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The Role of Fathers

When we look closely at the annual calendar, all 364 ¼ days, it is interesting how no two days are alike. Days of the year can be like snowflakes, no two are exactly the same. If there were two days, however, that should be an exception to this rule, it ought to be Mother’s Day and Father’s Day. Separated by just over a month, these two days just based on their titles, days when we honor our parents, ought to have something in common. You and I both know that the opposite is true. If you don’t do so months in advance, you will not be able to get a reservation at a single reputable restaurant on Mother’s Day. On Father’s Day, you can walk into those same restaurants and pick a seat.

Mother is a celebrated role, and rightfully so. But I believe we live in a time when we need fathers who understand the role they play in our society. I recently heard an interview related to the Me Too movement, and the role that fathers can play in helping boys and girls understand proper respect and value for the lives and bodies of women. We need fathers who will teach healthy masculinity, gender equality, and the true definition of consent. The responsibility of sharing this with our children is not just on mothers. We need 364 1/4 days of fathering, that goes far beyond a single day in June.

- Rev. Cean James, Associate PSE Conference Minister for Congregational Development