



God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Ps 46:1

HAPPY
FATHER'S
DAY!

FATHER'S DAY HISTORY

June 2022

After more than seventy years of life, I realized that I had very little knowledge or background about the origins of this special day. The nation's first Father's Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910, in the state of Washington. However, the first known Father's Day service occurred in Fairmont, West Virginia on July 5, 1908, after hundreds of men died in the worst mining accident in U.S. history. Grace Golden Clayton, the daughter of a dedicated minister, proposed a service to honor all fathers, especially those who had died.

Meanwhile, across the entire country, another woman was inspired to honor fathers. In 1909, Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington, was inspired by Anna Jarvis and the idea of Mother's Day. Her father, William Jackson Smart, a farmer and Civil War veteran, was also a single parent who raised Sonora and her five brothers by himself after his wife Ellen died giving birth to their youngest child in 1898. While attending a Mother's Day church service in 1909, Sonora, then 27 years old, came up with the idea. Within a few months, Sonora had convinced the Spokane Ministerial Association and the YMCA to set aside a Sunday in June to celebrate fathers. Thus, on June 19th, 1910, the first Father's Day events commenced: Sonora delivered presents to handicapped fathers, boys from the YMCA decorated their lapels with fresh-cut roses (red for living fathers, white for the deceased), and the city's ministers devoted their homilies to fatherhood. This widely publicized event in Spokane struck a note that reached all the way to Washington, D.C. and Sonora's celebration put the idea on the path to becoming a national holiday.

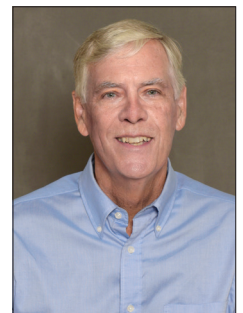
For so many years, I blandly passed through Father's Day as just another holiday, and my family would celebrate this day and buy presents for our father. I was reminded of a quote from Mark Twain that has since been altered many times over. "When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years." Those wouldn't have been exactly my words but certainly, the thought would have resonated. Thinking back, my father of six children

(spanning 18 years) was industrious, fair, honest, faithful, and loved and encouraged each of his children. I naively thought each child and family enjoyed a similar relationship. Over the years, I've come to realize that very few children and families experience these qualities of a father, and moreover, many experience just the opposite. They don't have a role model to look up to or to pattern their life after. Unfortunately, that's the world we are presently living in.

However, the "Good News" is the creator of the world and every human within it has a heavenly Father. "For God (the Father) so loved the world (His children) that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 ...and have it abundantly

I look at these qualities/attributes of my heavenly Father and realize how I fall short of being a father of three daughters and a grandfather of eight grandchildren. God knows my sinful condition and He has a solution. Acknowledge these shortcomings before our Lord, and He will forgive and restore. His WORD provides wisdom and guidance, so it's never too late to begin to apply these truths to our role as a "father" and a "grandfather."

There is no father that is perfect, except our heavenly Father. Learn from Him, and this will become the greatest gift you can give to your children and grandchildren and will glorify our heavenly Father. Think of the many attributes of our heavenly Father that we can learn from and apply to our children: **love, kindness, goodness, patience, compassion, truth, wisdom, faithfulness, justness, graciousness**, and others. As we ponder on these qualities, by the Holy Spirit's conviction and power, we fathers can be transformed into Christ-like fathers. The journey never ends until our last breath on this earth.



Dick Johnson
Board Member

Thank you to our Volunteers



On April 30, more than 75 volunteers gathered at our beautiful campus in honor of Volunteer Appreciation month. We are extremely thankful to 14 Bones for the delicious BBQ chicken and pork. And thankful for wonderful residents and staff who donated the side dishes. The event was a huge success!

Prayer from our founder Donna Lee Robart

Have any of you been able to change the Lord's mind? I dare say that you haven't yet. Well, I still think that one of my ideas will one day actually change His will... maybe a small thing, otherwise, why do I keep trying? I kept rewriting a prayer for this month's newsletter and nothing was right for a Father's Day subject. This thought kept coming to me to write the perfect prayer.. Huh? What is that and where would it be? To those of you who have already figured it out... let me know.

Jesus said "In this manner, pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And, do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."

Matthew 6: 9-13



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Juelie's testimony, community counselee

The 2020 pandemic brought a time of change for everyone's life. I am no exception. In Feb 2020, I got to marry my best friend and life partner. It was also at the same time when I sold my business of 25 years. People talk about stressful life changes playing a role in our mental health, our actions and these two events were definitely exciting and stressful. I found myself questioning my professional purpose as well as my new personal role in a blended family and new marriage. Anxiety slowly crept in and clouded my mind with worry, fear, and doubt. Having been a huge supporter of the Women's Refuge for many years, I took a leap of faith to utilize their services. I knew in my head that *the Lord does not give us a spirit of fear but of a sound mind.*



I knew the verse *be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication...* but at this time of my life I had lost my identity in Christ. It was wrapped up in my family and career. These two huge life changes challenged me to see God's love, grace, and guidance. The Women's Refuge offered a 12-week online course through the pandemic and it was through this that I re-established my foundational understanding of my identity in Jesus Christ. By using the scriptures, self-study, materials, and online accountability meetings, I was able to firmly grasp that I am a deeply loved mama, totally forgiven, fully-pleasing, completely accepted and complete in Christ. With this grounded firmly in my being, *I can truly say I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.*

Thinking about... from Executive Director, Diane Ludwig

A quote from Trusting God by Jerry Bridges, "If there's a single event in all the universe that can occur outside of God's control, then we cannot trust Him."

WOMEN'S REFUGE OF VERO BEACH

23RD ANNUAL
GOLF TOURNAMENT

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