

# Grace Tidings



A Newsletter of Avalon Grace Church

June 2022

## The Perfect Father

**G**od – the Perfect Father is the one Who loves us unconditionally, Who will never let us down, leave us, or stop loving us. Lord, thank You for being a Father we can always count on no matter what: “When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up.” – Psalm 27:10 KJV

Father’s Day is an opportunity for us to honor our earthly father. Many folks approach Father’s Day with mixed emotions. Some have encountered difficult relationships this side of eternity. Many have been blessed with loving, attentive hands-on dads and grandfathers who are always available and interested in their children’s and grandchildren’s lives; others have somewhat distant, disinterested fathers while others were abandoned by their father when they were children.

Some people never even knew who his or her father was; and of course, some of our beloved fathers have left us and we remember them in our hearts.

When people fall short, fail us, or hurt us, or don’t pay much attention to us, it can hurt big time. But we are still completely loved and protected by the only Perfect Father.

Not only does the Bible tell us to address God as Father, we are to do it in an intimate way. The apostle Paul wrote,

“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.”  
Romans 8:15 KJV

Don’t we all long for a deeper intimacy with our heavenly Father? The word “Abba” speaks of intimacy and closeness; it is like calling your earthly father “Daddy” or “Papa.” The idea is that of an affectionate relationship.

(Continued on Page 2)



**AVALON GRACE CHURCH**  
**3801 GUILFORD ROAD**  
**NAPLES, FLORIDA 34112**  
**(239) 774-4214**

**[avalongracechurchofnaples@gmail.com](mailto:avalongracechurchofnaples@gmail.com)**  
**[www.avalongracechurch.com](http://www.avalongracechurch.com)**

**Pastor Phillip McClellan, Jr.**  
**Pastor Emeritus Arthur Sims**  
**Kathleen Smith, Editor**

**All Are Welcome!**

**Sunday Worship 10:30 AM**  
**(Sunday Messages available on website:**  
**[www.avalongracechurch.com](http://www.avalongracechurch.com))**  
**Children’s Sunday School 10:45 AM**  
**Thursday Evening Bible Study 7:00 PM**

**“And to make all men see  
what is the fellowship of the mystery,  
which from the beginning of the world  
hath been hid in God, who created  
all things by Jesus Christ: . . .”**  
**- Ephesians 3:9**

## The Perfect Father . . . (Continued from Page 1)

My granddaughter Jocelyn, when she was just beginning to talk, would lift her hands up and say, "Hold you!" or when Olivia tugs on my hand saying "C'mon Papa, let's play" - how can you resist that? It is how our Father in heaven wants us to trust Him - just like a little child. This is exactly how we are to trust our heavenly Father.

Take a look at David's confidence in God's constant presence, power, and protection:

"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident. One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple. For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock. And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD." - Psalm 27:1-6 KJV

Continuing in Psalm 27, when David cried out for help he expected God's answers: "Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice: have mercy also upon me, and answer me. When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek. (Verses 7-9).

While earthly fathers may reject, abandon, or neglect their children, David declared God's unconditional acceptance, "When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up." (vs. 10).

David lived with assurance in the LORD's goodness, "Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies. Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are

risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty. I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living." (vs. 11-13).

Like most of us, David struggled, but the Holy Spirit helped him persevere in trust and dependence on the Lord, "Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD." (vs. 14).

If we want to know what kind of Father we have in heaven, all we need to do is look at Jesus. Our Savior said, "... he that hath seen me hath seen the Father . . ." The Lord goes on to say, "... if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also." John 8:19

Just look at Jesus with the little children in His arms, blessing them. Just look at Jesus with tears streaming down His face at the grave of his friend, Lazarus; look at Jesus washing the feet of His disciples in the upper room. Jesus is the perfect reflection of our heavenly Father.

Happy Father's Day to all! Pastor Phil

[Portions written by Xochitl Dixon, Our Daily Bread; Pastor Phil and Kathleen Smith].

### Only A Father Will Do

Only a father could understand  
The special things his children  
have planned

Only a father can share it seems

The vision and challenge of the loftiest dreams

When encouragement's needed or questions arise

And you need to find someone who  
is strong and wise

Someone who sees you with love in their eyes,  
Only a father will do.

~ Unknown



# June Reflections . . .

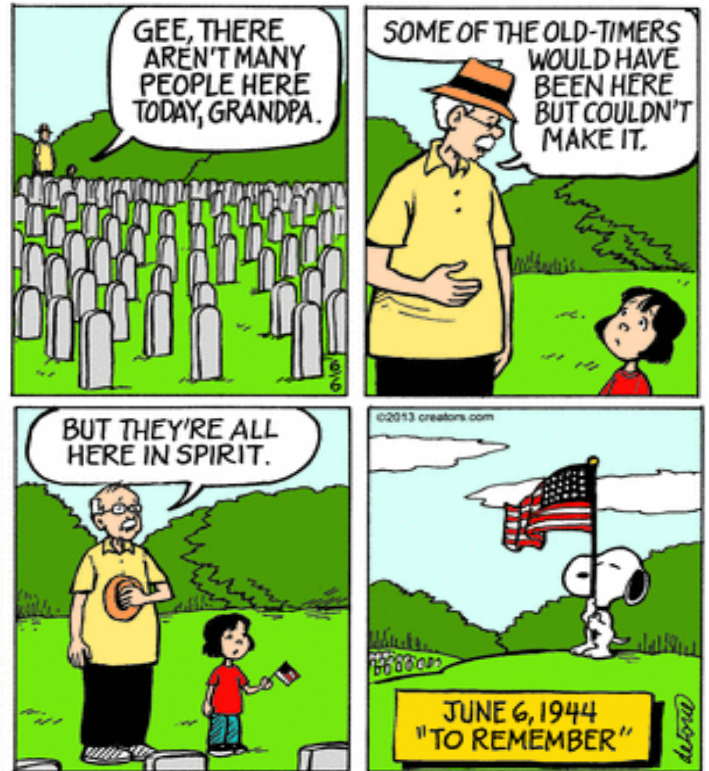
## Remembering D-Day

On June 6, 1944, more than 160,000 Allied troops landed along a 50-mile stretch of heavily-fortified French coastline, to fight Nazi Germany on the beaches of Normandy, France.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower called the operation a crusade in which, "we will accept nothing less than full victory." More than 5,000 Ships and 13,000 aircraft supported the D-Day invasion, and by day's end, the Allies gained a foot-hold in Continental Europe. The cost in lives on D-Day was high. More than 9,000 Allied Soldiers were killed or wounded, but their sacrifice allowed more than 100,000 Soldiers to begin the slow, hard slog across Europe, to defeat Adolf Hitler's crack troops. Omaha Beach is as sacred a piece of ground to Americans as any place on earth, including Gettysburg and Plymouth Rock.

When the remains of the men who died in Normandy were recovered in the years following the war, their families were given the choice to have their loved ones returned home or allowed to remain with their brothers in arms there in Normandy. Nearly two-thirds of the families asked for their sons and brothers and husbands to come home. Despite all the records, there were still over 1,500 missing men, and their names were inscribed on a wall near the entrance to the Normandy American cemetery. As the years have passed and more remains from this time were recovered, bronze rosettes were set next to those names whose remains were identified. Many names, however, remain unmarked.

Freedom truly isn't free. To those who gave their all and sleep beneath stones, we thank you for giving it all up for us, our families, our country. May we remember our fallen comrades and heroes and honor their sacrifice and service now and always.



## Flag Day, June 14th

**Flag Day celebrates and commemorates June 14, 1777, the day John Adams spoke about the flag at a meeting of the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. He said, "Resolved, that the flag of the thirteen United States shall be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the Union be thirteen stars, white on a blue field, representing a new constellation." There have been 27 official versions of the flag so far; stars have been added to it as states have entered the Union. The current version dates to July 4, 1960, when Hawaii became the 50th state.**

(continued on Page 4)



# June Reflections . . .

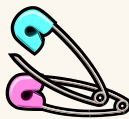
## Flag Day (continued from Page 3)

Many Americans sing, pledge, and pay homage to the flag, "Old Glory," as a symbol of the country's democracy and independence. Saluting the flag is a way to celebrate and honor the United States of America. By displaying the Red, White, and Blue in front of our homes and businesses on June 14<sup>th</sup>, we thank God for our freedom, commemorate our homeland, and our nation's flag together:

**"We pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands; one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all."**

## How to Diaper a Baby

by Jimmy Piersall, Baseball Center Fielder, 1968



"Spread the diaper in the position of the diamond with you at bat. Then fold second base down to home and set the baby on the pitcher's mound. Put first base and third together, bring up home plate and pin the three together. Of course, in case of rain, you gotta call the game and start all over again."



## QUOTES FOR THE WISE & YOUNG AT HEART:

"A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed, and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society."

~ Rev. Billy Graham

Dad is a son's first hero and a daughter's first love. ~ Author Unknown

"Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers."

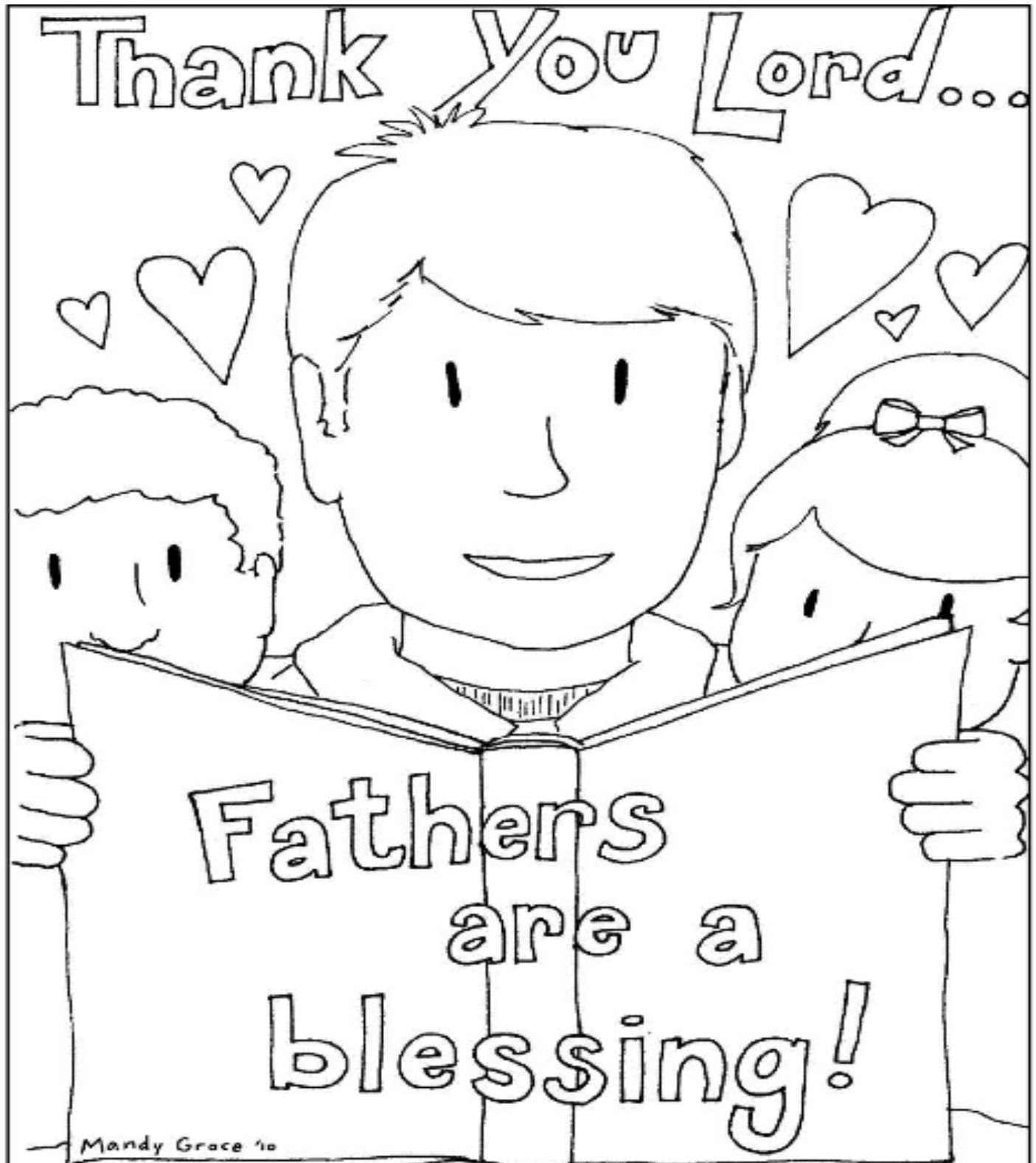
~ Proverbs 17:6

"Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust." ~ Psalm 103:13

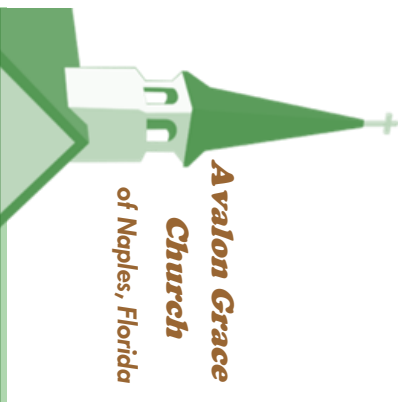
"They say that from the instant he lays eyes on her, a father adores his daughter. Whoever she grows up to be, she is always to him that little girl in pigtails. She makes him feel like Christmas. In exchange, he makes a secret promise not to see the awkwardness of her teenage years, the mistakes she makes, or the secrets she keeps." ~ Author Unknown



"My doctor told me to avoid any unnecessary stress, so I didn't open his bill."



“In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.” - Proverbs 14:26 KJV



# June 2022



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

1

2

3

4

7:00 PM Bible Study

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

9:45 Sunday Breakfast  
10:30 AM Sunday Worship  
10:45 AM Children's Sunday School



7:00 PM Bible Study

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

10:30 AM Sunday Worship  
10:45 AM Children's Sunday School



7:00 PM Bible Study

19

20

21

22

23

24

25



10:30 AM Sunday Worship  
The LORD's Supper Observed  
10:45 AM Children's Sunday School



7:00 PM Bible Study

26

27

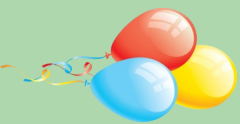
28

29

30

10:30 AM Sunday Worship  
10:45 AM Children's Sunday School

7:00 PM Bible Study



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!**



6th David Marshall

10th John O'Neill

16th Michelle Sims

18th June D'Amico

19th Mary Johnson

30th Janet McClellan

**COMING IN JULY**

3rd 9:45 AM Sunday Breakfast

4th Independence Day!

