

Central Christian Church



Where EveryONE is Welcome

MAY - JUNE
2021 NEWSLETTER

THE LINK



National Day of Prayer | Thursday, May 6, 2021

The National Day of Prayer is a day when people of all faiths are asked to pray for our nation. Each year has a slightly different theme or focus.

Not surprisingly, the theme of the 2021 National Day of Prayer is love, life, and liberty.

Title 36, Section 119 of US law states:

"The President shall issue each year a proclamation designating the first Thursday in May as a National Day of Prayer on which the people of the United States may turn to God in prayer and meditation at churches, in groups, and as individuals." This means that our President is legally required to sign a proclamation encouraging Americans to pray each year!

Although the National Day of Prayer was officially signed into law in 1952 by President Harry S. Truman, the practice of praying over our country was really nothing new.

Ever since our nation's founding, our nation's leaders have always called for days of prayer, thanksgiving, and fasting.

In fact, according to Wikipedia, National Day of Prayer began similarly to Thanksgiving:

"In the New England Colonies under British rule, traditional observances in late fall called for prayer and thanksgiving, while observances in the spring or summer called for prayer and fasting. The fall observance was established by President Abraham Lincoln as the official Thanksgiving holiday in 1863. The spring observance was established by President Harry S. Truman in 1952 as the National Day of Prayer."

While National Day of Prayer certainly isn't as widely accepted as Thanksgiving, it is a widespread and much-loved tradition that still takes place every year!

Not sure what to pray? Here's a list of things to pray for on National Day of Prayer:

- * For our country to submit to God and His authority
- * The President (Joe Biden)
- * The Vice President (Kamala Harris)
- * Future elections (that the right person will be elected)
- * Our nation's military
- * For our country's leaders to have wisdom in decision making

Weekly Ministries

Bible Study

- Mondays at 10 a.m.



Celebrate Recovery

- Mondays at 6:15 p.m.

NA Meeting

- Tuesdays at 6:15 pm

Choir Rehearsal

- Wednesdays at 6 p.m.



Prayer Team

- Thursdays at 4 p.m.

Movie Night

3rd Friday of
Each Month



What Does The Bible Say About Mothers Day?

The Bible consistently asks followers to honor and love their mothers. Examples of this can be seen in Exodus 20:12, "Honor your father and your mother," and Leviticus 19:3, "Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father."

Mother's Day is a holiday honoring motherhood that is observed in different forms throughout the world. In the United States, Mother's Day 2021 will occur on Sunday, May 9. The American incarnation of Mother's Day was created by

Anna Jarvis in 1908 and became an official U.S. holiday in 1914. Jarvis would later denounce the holiday's commercialization and spent the latter part of her life trying to remove it from the calendar.

Celebrations of mothers and motherhood can be traced back to the ancient Greeks and Romans, who held festivals in honor of the mother goddesses Rhea and Cybele, but the clearest modern precedent for Mother's Day is the early Christian festival known as "Mothering Sunday." The origins of Mother's Day as celebrated in the United States date back to the 19th century. In the years before the Civil War, Ann Reeves Jarvis of West Virginia helped start "Mothers' Day Work Clubs" to teach local women how to properly care for their children. These clubs later became a unifying force in a region of the country still divided over the Civil War. In 1868 Jarvis organized "Mothers' Friendship Day," at which mothers gathered with former Union and Confederate soldiers to promote reconciliation.

The official Mother's Day holiday arose in the 1900s as a result of the efforts of Anna Jarvis, daughter of Ann Reeves Jarvis. Following her mother's 1905 death, Anna Jarvis conceived of Mother's Day as a way of honoring the sacrifices mothers made for their children. Anna Reeves Jarvis used the carnation on Mother's Day to symbolize whether your mother was living. A red carnation meant she was, and a white meant she had passed.

After gaining financial backing from a Philadelphia department store owner named John Wanamaker, in May 1908 she organized the first official Mother's Day celebration at a Methodist church in Grafton, West Virginia. That same day also saw thousands of people attend a Mother's Day event at one of Wanamaker's retail stores in Philadelphia. Following the success of her first Mother's Day, Jarvis—who remained unmarried and childless her whole life -resolved to see her holiday added to the national calendar. Arguing that American holidays were biased toward male achievements, she started a massive letter writing campaign to newspapers and prominent politicians urging the adoption of a special day honoring motherhood.

By 1912 many states, towns and churches had adopted Mother's Day as an annual holiday, and Jarvis had established the Mother's Day International Association to help promote her cause. Her persistence paid off in 1914 when President Woodrow Wilson signed a measure officially establishing the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

Did you know? More phone calls are made on Mother's Day than any other day of the year. These holiday chats with Mom often cause phone traffic to spike by as much as 37 percent. If you are able; call your mom! Every Mother's Day there are approximately 152 million Mother's Day cards sent.

Source Information: <https://www.history.com>



ANNA JARVIS

Pastor's Pen

God's Gender Reveal

Male or Female

Gender Reveal parties are all the rage in these times. Recently, one overzealous expectant father almost caused an earthquake when he used 80 pounds of explosives for the big reveal.

During this season of Mother's Day and Father's Day, the question of God's gender often comes up. Either someone wants to celebrate God on Father's Day since Jesus called him Father, or someone else wants to celebrate God's female attributes on Mother's Day since there are several places in Scripture that indicate God has motherly or feminine traits which are interpreted by some as God our Mother.

Neither hits the mark. Jesus tells the Samaritan woman at the well that "God is spirit" (John 4:24). He is not referring to the Holy Spirit here, he is referring to God as a "supernatural non-material being," that is the meaning of the Greek word John used in that Gospel. Of course, Jesus would have spoken it in Aramaic, so even the original gospel is a translation.

Speaking of translations, throughout the first few chapters of Genesis most of the masculine pronouns used for God (he), were inserted by translators. In the original Hebrew, pronouns were not used anywhere near as much as we use them today. Of course, Genesis was written in hindsight long after God revealed the name, "I AM WHO I AM" to Moses. That description is two versions of the verb "to be" or being. God revealing Godself as a verb not a noun.

I AM WHO I AM is YHWH in Hebrew – Often translated as LORD (with the small capital letters) in our Bibles and pronounced Yahweh when reading Hebrew. Interestingly in Hebrew, the first part "Yah" is often used as a feminine grammatical ending and the second part "weh" is used as a



masculine grammatical ending.

God is Spirit, not a being made of matter, thereby God does not have genes or the X or Y chromosome. Even though God obviously does not have a gender as we understand it, God is revealed in Scripture with both what we consider masculine and feminine descriptors. The masculine names and metaphors far outweigh the feminine images used in Scripture to reveal God's nature. Is that a result of the patriarchal society the authors lived in or intended by God? Even if intended by God, was it because God was using images the people at the time, who the Scripture was being written for, would more readily understand and accept masculine images for God rather than feminine?

According to Genesis, "*God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them*" (v. 1:27 NRSV). Both genders are made in God's likeness. That does not mean God has both genders, it means the traits and characteristics, the human nature of both females and males are derived from God's nature.

There are many aspects of God which remain a mystery to us and God continues to this day to reveal new things about that divine nature which birthed us. We cannot put God into a box of our own design. One of our great early church theologians, Saint Augustine, once said, "*si comprehendis non est Deus*." If you have understood, then what you have understood is not God.

This Sunday we are going to explore this topic more fully. If you are interested in learning more, you will be able to listen to the message on YouTube and get my sermon manuscript emailed to you.





The nation's first Father's Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910, in the state of Washington. However, it was not until 1972 - 58 years after President Woodrow Wilson made Mother's Day official - that the day honoring fathers became a nationwide holiday in the United States. Father's Day 2021 will occur on Sunday, June 20.

The campaign to celebrate the nation's fathers did not meet with the same enthusiasm as Mother's Day; perhaps because, as one florist explained, "fathers haven't the same sentimental appeal that mothers have."

The man who inspired Father's Day - William Jackson Smart was a twice-married, twice-widowed Civil War veteran and father of 14 children, one of whom dedicated her life to

the creation of Father's Day in honor of her devoted and selfless dad. The story goes that William's daughter, Sonora Smart Dodd, was attending one of the first official Mother's Day services in 1909 at her church in Spokane, Washington, when she had an epiphany - if mothers deserved a day in honor of their loving service, why not fathers? When Sonora was 16, her mother Ellen died, leaving William as a single father to Sonora and her five younger brothers. And by Sonora's account, he performed brilliantly. "I remember everything about him," Sonora said many years later to the Spokane Daily Chronicle. "He was both father and mother to me and my brothers and sisters."

In 1910, Sonora brought a petition before the Spokane Ministerial Alliance to recognize the courage and devotion of all fathers like William on June 5, her dad's birthday. The local clergy liked the idea of a special Father's Day service, but could not pull something together so quickly, so they settled for June 19, the third Sunday in June. On that first Father's Day in 1910, church sermons across Spokane were dedicated to dear old dad, red and white roses were passed out in honor of living and deceased fathers, the mayor of Spokane and governor of Washington issued proclamations, and Sonora found her calling. She would spend much of the next 60 years pushing for the official recognition of Father's Day as a national holiday.

Slowly, the holiday spread. In 1916, President Wilson honored the day by using telegraph signals to unfurl a flag in Spokane when he pressed a button in Washington, D.C. Today, the day honoring fathers is celebrated in the United States on the third Sunday of June: Father's Day 2021 occurs on June 20.

Did you know? There are more than 70 million fathers in the United States alone. Source: www.history.com

Enjoy a BARBEQUE meal with us after worship service on Sunday, May 16th.



Transportation Ministry

If you need a ride to church or to any of our other events: Bible Study, Prayer Team Meeting, etc. we will pick you up. Contact Pastor Erwin at: 941-284-7541 or CentralChristianChurchBradenton.org



Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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Church Website: www.centralchristianchurchbradenton.org

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May Servant's Schedule

SUNDAY - 5/2

1st Reader: Jamie Spencer

2nd Reader: Pastor Erwin

Elder: Barb Abbring

Deacon: Pat Martin

Greeter: Wendy Vanlanot

SUNDAY - 5/9

1st Reader: Micki Baker

2nd Reader: Sue Fitzgerald

Elder: Sue Fitzgerald

Deacon: Pat Martin

Greeter: Wendy Vanlanot

SUNDAY - 5/16

1st Reader: AJ Stephen

2nd Reader: Anita Haisch

Elder: Erwin Goodwin

Deacon: Pat Martin

Greeter: Wendy Vanlanot

SUNDAY - 5/23

1st Reader: Billie Jo Laird

2nd Reader: Wendy Vanlanot

Elder: Anita Haisch

Deacon: Pat Martin

Greeter: Wendy Vanlanot

SUNDAY - 5/30

1st Reader: Sherri Lee

2nd Reader: Rick Session

Elder: Wendy Vanlanot

Deacon: Pat Martin

Greeter: Wendy Vanlanot

June Servant's Schedule

SUNDAY - 6/6

1st Reader: Terrie Zieber

2nd Reader: Barb Abbring

Elder: Rick Session

Deacon: Pat Martin

Greeter: Wendy Vanlanot

SUNDAY - 6/13

1st Reader: Sherry Laird

2nd Reader: Pastor Erwin

Elder: Barbara Abbring

Deacon: Pat Martin

Greeter: Wendy Vanlanot

SUNDAY - 6/20

1st Reader: Bernadette Gregson

2nd Reader: Rick Session

Elder: Sue Fitzgerald

Deacon: Pat Martin

Greeter: Wendy Vanlanot

SUNDAY - 6/27

1st Reader: Jamie Spencer

2nd Reader: Sue Fitzgerald




Elder: Erwin Goodwin

Deacon: Pat Martin

Greeter: Wendy Vanlanot



May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6 DAY OF PRAYER 	7	8
9 MOTHER'S DAY 	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 PENTECOST 	24 DAVID GREGSON BIRTHDAY	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 SHERRI LEE BIRTHDAY					

June 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 JACYLEN BROWNFIELD BIRTHDAY	12 MIKE GREGSON BIRTHDAY
13 LESA CANTERBURY BIRTHDAY	14	15	16	17	18	19 PASTOR KEN BIRTHDAY
20 	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Central Christian Community Services, Inc. | UPDATE!



Praise God, **26** donors have been led to contribute a total of **\$21,739** towards our vision of providing both Joyful Friends After-School Care and Joyful Friends

Summer Camp programs for elementary-aged children living with the challenges of developmental and intellectual differences. These services are especially needed in our community for those children who also exhibit challenging behaviors. There are waiting lists for both programs that currently serve this community in Manatee County. The need is great.

Thank you to our founding partners who've each committed a \$5000 investment to support the families we will serve.

Every single donor is appreciated and needed. Your contributions, whether it \$5, \$50 or \$500 make a difference in the lives of these children and their families.

"A little, plus a little, plus a little, adds up to a lot!"

Our focus on campers with behavior challenges means we need to employ trained, Registered Behavior Technicians and Board-Certified Behavior Analysts. The children we have been called to serve often need one-on-one or other high camper/staff ratios, which makes these programs very expensive and cost prohibitive for most summer camp and after-school programs and the families they serve. It also means we need to raise at least \$50,000 out of our \$175,000 budget to launch the programs. We're almost half-way there and should achieve our goal in time to begin the After-School Care program in August.

Unfortunately, we have not yet raised enough to initiate our Summer Camp program this year. Most of the After-School children we will serve will transition into our Summer Camp program in 2022.

We have received a donation from the Florida Disciples Regional Church and are working with the National Benevolent Association from the Disciples of Christ General Church to secure future grants.

We are also very excited about the possibility of establishing a partnership with the nearby Congregational United Church of Christ in Sarasota. Pastor Evan Ferrar is sharing our vision with his

congregation and the regional United Church of Christ as a potential founding partner.

One of the biggest stumbling blocks to achieving our fundraising goals has been securing our IRS 501 (c) (3) tax exempt status. We are an incorporated non-profit in the State of Florida and registered with the state as a Solicitor of Contributions; however, all grant programs, both from foundations and the government require the 501 (c)(3) status to be finalized. According to the IRS that usually takes at least six months. Once approved the tax-exempt status is retroactive to our date of incorporation 12/11/2020. Based on our extensive research, it will be approved. Unfortunately, the bureaucracy of government is moving more slowly than usual during this pandemic.

Meanwhile, every donation makes a difference. Contribute whatever you can. Spread the word. **Follow our Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/JoyfulFriendsSummerCamp> and share our posts with your friends. **The link to donate is:** <https://www.cccommunityservices.org/support-us>

These children are counting on all of us. Please help to make a difference in their lives!

Our Founding Partners...



**Scott and
Carolyn May**

