

June 17, 2019 Huntley UMC weekly email

Dear friends,

Yesterday was Father's Day, and we celebrated all men at Huntley United Methodist Church for the important roles they play in our lives. Men were honored in our fellowship time with cake and ice cream, each man was also offered a candy bar as a small gesture of our appreciation, and we prayed for them during worship. Thank you to all the men of our church, and to all the men throughout our lives who have loved us, guided us, mentored us, and supported us in life-giving ways.

During worship we talked about how to be a "Hall of Fame" dad, or mother, or granddad, or grandmother, or aunt, or uncle, or whoever for the important people in our lives. We identified three things that set us apart as positive role-models in young people's lives.

First, we give them the gift of our time. Unfortunately, our children don't often get enough of our time. Many adults, especially men, spend very little time with their children. One research project said on average that men give their undivided attention to their children only 38 seconds a day, and an additional average of 20 minutes while otherwise engaged watching TV or involved in some other project. Is it any wonder that our children are growing up not really knowing what it means to be a loving, present, engaged parent. Hall of Fame dads give their children the gift of their time.

Hall of Fame dads also teach their children the difference between right and wrong. In the Gospel reading from yesterday, Jesus was talking to his disciples about the Holy Spirit that was to come upon them, and he says, "I have much more to say to you, more than you can bear now. But when the Spirit of Truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth . . ." Isn't that a primary characteristic of a Hall of Fame dad, that he leads his children into truth! If we do not build up our children to be people of good character, who will? Hall of Fame dads teach their children the difference between right and wrong.

And finally, Hall of Fame dads show their children how much they are loved. It is very gratifying to me to see fathers who are able to express their love verbally and physically to their children. Earlier generations of father were not as able to do that for their children as easily. I had to learn to say, "I love you" to my children with words because I did not experience that in my family growing up, from either of my parents. I knew they loved me by their actions, but words are important too. We should explore every single opportunity we have in conveying our love for one another, especially our children. You can never underestimate the power of words. Hall of Fame dads show their children in every way possible how much they are loved.

Mountain Sky Annual conference met in Billings, MT June 13 – 16<sup>th</sup>. I will provide an update with a special email in the coming days.

Next Sunday we will celebrate the birthday of Clarice Gabel after worship at Huntley United Methodist Church.

Next Sunday the Evangelism/Community Engagement Committee and WCI Team will meet after worship to review plans for our Worship in the Park service on August 4<sup>th</sup>. Those asked to attend are Stan Lambert, Lynn Taylor, Pat Beddes, Clarice Gabel, Lissa Gabel, Donna McClain, Mike Ervin, Kathe Gable, Eddie Gabel and Pastor Gary.

See you in worship,  
Pastor Gary Geiman