

The Connection



Monthly Newsletter of
South Point Community Church
June 2023 – Volume 69

A Word from Pastor Dave

1. We admitted we were powerless over our addictions and compulsive behaviors, that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. We came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. We made a decision to turn our lives and our wills over to the care of God.
4. We made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. We admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. We were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up."
James 4:10
7. We humbly asked Him to remove all our shortcomings.
"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

[Celebrate Recovery Steps 1 to 7]

Are we all familiar with the Christian mantras, "Forgive and forget" and "Let go and let God"? Forgiveness is a critical issue in the Bible and for good reason. It turns out in the area of forgiveness, one of the real challenges, is actually forgiving ourselves. God wants us to repent. He already paid the penalty for all of our sins on the Cross. He's already offered us the gift of Grace, i.e. God's Riches At Christ's Expense. So, when by faith we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour it's kind of a package deal. What has Christ saved us from? He has saved us from the Eternal consequences of our sins. Our sins have now been forgiven and God says not only are they forgiven but he chooses

June Dates

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| 4 th | Worship Service 10:30 am |
| 6 th | Celebrate Recovery 7pm |
| 7 th | Prayer at Church 10:30 am |
| 10 th | Pastoral Team Meeting 8:30 am |
| 11 th | Worship Service 10:30 am |
| 13 th | Celebrate Recovery 7pm |
| 14 th | Prayer at Church 10:30 am |
| 18 th | Worship Service 10:30 am |
| 18 th | Happy Father's Day |
| 22 nd | Celebrate Recovery 7pm |
| 21 st | Prayer at Church 10:30 am |
| 21 st | Catalyst Meeting 7 pm |
| 24 th | Men's Breakfast 8:30 am |
| 25 th | Teen Challenge/Potluck Service 10:30 am |
| 27 th | Celebrate Recovery & Meal 6:30pm |
| 28 th | Prayer at Church 10:30 am |

to remember them no more. Psalm 103 is a beautiful and encouraging passage of Scripture. Think about our relationship with our perfect heavenly Father in light of these simple truths which we all know – even though we are, "made in His image", we each have our own faults and shortcomings. Yet Psalm 103 declares, "he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust." (vv. 10-14, NIV)

Now before we run to Staples and buy one of those red, "That was easy!" buttons, let's be honest for a minute. Very few Christian people seem to be gleefully walking in this joy and freedom. Why is that? Because as Saviour, Christ has looked after the penalty of our sins and now as Lord he wants to lead us out of the bondage of our sins. What people working in the Recovery Ministry have found over the decades is that the human heart struggles to stay on course with this process. The dreaded, "Yeah buts...", seem to get us tripped up every time. So, in Celebrate Recovery the process of asking Jesus Christ to

be our Savior and the process of working through issues of forgiveness are each broken down into a few smaller steps. Of all the steps I wonder how many people find they have to repeat Step 6 over and over and over again in order to actually accomplish it even once.

Understanding that we have a problem like anger, lying or self-medicating our fears with illicit pleasures and avoidance tactics isn't overly complex. But actually, turning away from those things and choosing to trust God instead is classically difficult. Anger for example, may have been a coping mechanism that has served us for many years. When we feel down, the anger gives us a boost of adrenaline. When people are getting too close and might find out our secrets, anger keeps them at a distance. With anger, we think we've learned to get what we want. Yet the cycle of anger leaves us lonely and empty. How can it be that lonely and empty has become someone's substitute for safety? That's a good question. Yet over time, those ingrained patterns, around different issues, are things we are all familiar with.

This is the simple logic behind Step 6. Step 6 is a chance to humble ourselves before the Lord and allow him to lift us up (see James 4:10). We get to bring all of our, "Yeah buts..." and surrender them one at a time.

Prayer Corner

My Lord, gentle and humble of heart. Thank you for seeing and knowing my heart on this recovery journey. Your amazing grace has shown me that where I am not able, you are able. You restore me as I let go. Fear and pride lose their hold on me as I open the door in confession.

Weary and heavy laden, I come to you.

As you lift me to my feet, prepare me for the changes you are going to make in my life. I know in your time, I will find the rest you promise.

In your name I pray, Amen.



Barnabas Notes

Father's Love

Who does not remember the age-old story of the prodigal son? The tale of the prodigal son is a vast reminder to all of us, the love of a father for his child. Among all the father son inspirational stories, this one will make you nostalgic. We learn that the child can essentially do anything at all and not lose the love of his father. This story has become a happy Father's Day story.

The son leaves his home with all of his funds and wants to go off to see the world. He is gone for a lengthy time, spends all of his money on things which are not healthy for him or for his body, while the other son (the prodigal son's brother) remains at home dutifully giving his best. The son eventually returns back home penniless with nothing to show at all. But even in such a defeated state, the prodigal son is accepted by his father. This story goes on to prove how a father's love for his children is not bound to their materialistic achievements.

When we understand that a parable is an imaginary story to illustrate a spiritual point, we can quickly perceive that Jesus is using this account to teach us of God the Father's love for each of us. And while we are all sinners, as was the prodigal son, it is heartwarming, comforting and, yes, almost incomprehensible that God the Father is willing to accept us back, given the mistakes we have made.

This overview of the parable is well-known, and we are deeply moved by this understanding. But now let's consider what isn't commonly perceived about this story

and what this knowledge should motivate us to do. Throughout the Bible we see that God desires for us to repent and be reconciled to Him. He "commands all men everywhere to repent" (Acts 17:30), and in Luke 15 this point is emphasized through a progression of three parables, the third being the one about the prodigal son.

God greatly desires for us to repent of our sins and return to Him. God loves mankind so much that He sent His Son to earth to die for our sins (John 3:16). He is "long suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). He "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4).

Jesus said that He came to reveal the Father (Matthew 11:27, Luke 10:22), and the parable of the prodigal son surely does this. We do indeed have a Heavenly Father who greatly desires for each of us to repent of our sins so we can be part of His eternal family.

It doesn't matter how far we have strayed from our Heavenly Father or how much we've squandered the gifts He's provided, He is always delighted when we turn back to Him. His unconditional love is waiting for us to return home where He greets us with open arms. Every lost child (a sinner, meaning all of us) who is found (turns to God) is cause for the greatest celebration.

Happy Fathers Day

Barnabas

Healthy Cookies

"No flour, sugar or butter"

INGREDIENTS:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 2 ½ cups oatmeal | 1 tsp vanilla |
| 2 apples | ½ cup dried cranberries |
| 1 tsp baking powder | ½ cup chopped walnuts |
| ½ tsp cinnamon | (optional) |
| 3 eggs separated | Pinch of salt |



INSTRUCTIONS:

- Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.
- Process oatmeal until fine in food processor. Pour in a bowl and then add 2 chopped apples -also processed.
- Add baking powder & cinnamon. Mix by hand. Beat egg yolks and vanilla. mix in. Now add cranberries and chopped walnuts. Beat egg whites till stiff and mix in half at a time.
- Mix all together.
- Drop by spoon on cookie sheets. Bake for 25 minutes.



1-Carl	13-Liam	21-Neena
4-Owen L.	14-Doris	23 -Brian
9-Christopher	18-Hugh	27-Hollie
9-Dawn	20-Larry	29-Grayson & Gianna
10-Curtis	20-Lois	29-Myles
11-J' Aime		

Ministry Highlight

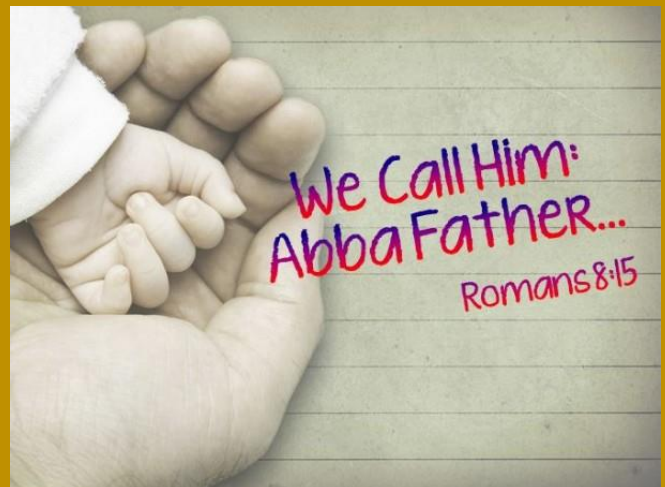
This month we would like to highlight the Maintenance Team and everyone that came out to help with our church cleaning and workday. We are so thankful for all the hard work that gets done around our building and our grounds to keep everything running, looking good and safe for us to enjoy. Thank you to everyone who has signed up to cut the grass this summer and be part of our weekly cleaning teams. Currently we are looking for some volunteers who would be able to help us with some painting and a little bit of drywall in a few areas. If you would like to help with these maintenance projects, you can talk to Tom, our Maintenance team leader (tom@southpointcc.ca), or myself (tracy@southpointcc.ca).



*"A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is **GOD** in his holy dwelling."*

Psalms 68:5

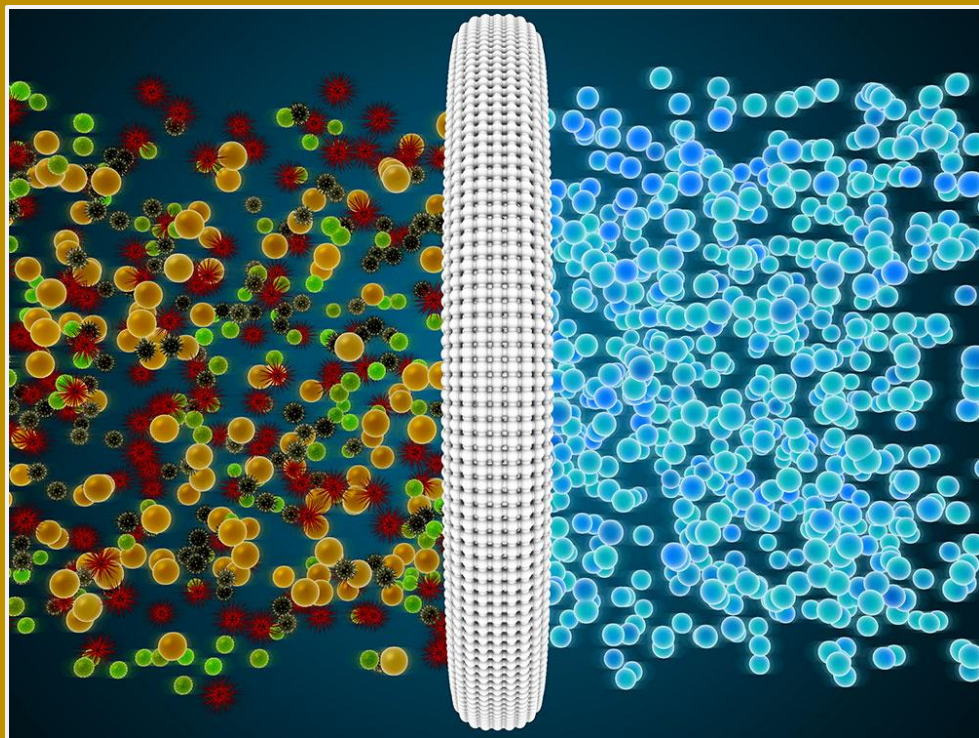
*We Call Him:
Abba Father...*
Romans 8:15



Reflections

by

J'Aime



I've been learning a lot about greenhouse fogging systems recently. It's a consequence of working for a company that supplies such a wide variety of equipment for the agricultural sector. These fogging systems take ground water and, using super high-pressure pumps and tiny little nozzles, they transform water into a humidifying mist that plants apparently love.

Because the outlets on the nozzles are so fine it doesn't take much for them to get clogged up. And even though our town water looks clean and nice... it's still quite full of impurities that can royally wreck these nozzles. So, all the water drawn into the high-pressure units must first run through a series of filters. These filters trap all the junk so that clean, pure water can get pushed up through the system.

We are all flawed people, full of impurities and imperfections that are often not visible to others. Just because you can't see it doesn't make it any less impure, and it certainly doesn't mean God can't see it. He sees all and He knows all.

June's theme is step 6 in Celebrate Recovery, dealing with being ready to allow God to remove character defects. The verse that goes with this is James 4:10, "Humble yourselves before the Lord and He will lift you up."

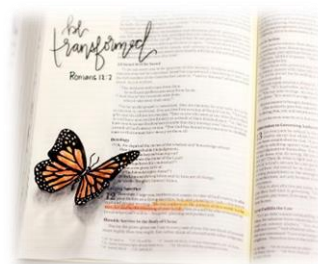
So what does that look like? The act of humbling yourself before the Lord is surprisingly difficult. It forces you to look at your own flaws, imperfections and weaknesses, acknowledge them, and be prepared to turn them over to

the Lord. Many of us try and bury our flaws, hide from our impurities, and cover them up with a fake version of ourselves. This way we don't have to acknowledge our lack of perfection.

This is just a terrible way to live. You get to a point that you can't see the problems anymore because you've pushed them down so far. They form a spiritual blockage that, when it lets go, tends to cause damage that is almost always beyond your control. The damage can be widespread and often very difficult to clean up. When it happens you often look back and wonder about how the damage could have been prevented...

Maybe a little filtration would do us all good. Take the time to pass your life through the Bible and work at the practice of coming to God, opening up and allowing Him to work in you. There is a peace in knowing and acknowledging God in our lives.

Now, I've said it before: life isn't always easy, even for those of us following Christ. In fact, sometimes God will set a task before us that seems like it's impossible. The pressure to rise up and transform can be immense. But, through God, all things are possible. Even the most impure of us can be changed as long as we're willing to let God do the work in us.



Ladies Spring Tea and Worship Night

I'm needing You to move
When You don't part the waters
I wish I could walk through



Shea:

One memory I have of my dad is rice pudding. My dad worked shift work while I was growing up so to make us feel special, he would take us to a restaurant always the same one. I would order rice pudding, the best rice pudding EVER. Just the two of us having time to hang-out was really special to me. ❤️



Doris:

My dad, Ed Penner, was a great singer. He was very active in church choirs, the Mennonite churches of Essex County male choir and many other groups. We couldn't go anywhere in the car without dad singing. His repertoire was varied and what he sang depended on the mood he was in and we always joined. From oldies like "How much is that Doggie in the Window?" to the old faithful "How Great Thou Art". Good times.



Donna:

I am fortunate to have a cowboy for a dad. I have many memories of my sister's and I watching him performing. He would often use the horse to pull us on the toboggan in the winter.

Luella:

I have many fond memories of my Dad while growing up. I remember Sunday afternoon walks picking wildflowers or taking note of pretty stones along the way. I also cherish the memory of the hours upon hours that he read story books to me and my mom.

Tom:

My Dad. Jim Murray

My sister and I would be hoeing beans with my dad. When we would get to the end of the field my sister and I would want to sit under a tree in the shade for a while. But my dad would always say "It's the other end we should be at." No matter which end we were at he would always say that. And whenever my dad and I were lifting something that was heavy. He would always say "how come I always get the heavy end".

Zack:

All of last summer I worked with my dad and we would get to joke around with each other all of the time throughout the day.



Lois:

My best and favourite memory of my dad is he always had a song in his heart and at his fingertips, a tune 🎵 in his soul and a pep in his step because of his love and faith in God his Saviour. Happy Father's Day Dad love you 🎵

Joni:

There's a bunch of memories I could share, but one that stands out more than others is my dad teaching me to drive. I didn't take driver's Ed class, just dad taught me. The day I went to my G2 test I passed the first time and I will never forget the look on my dad's face. He was so proud and excited. I think he was more excited than me!

Archer, Ezra, Rory

One of our fond memories is the time he burnt the garlic bread. 😊

