

Choir Director, Leslie Shultz, 574-0707

Head Usher Jim Favreau, 753.2334 and Ray Johnson, 753.2845



## Meetings

Governing Board: Second Monday, June 11, 6:30 p.m.

Men's Breakfast: Third Saturday, 7:30 a.m., at Grandma Mary's. Our next Men's Breakfast will be in either September or October.



## Greeters

June 3 – Judi Salava

June 10 – Steve and Karen Wilkinson

June 17 – Judith and Doug Bradshaw-Rouse

June 24 – Jeff and Joanne Brown Family

July 1 - Pastor and Helga Shultz



## Adult Study Group

We have ended our study of John and will take a break for the summer. We will meet again in the fall with the study guide to be announced.



## Worship On Compact Disks

The Worship Services are recorded each week on a CD so that you may share in the fellowship and

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## Governing Board

President: Jim Favreau, 753.2334

Vice-president: Joanne Brown, 753-

2316

Treasurer: Steven Wilkinson, 753.2131

Clerk: Joe Hodgson, 753-2520

Financial Secretary: Ray Johnson, 753-2845

Church Secretary: Steve Wilkinson, 753.2131

## Officers

Sunday School Superintendent, Karen Wilkinson, 753-2131

## Recipe of the Month

### No-Bake Chocolate Oatmeal Bars

From the recipe files of Helga Shultz

Cooking spray

1 cup butter

1/2 cup packed brown sugar

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

3 cups quick cooking oats

1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips

1 cup peanut butter

Some sliced almonds for topping

Grease a 9-inch square pan with cooking spray

Melt butter over low heat and stir in the sugar and vanilla extract, stir for 2 to 3 minutes.

Add oats and stir on low heat until combined. Spread the mixture into the pan and press down. Melt chocolate chips and peanut butter over low heat and spread on top of oat mixture. Sprinkle sliced almonds on top, cover with foil and refrigerate until the chocolate is firm. Cut into bars and enjoy.



enjoyment of worship. If you would like to listen to a service to share the music, pray the prayers and learn from the sermon call either Steve Wilkinson, 753-2131 or Pastor Shultz, 574-0707 and a CD will be delivered to you. Let us know if you need a CD player.



## Missions

We are supporting the Congregational Mission of Jardin America with a gift of \$40 a month through the missions program of the National Association of Congregational Christians. We also contribute \$50.00 a month to the Arena Food Pantry, and \$25.00 a month to the Food Pantry at the Spring Green Community Church. If you would like to donate canned or dried food products you may put them in the barrel in the entry. Thank you for your support of our local and foreign mission projects.



## Something to Think About

Patriotism, July 4<sup>1</sup>

Grover Cleveland served two terms as President of the United States — 1885-89 and 1893-97. He had

high ideals for America. He called it "the land that lives in us." Among the patriotic speeches he wrote and gave, one addressed that theme. He said, in part:

"Our country is infinitely more than a domain affording to those who dwell upon it immense material advantages and opportunities. In such a country we live. But I love to think of a glorious nation built upon the will of free men, set apart for propagation and cultivation of humanity's best ideal of a free government, and made ready for the growth and fruition of the brightest aspirations of patriotism. This is the country that lives in us.

"I indulge in no mere figure of speech when I say that our nation, the immortal spirit of our domain, lives in us — in our hearts and minds and conscience. There it must find its nutriment or die. This thought more than any other presents to our minds the impressiveness and responsibility of American citizenship.

"The land we live in seems to be strong and active. But how fares the land that lives in us? Are we sure that we are doing all that we ought, to keep it in vigor and health? Are we keeping its roots well surrounded by the fertile soil of loving allegiance, and are we furnishing them the invigorating

moisture of unselfish fidelity? Are we as diligent as we ought to be to protect the poison that must arise from the decay of harmony and honesty and industry and frugality; and are we sufficiently watching against the deadly burrowing pest of consuming greed and cankerous cupidity?

"Our answers to these questions make up the account of our stewardship as keepers of a sacred trust." (from *Tuesday Mornings* newsletter by Tom Barnard)



## WHAT IS A FATHER?

A father is a thing that is forced to endure childbirth, without an anesthetic.

A father is a thing that growls when it feels good -- and laughs when it's scared half to death.

He never feels entirely worthy of the worship in a child's eyes. He's never quite the hero his daughter thinks -- never quite

the man his son believes him to be -- and this worries him, sometimes. So he works too hard to try and smooth the rough places in the road for those of his own who will follow him.

Fathers grow old faster than people. Because they have to stand at the airport and wave goodbye to the uniform that climbs aboard. And while mothers can cry where it shows, fathers have to stand there and beam outside -- and die inside.

Fathers have very stout hearts, so they have to be broken sometimes or no one would know what's inside.

Fathers are what give daughters away to other men who aren't nearly good enough -- so they can have grandchildren that are smarter than anybody's.

Fathers fight dragons -- almost daily. They hurry away from the breakfast table; off to the arena which is sometimes called an office or a workshop. There with calloused, practiced hands they tackle the dragon with three heads: Weariness, Work, and Monotony. And they never quite win the fight but they never give up.

Knights in shining armor -- fathers in shiny trousers -- there's little difference, as they march away to work each workday. -- Paul Harvey

## Humor



At an annual Bosses' Night dinner for Helena, Montana, lawyers, sponsored by legal secretaries, it was time to announce

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<sup>1</sup> preachingnow@preaching.com

the Boss of the Year.

The master of ceremonies began: "First of all, our winner is a graduate of the University of Montana. So that already eliminates some of you as candidates.

"Our winner also is a partner in a downtown Helena law firm. That eliminates some more of you.

"Our nominee is honest, upright, dedicated..."

A voice from the audience cut in: "Well, there go the rest of us!"

- from You Make Me Laugh  
docsdailychuckle@freegroups.net



### The Last Word

There was a feud between the Pastor and the Choir Director of The Hicksville Southern Baptist Church.

It seems the first hint of trouble came when the Pastor preached on "dedicating yourselves to service" and the Choir Director chose to sing: "I Shall Not Be Moved."

Trying to believe it was a coincidence, the Pastor put the incident behind him.

The next Sunday he preached on "giving." Afterwards, the choir squirmed as the Director led them in the hymn: "Jesus Paid It All."

By this time, the Pastor was losing his temper. Sunday morning attendance swelled as the tension between the two built. A large crowd showed up the next week to hear his sermon on "the sin of gossiping." Would you believe the Choir Director selected: "I Love To Tell The Story."

There was no turning back. The following Sunday the Pastor told the congregation that unless something changed he was considering resignation. The entire church gasped when the Choir Director led them in: "Why Not Tonight."

Truthfully, no one was surprised when the Pastor resigned a week later; explaining that Jesus had led him there and Jesus was leading him away. The Choir Director could not resist: "What A Friend We Have In Jesus."

- from Fran CMT2 docsdailychuckle@freegroups.net



A teacher's first graders were examining and discussing a picture of a family. One little boy in the picture had a different hair color than the other members. One of the students suggested that he was adopted.

A little girl said, "I know all about adoption, I was adopted."

"What does it mean to be adopted?" asked another child.

"It means," said the girl, "that you grew in your mommy's heart instead of her tummy."

[forwarded by Adon Brownell] Mikey's Funnies  
<funnies-owner@lists.MikeysFunnies.com>



When we take our dog on a car journey, we carry his drinking water in a gin bottle. On one occasion we stopped for lunch and let him out of the car. Pouring some water from the bottle into his bowl, I noticed a man watching with fascination.

He came over to me and whispered, "I hope that you're not going to let him drive!"

Received from Da Mouse Tracks. The Good Clean Funnies List <gcfl-info@gcfl.net>



### Signs on Church Properties

- "We are a Facebook church. We seek His face, and open His book!"

- "No God -- No Peace. Know God -- Know Peace."

- "Free Trip to heaven. Details Inside!"

- "Try our Sundays. They are better than Baskin-Robbins."

- "Searching for a new look? Have your faith lifted here!"

- "Come in and pray today. Beat the Christmas rush!"

- "Sign broken. Message inside this Sunday."

- "Fight truth decay -- study the Bible daily."

- "How will you spend eternity -- Smoking or Non-smoking?"

- "Dusty Bibles lead to Dirty Lives":

- "Come work for the Lord. The work is hard, the hours are long and the pay is low. But the retirement benefits are out of this world."

- "It is unlikely there'll be a reduction in the wages of sin."

- "Do not wait for the hearse to take you to church."

- "If you're headed in the wrong direction, God allows U-turns."

- "This is a ch\_ \_ ch. What is missing?" -----> (U R)

- "Forbidden fruit creates many jams."

- "In the dark? Follow the Son."

- "Running low on faith? Stop in for a fill-up."

-- from Laugh & Lift docsdailychuckle@freegroups.net



## Patriotism<sup>1</sup>

Henry Ward Beecher once said, "A thoughtful mind, when it sees a Nation's flag, sees not the flag only, but the Nation itself; and whatever may be its symbols, its insignia, he reads chiefly in the flag the Government, the principles, the truths, the history which belongs to the Nation that sets it forth." (from *The American Flag*)

<sup>1</sup> [preachingnow@preaching.com](mailto:preachingnow@preaching.com)

A little girl wrote, "My dad is such a nice man that I think he must have been a girl when he was a boy." - PROCLAIM, 2nd Qt., 1985, p.43

"My son's letters always send me to the dictionary," bragged the father of a Harvard undergraduate. "You're lucky," replied his friend. "My kid's letters always send me to the bank." -- THE LION

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