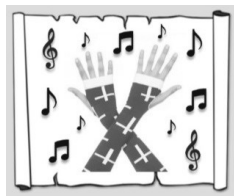




June 18, 2017

“ Upcoming Events “



Walking with God 2017

Music for Body and Soul

Keynoter Betsy Chapman, Harpist, Hospice Musician, Instructor of Yoga and Qigong, will offer three presentations during the weekend:

Finding our Focus, Music for Harmony, From Intention to Action

There will also be an opportunity to select 2 workshops from the 4 offered that will include:

Music for Body and Soul, Healing as a way to Grace, Understanding through Bible Study, Balancing the Heart through Qigong exercise.

When: October 13-14, 2017 **Where:** Mariawald Renewal Center

Ventures 2017

Opening to Grace: God's Healing Ways

A retreat of faith, Bible study, worship, workshops, fellowship and fun. Rev. Wanda Craner will be the keynote presenter on Tuesday.

Some of the topics to be addressed

Do You Want to Be Healed? (John 5:5-19, 14-15);

Bent Out of Shape? (Luke 13:10-17) ; Don't Give Up! (Mark 7:24-30)

Compassion versus Policy (Luke 14:1-6); Stretch Out Your Hand (Mark 3:1-6)

When: September 26-28, 2017

Where: Mariawald Renewal Center



Register for these events at : www.psec.org

Happy Father's Day!

It is the third Sunday in June and we take this opportunity to honor our fathers or our father figures. My father wasn't so fond of this day and thought it was just one more holiday for businesses to make money. Maybe he was correct! Fun fact: Did you know that Father's Day was not officially recognized until 1972?

How do you experience Father's Day? Is it a time of joy with picnics, grilling, and gifts? Not everyone has experienced the care of a loving father. In fact, I am certain that some have negative thoughts and/or memories when thinking of their father.

I was very lucky. My Dad had a major impact on my life. Growing up in a time when women were still struggling for equality, my Dad always told me that I could do anything if I wanted it bad enough. He supported me and encouraged me to be involved in things that weren't always "lady-like".

He always took care of me. He knew I was afraid of the dark and so he would hold my hand, take me outside in the darkest of nights, and try to convince me that there was nothing to fear—he didn't succeed.

My Dad was a rural mail carrier, but he was more than that. Through his actions, I learned to be a compassionate person. He would often take people to buy groceries, help people make their rent, or just drop off whatever they needed. My Dad never turned anyone away. My Dad knew when someone couldn't come out to get their mail, so he would take the mail to their door. He would always go the second mile.

My Dad didn't like to show emotion, but I knew he cared by the way he treated me and others. Dad was a man that had seen the horrors of war in World War II and the Korean Conflict and yet, with me, he always showed affection. My Dad spoke the truth to me and I always knew exactly where I stood with him, good or bad. My husband, Pat, can tell you when he picked me up for our first date. Dad had a pistol laying on the counter. Pat asked, "What's this for?" Dad replied, "To shoot Morris' with." That was my Dad.

I have always thought of God as Father, mostly because I grew up in a community of faith that called God Father. Now I realize that Father is just a term we use to describe God. God is so much more than just Father. In Ghana, they have two names for God, one is male and one is female. They are so right. God is more than we can ever describe in a word or a phrase. We try to think of God in human terms, but God is so much more than we can even articulate.

On this Father's Day, I pray that you have a wonderful day and wonderful memories of a loving Father. If not, I pray that you have someone in your life who cares for you and supports you. Know that God is a loving God, and however you think of God, God loves you more than you can ask or imagine—a love like nothing we have ever or will ever experience on earth.

-Rev. Sharon Morris, Assoc. Conference Minister