

June 19, 2016

"THE HOLY KISS"**Excerpt from 2 Corinthians 13:11-13**

"Greet one another with a holy kiss. "

**Reflection by Ron Buford**

Each morning, my Dad put on a pot of coffee, shaved, showered, and was at the breakfast table by 6:30 a.m. He poured a cup of Maxwell House coffee, opened the well-worn family Bible, struggling over its words...because as an African American born in the South in 1913, he only got a third grade education though he still came to great biblical understanding. After praying, he'd kiss my sleeping Mom good-bye. Then he'd come to my room, gently opening my bedroom door, as the dog, who knew she wasn't supposed to be on the bed, jumped to the floor, scooting under the bed. Pretending to be asleep, I'd lay there as Dad kissed my forehead, leaving behind the smell of Old Spice aftershave before punctually starting the car at 7 a.m. He did this for as long as I can remember, even during my summers home from college...until I left home.

How precious the memories of that "Holy Kiss." I still keep a bottle of Old Spice around just to remind me. And whenever I see a blue can of Maxwell House..."good to the last drop," I think of Dad.

Many men are not strong like my Dad, able to be a "man" and yet tender. Far too many women, men, boys, and girls are terrified at the thought of their Dad opening their bedroom door because some Dads or other father figures have violated the sacred trust between a father and his child. Most of those terrified in this way find it difficult if not impossible to approach God as Father, Divine Dad or Parent.

But I am happy to say that this is not the case with most Dads whom we celebrate today — those whose gentle kisses are holy, wholesome, and healing...forever.

Happy Father's Day, Daddy! .

..Written by **Daniel Hazard**

*Getting to Know :***Pleasantville UCC**

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Appreciating what is valued in our tradition, developing what is strong in our community, envisioning what is possible for our future; we are Pleasantville United Church of Christ in Chalfont, PA.

Founded in 1840, Pleasantville has grown to meet the needs of its members, most recently adding a new Sanctuary in Fall 2010. We offer a meditative service in our Chapel and a musically and spiritually rich worship service in our Sanctuary. Our music ministry supports multiple choirs and bell groups and we provide a weekly Church School Program for Preschool through 8th grade. Faith-based youth programs for 3rd through 12th grade provide opportunities for fellowship and service, as well as mission trips and retreats. These experiences allow our children and youth to put their faith into action. Christian Education opportunities for adults include Bible Studies, a weekly Sunday Forum, guest preachers, mission trips, and annual retreats — as well as marriage enrichment and parenting seminars. Through diverse programming we aim to provide ministry and fellowship opportunities for members of all ages.

Pleasantville has a long tradition of building partnerships and providing support for people in need — both in our local community and around the world. In addition to supporting Our Church's Wider Mission, each month our members are invited to support a different (often local) organization — including the New Britain Food Larder, the Bucks County Housing Group (Doylestown Shelter), the Bucks County Board of Health collection of baby formula, A Woman's Place, Habitat for Humanity, and many more. Pleasantville also supports and houses a half-day Pre-School program. Pleasantville Pre-School is a state accredited, private academic school for children ages 3-5.

More information may be found on our website at www.pleasantvilleucc.org. This website is updated weekly and includes sermons, newsletters, and "happenings" at Pleasantville. Visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pleasantvilleucc/ to view images and videos of choir performances, mission trips, weekly activities and more.



Prayers are requested for Pleasantville UCC in Chalfont and Rev. Dr. Hilary J. Barrett.