

THE PARK BENCH

*“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.”
Luke 15:20 NIV.*

In doing my research for this article, I searched for “best fathers in the Bible.” If I asked you to name the “best fathers in the Bible” you would probably offer names such as Joseph – the adoptive father of Jesus, perhaps Abraham – father of the Jewish nation, or Jacob – father of the twelve that became the tribes of Israel. The list of fathers named in the Bible is extensive and far too long.

My favorite Biblical father is not named. In fact, this father may not have existed in real life. This father may only have been a character in a parable that Jesus used to teach a gathering of tax collectors and sinners. This father has been called the “Loving Father” or the “Forgiving Father.” We know him from the Parable of the Prodigal Son.

You know the story so well that I need not repeat it for you. But here is what I notice about the father in Jesus’s own telling of the story. In Luke 15:20, we are told ““But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.” This implies that the father was hopefully watching for his son’s return. Not just watching, but longing for his return and keeping all of his affection ready to express when he had the moment.

Later, the son tries to deliver his well-rehearsed speech explaining his circumstances and make his request of his father. The son doesn’t have time to finish before the father without hesitation, and wholeheartedly accepts him back. The father orders the servants to dress him in a fine robe, a ring, sandals, and to slaughter the “fatted calf” for a celebratory meal. What the father does next is also instructive – he gently and lovingly explains to his older son why a celebration of the younger son’s return was necessary.

This Loving Father, this Forgiving Father, is what all fathers should be. Oh sure, fathers are called upon to fulfill many other Biblical examples such as Provider, Teacher, and Healer – and we dads pride ourselves on the roles we’ve assumed. But God our Father is the most powerful example of what it means to be a dad. God’s love for humanity is shown throughout the Bible. God’s most selfless act, done out of pure love for His creation, was His decision to send Jesus His Son to die for the sins of mankind.

We thank God for the love of our earthly fathers,
and for His fatherly love for us.

Yours in Christ, Scott Cunningham



NEW ADDRESS :

Tom and Nancy McNaughton

109 Carriage Drive

Freedom, PA. 15042

house phone 878-439-7964

Preaching Schedule – MAY 2021

June 6 – The Rev. Wray Fanton – Communion

Sunday/Graduates recognized and reception

June 13 – W. Beau Gamble will candidate

June 20 – Scott Cunningham -- Father's Day

Summer hours begin 9:30 a.m.

June 27 – Colin McRoberts



CHURCH CALENDAR

June 5 – Spring Rummage Sale 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

June 6 – Sunday worship service 10:30 a.m.

Communion / Graduates Recognition

June 9 – RSVP for Weiner Roast

June 12 – Weiner Roast 4 p.m. & candidate

Introduction - Eat at 5 p.m.

June 13 - Sunday worship service 10:30 a.m.

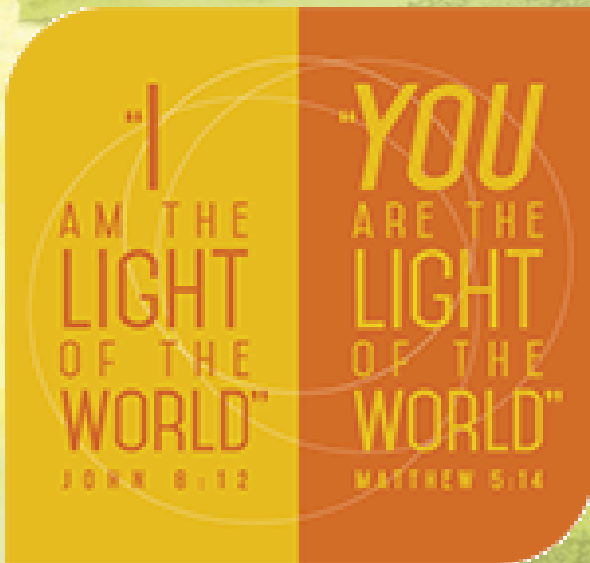
Beau Gamble - candidate preaching

June 20 – SUMMER HOURS BEGIN

Sunday worship service 9:30 a.m.

June 21 – Church Council meeting 6:30 p.m.

June 27 - Sunday worship service 9:30 a.m.



~ Position Open ~

From Church Council,

Our current child care worker Tawnee Koch has resigned her position, so we are currently in need of a child care worker for our younger children on Sunday mornings and other special services. This is a paid position. If you know of someone who might be interested, please contact Paul Merriman for further details.

Child Care Worker Needed



Congregational Care Corner
Elizabeth, congregational Care 412-630-0187



*Heaven goes by favor, if it went by merit,
you would stay out, and your dog would go in.*

For it is by free grace (God's unmerited favor) that you are saved.....

Ephesians 2:28 AMP

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*God always gives His best to those.*

*Who leave the choice to Him.*

*Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits.....*

*Psalms 68:19 KJV*

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*Silence is one of the hardest.
arguments to refute.*

Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.

Proverbs 21:23 KJV

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*Thoughts from God's Little Instruction Book*



**Special dates**

- Flag Day, June 14, 2021
- Father's Day, June 20, 2021
- First day of summer, June 20, 2021





**July 18 – 23, 2021**

**We will be doing a mission trip !**

**We are going back to Grafton, WV and working on the home of mark Irvine. This will be nthe third time we have worked with mark over the years. He has done a lot to improve his home but still needs a little help. We will be painting and putting up gutters. This would be a perfect trip for beginners to get experience along with those who have gone before. We will be staying at Fairmont State University for the week who will provide lodging and meals for us. Please contact Ralph for more details. 412-719-9307. It will be great to be together again and make Bill Smith proud to know our work continues.**

**( youth and adults are welcome ! )**

- 1 Jason Dauer
- 2 Hank Cochran
- 2 Micah Doria ( his 2<sup>nd</sup> ! )
- 3 Ellen McKenna
- 3 Ed Ford
- 4 Randy Dauer
- 6 Colin McGinnis
- 7 Keith English
- 8 Lynn Cress
- 11 Eddie McGinnis
- 12 Alex Lopez ( his 15<sup>th</sup> ! )
- 14 SANDY & GORDON BONHAM ( their 57<sup>th</sup> )
- 16 Sandy Hughey
- 19 Taylor Mauro ( his 16<sup>th</sup> ! )
- 19 Nancy Hurley
- 20 Abby Hofstetter ( 2002 )
- 23 Shelby Cress
- 24 Leah Liebenguth ( her first ! )
- 26 MATT and CARI STEWART
- 28 RALPH and JILL WHIPPLE
- 29 Rianna Liebenguth
- 29 Austin Gildernew ( his 21<sup>st</sup> ! )





☉ **Tom McNaughton** - suffered a fall at his home on Rochester Road this past week and has 5 damaged vertebrae, 1 broken rib and damage to his shoulder. He is in Mercy Hospital where trauma is treating his injuries. His wife, Nancy, is relieved that doctors tell her Tom will be ok and heal but it will take some time and lots of TLC. Praise to God that he was not seriously injured.

☉ **Jean Willoughby** is now with her daughter, Luann, continuing to receive treatment following hip replacement surgery on April 20. Cards can be sent to 818 Jane Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA. 15209.

☉ **Pam Frazier** – continues to receive chemotherapy for several spots of cancer on her liver. Please pray for Pam's safety and comfort as she endures the treatments necessary to restore her health.

☉ **Patty Andries** is here and will be attending the church service this Sunday, May 23. Patty plans to stay in Pittsburgh until June 8th and is looking forward to seeing and catching up with her friends.

☉ **Millie Flinchum's sister, Bertha Kriever**, has passed away. Her husband, George, who was on our prayer list passed just 2 months ago. Please lift up Millie and John and their family for strength and support during this difficult time.

☉ **Mary Eberhardt's daughter, SUE SNYDER**, passed away the morning of May 5, 2021 at peace and with her family present. She was laid to rest in Virginia. "Mary wants to thank her church family for all the love and kindness they gave through Sue's 23 years of sickness. It was a blessing to Mary, Sandy and Sue's family. We thank you again for caring."

☉ **Karen Ott and her family** are in need of prayer as they mourn the loss of her dad, Harold "Roy" Moon on Tuesday, April 20, 2021.

☉ **Shirley Wright** and her family are having to deal with the loss of her great-grandson, Christopher Wright, 25, on Thursday, May 20 from an automobile accident. He was the grandson of David and Linda Wright and son of their daughter Kathy. Our prayers are for strength and comfort for them.

**Continued Concern For:** Ruth Cunningham, Lowin Willoughby, Steven Cunningham, Keith (rejecting a transplant), Fred Reitano (covid), Bonnie Horner (cancer), Rachel (gall bladder and heart attack) Darlene Dennis, Ken McRoberts, Janet Hofstetter, Marion Wolbert, Erik Kolodziej's Uncle Mike, Mary Fisher, Larry Cusak and his wife Dolores, Charlotte Hamm, Dave Bell, Matthew Valente, The Scott family, Lois Titus, Lauren Slick, Mary Glassburn, Katie Jones, Edith Yockel, Christians around the world who are being persecuted.

**Prayer for all** the first responders who are in danger as they are out there doing their job. Especially, **Shawn McNaughton** who is a member of this church family and a police officer in Cecil Township.

**Those With Cancer:** Tom Duffola, Matt O'Leary, Mary Ann Yoder.

**Continue to keep in prayer - The Kriever family, The family of Sue Snyder, Bill Smith's family and friends.**

### One Great Hour of Sharing

June 6<sup>th</sup> is One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday. We kickoff our month-long offering campaign for our support for this ministry.

**One Great Hour of Sharing** is used to provide emergency disaster relief, rehabilitation, refugee work, and development assistance. We know that natural disasters occur – tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, droughts. We know that some communities have pockets of severe economic depression and suffer hunger. We know there are places in the world that still lack water sources. Our offerings to One Great Hour allow the American Baptist missionaries to respond to meeting these very basic human needs.

The focus of our mission work is of course to teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Sometimes that teaching occurs through our good works, by providing for those who can't provide for themselves, or through our demonstration of compassion and mercy.

Along with our regular offerings, we invite everyone to make a gift for the support of One Great Hour of Sharing. By doing so, you will also share in God's crediting for the work performed caring for others in His name.

**Spring Rummage and Bake Sale**  
**Saturday, June 5**  
**from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.**  
**Bag sale 12 – 1 p.m.**

**If you would be willing to help sort and set up in preparation for this event please let Ralph Whipple know [412.719.9307]. Donations are now being accepted.** If you need them picked up please call Ralph to make arrangements. Proceeds benefit our summer mission trip.

**We continue to recycle aluminum cans as a fund raiser for our mission group. The blue barrel enclosure is beside the dumpster around the back of the church for your donations. PLEASE do not put trash in these barrels. ONLY ALUMINUM ! Thank you !**

Our  
**Shut-ins and Skilled Care**  
**Residents**

**Mrs. Lois Exton**  
Paramount Senior Living at  
Cranberry

**Mrs. Eleanor Mooney**  
221 Chickasaw Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA. 15237 - 4706

**Mrs. Gloria Meinert**  
2915 Salisbury Court  
Wexford, PA. 15090 – 9672

**Mr. Earl Neely**  
319 Browns Mill Road  
Evans City, PA. 16033 - 7735

**Mrs. Shirley Wright**  
105 Burgess Drive  
Trillium House Room 215  
Zelienople, PA. 16063

**Mrs. Jean Downing**

**Janet Eberhardt**  
Concordia of Franklin Park  
1600 Georgetown Drive  
Sewickley, PA. 15143

**Mrs. Janet Tehois**  
Transitions Healthcare Facility  
90 Humbert Lane Apt. 104  
Washington, PA 15301



**Katelyn Dauer** from Grove City College with her Bachelors of Music in Music Performance (viola) with a minor in Psychology. She plans on taking a year off while continuing to work at Soergel's Orchards before heading to grad school for Music Therapy. Katelyn is the daughter of Randy and Laurie Dauer.

**Jason Dauer** is graduating on May 28, 2021 from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary with his Master of Divinity and an Emphasis in Church Planting and Revitalization. He is currently working to form a new faith community in the East End of Pittsburgh while pursuing ordination in the Presbyterian Church USA.

**Cheyenne Maxwell** will graduate Cornell High School on June 4 and will be attending Edinboro University majoring in psychology and art. **Cody Maxwell** will graduate from Cornell High School on June 4 and will be attending Thiel College on a scholarship for baseball studying Criminal Justice. Cody and Cheyenne's parents are Shelley Lee and Michael Maxwell. Grandparents are Ralph and Jill Whipple and great-grandmother Gloria Meinert. **Shelley Lee** received her RN degree in nursing from PTI in April. She has been an LPN for 13 years. She is the daughter of Ralph and Jill Whipple and granddaughter of Gloria Meinert.

**Christian Carver** - Bachelor Science in Occupational Safety and Health, Magna Cum Laude, Columbia Southern University. Christian is the husband of Amanda and son in law of Margaret and Dave Kelly.

**Caylah Stine**, granddaughter of Carol Jean Keefer, graduated with high honors from Grove City with a degree in Early Elementary and Special Education. She is looking for a job in the teaching field and will be working at Camp of the Woods this summer in the children's programs. **Tori Stewart**, also a granddaughter of Carol Jean Keefer, will graduate from Pine Richland High School on June 11 and attend Grove City College majoring in math in the fall.



May 21, 2021

Dear Members of our Congregation:

After a long and careful search, The Pastoral Search Committee is excited to present to you W. Beau Gamble of Casper, Wyoming as a candidate for the pastoral position at Franklin Park Baptist Church.

The Pastoral Search Committee has been able to talk to Beau and his wife Laura through the use of ZOOM meetings and we have had the privilege of meeting them in person and listening to Beau preach.

Beau is currently serving as Youth Pastor at City Park Church in Casper for the past 7 years and most recently has been serving as Associate Pastor. Beau is currently working to complete his studies at Northwind Seminary in Winter Garden, Florida. His belief is that the gospel message is not limited to Sunday mornings or weekly meetings. Our ministry is challenging one another to grow in our understanding and love of God and others. He and Laura are the parents of a daughter, Dakota and 3 sons, Wyatt, Landon and Tanner.

Not only is Beau a leader and willing to take his people into new areas of growth both inward and outward, he is also an accomplished photographer, artist, loves fly fishing and is a woodworking craftsman.

To introduce Beau and Laura to our church family, **the Search Committee has planned our annual weiner roast on Saturday, June 12, 2021 at 4:00pm in the social room. Dinner will be served at 5:00pm.** More details will follow. Please plan on attending this event to greet the Gambles.

**On Sunday morning at 10:30am, June 13, 2021, Beau will conduct our worship service and deliver the message. This service will not be live streamed. Following the worship service, we will conduct a congregational vote.**

We ask that you continue your prayerful cooperation as we move forward in this decision.

We look forward to seeing you in attendance.

Your Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Paul Merriman, Nancy McNaughton, Sandy McGinnis, Jane Myers, Cindy Merriman, Margaret Kelly, Christy Nichols, Angie Cochran, Scott Cunningham, and Dave Kelly



Church Council is planning the **Weiner Roast on Saturday June 12**. It will begin at 4:00pm and dinner will be served at 5:00. This will be our opportunity to meet Beau and Laura Gamble. Beau will be candidating for the pastoral position and will be leading the worship service Sunday June 13. Families are asked to bring a dessert for dinner. Dinner will be provided by Church Council. In order to plan, we are asking you to contact the church office of how many will be in attendance by June 9.

**Rich and Leslie Worst are first time grandparents !** Their daughter, Danielle and her husband Dave had a baby girl on Friday, May 7, 2021. **Adeline Helen Gofman** arrived at 3:28 Friday afternoon. She was 6 pounds 1 ounce and 19 inches long. Congratulations and many happy memories to come !

