

E-Messenger

First Church of Christ

Fatherhood is shrinking in significance. I'm not just talking about physical absence — a third of American kids now live without their biological fathers — I'm talking about perceived importance. More and more, fathers are being viewed as less than necessary. A 2010 study concluded that children of lesbian parents fared just as well — if not better — than those from a traditional man-woman marriage. A 2013 book stated “the notion that fathering is essential to children's ... development seems to be a uniquely American pre-occupation.”

And take this recent exchange on “The View,” an ABC show with a massive female audience. A guest host, an actor named Terry Crews, had floated the idea that “there are some things only a father can give you.” He was deluged by objection — both on social media and on the set. When he said, “A father gives you your name,” cohost Whoopi Goldberg joked, “Like in ‘The Lion King?’ ” When he said “a father gives you your security” and “your confidence,” cohost Jenny McCarthy, who is raising a son on her own, shot back, “I’m a single mother and I guarantee you, I can give (my son) all

those things.” The debate went on for several minutes at a high volume, with the female hosts paying homage to widows, single moms and gay couples, and McCarthy hammering at the idea that her “amazing” son needs no man.

And while I know the show is not scientific, it's entertainment, it still got me thinking how far we have come, that on network TV, a man suggesting “there are some things only a father can give you” is greeted not with agreeing nods but with cannon fire.

Bad behavior by some fathers. On some levels, we men must blame ourselves. The number of fathers who take no responsibility for parenting — who impregnate and run as if they are pollinating flowers — is despicably high. Same goes for disinterested divorced men and deadbeat dads. They have forced single mothers into playing all roles.

But what about the fathers who stay? The fathers who relish their roles? Is citing their virtues now politically incorrect? Take the sentence “there are

some things only a mother can provide.” Does anyone disagree with that? You say “nurturing,” everyone nods. You say “unconditional love,” everyone nods.

But try saying that sentence about a father — as Crews did — and it's as if you're hammering people's toes. “A father provides security,” you suggest? Oh, come on, comes the response, as if a woman can't? “A father provides discipline”? Don't single moms keep kids in line? “A father provides a male role model.” So now you're insulting gay couples?

Whew. When did it become so difficult to extol fatherhood? Perhaps when there became other agendas. An author of that 2010 study on lesbian parenting, for example, also has argued there is no need for marriage whatsoever. She also chided President Barack Obama, saying his emphasis on fathers' importance was “dead wrong.” Even the New York Times, for Father's Day in 2013, stirred debate — and presumably readers — by asking, “Do fathers bring anything unique to the ta-

December Issue

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ble?”

But if they don't, why does nearly every statistic on kids turn sour when fathers disappear? Youth suicides, five times higher than average. High school dropouts, nine times higher. Behavioral disorders, 20 times higher. Runaways and homeless children, 32 times higher.

Does none of that count? When father knows best. We all recognize it's a changing world. And I would not use this space to disparage single parents, or two men or two women raising children. But if it's now insensitive to even

Serving in December

Deaconesses:

Diane Altman & Deb Rhodes

Elder Schedule:

4-Larry Snavelly
11-Dave Beerbower
18-Doug Haase
25-Jim McPeak

Nursery:

4-1-2-Stacie Beerbower; 2nd Kim Snavelly
11-SS-2nd-Barry & Kelly VonDeylen
18-1-2-Cody & Ashley Grimm
25-No Nursery

Children's Church:

4-Ryan Beerbower
11-Ryan Beerbower
18-



Birthdays & Anniversaries



1 Holly Sprow
2 Cindy Horton
3 Tim Bloomer, Shellee

Brown

6 Dick Newcomb
7 Nikki Hull
8 Ron Roose
9 Ellen Walker
10 Maddison Hetrick
12 Katrina Tonneas, Derek Murphy
15 Henry Kidd, Samantha

Ryan

18 Vickie Grimm
21 Annie Engel, Teresa Brown, Amber Rogers
24 Todd Gambler
31 Braxton Wonderly



2 Tim & Samantha Ryan

(5)
ANNIVERSARIES

6 Jerry & Wanda Hug (47)
9 Casey & Kayla Sanders (5)
13 Gerry & Gail Wiyrick (36)
23 Dave & Melissa Beerbower (39)

Family News

SYMPATHY

The church family extends her sympathy to John & Dawn Buskirk on the death of **Dawn's mother, Wanda Black.**

Congratulations!

The church family celebrates the safe arrival of Ellis Mark Witalec who was born 11/20/22 to Dan & Katie. He weighed in





at 8# 4 oz. and was 20.5". Maternal grandparents are Ron & Tami Bergman. Maternal great-grandmother is Bettie Finken.



Attention Senior Saints:

We will do Lunch Bunch on 12/20 at 11:45 AM at Grand Plaza. No transportation will be provided.

December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	5 9:30 Senior Seekers	6 9:30 MOPS 10:00 Craft Group	7 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 5:45 Supper 6:00 MOPS 6:30 Club 225 6:30 Adult Bible Study	8	9	10
11 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	12 9:30 Senior Seekers	13	14 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 5:45 Supper 6:00 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Club 225 6:30 Adult Bible Study	15	16	17
18 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	19 9:30 Senior Seekers	20	21 	22	23	24 7:00 Christmas Eve Service
25 10:15 Worship 	26	27	28	29	30	31 



First Church of Christ

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Love All, Worship One,
Make Disciples

Bryanfcc.org



Connect with us!

Office Hours: Monday—
Thursday 8:00 AM-5:00
PM

Facts & Figures			
November 6			
Attendance SS	28	Worship	48/77
Offering			\$5,449.86
November 13			
Attendance SS	28	Worship	61/76
Offering			\$11,804.71
November 20			
Attendance SS	28	Worship	50/73
Offering			\$5,610.62
November 27			
Attendance SS	NC	Worship	49/76
Offering			\$3,190.78
Needed for Budget			\$5,091.46

Love All

Our Service Personnel:
Austin Brandeberry (GA),
Croyden Cardarelli
(Afghanistan), Lindsey Carter
(FL), Patrick Rendleman (GA),
Josh Severs (AL), Braxton Sing-
er (NC), Katie Sparks (PA),
Wesley Tressler (Europe).
Cancer: Gwen Acker-
Dickinson, Nathan Bailey,
Marcia Baumgartner, Sue Bev-
er, Tim Bight, Brent, Jennie
Case, Andrew Dell, Adam
Farger, Carrie H., Sheila Hart-
nett, Jim Henson, Molly John-
ston, Kent, Chuck Lees, Ron
Lewis, Mark & Carrie, Chloe
Merrilet, Rexann McCrary,

Crystal Miller, Ruth Ordway,
Mary Pinckley, Anna Pitman,
Elaine Purdue, Sue Secoy, Ter-
ry Shinaberry, Annette Snavelly,
Lyle Snavelly, Amy Tobin, Lin-
da Walker, Kathy Walton,
Drew Wayman. *Other Con-
cerns:* Jennifer Mavis, Trevor
Bailey, Neighborhood, Arlene
Boyer, Danielle Strouse, Bren-
da Ridgway, Cindy Wolf, Zach
Swisher, Cheryl Towers, Gene
Nash, Kim Beek, Joshua Tay-
lor, Keely Strouse, Gene Craw-
ford, *children's ministry,* Dan-
ny Hull, Cindy Webber, Kevin
Ayre, Kathy Moog, Marsha
Fisher; Marty, John Fry, Jack-

son Wolph, Shawn Roose, Fran
Mavis, Nathan Ray, Gene
Johns, Nehemiah Haase, Ray-
mond Folk, Holly Sprow,
Shawn Gambler, Randy Fisher,
Braxton & Trish Snavelly, An-
nie Engel, Joanne Allison, Car-
son Strouse, Jason Gregg, Hen-
ry Kidd, Sherry Trubey; *Shut
Ins:* Fairlawn Haven: John
Altman; Fountain Park: Es-
ther Krill; Hillside: Charlene
Gambler; Home: Annie En-
gel, Ron & Linda Lewis, Mari-
lyn Lundy, Leona Puff, Edith
Wagner SKLD: Gloria
Wright.





While [Joseph and Mary] were [in Bethlehem], the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

- Luke 2:6-7 -

heartlight.org



"When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?"

(Psalm 84-5)

question gay parenting, why does it ruffle no feathers to dismiss heterosexual dads? No one should be made to feel a traditional role is prehistoric thinking. That's bullying of its own kind.

What does a father bring to the table? I can cite a few things I got from my own: Strength. Quiet confidence. Discipline. Responsibility. And love — all displayed differently than my mother, which was fine. My father also taught us how to be a husband, how to respect a woman, when to lead and when to support.

It's true, not all men are like my dad. But plenty are. And fatherhood didn't suddenly, after thousands of years, lose its value. It may be trendy to dismiss dads as little more than fertilizer, but it's not true. In fact, it's pretty foolish. Such is our world, where a comment like Crews' brings a tsunami. Funny thing is, I remember someone from my childhood frequently saying, "He needs his father to do that."

It was my mother.

By Mitch Albom



MOPS

MOPS and MOPS
Next meet regularly. .
There are now Tuesday (1st & 3rd Tuesdays) gatherings 9-11 AM at the church.

Wednesday night gatherings (1st & 3rd Wednesdays) are 6-7:30 PM. Childcare will be provided. Contact Stacie Beerbower or Kim Snavelly for questions. Check out their Facebook page @ MOPSoftbryanfcc. You may also contact them via mopsoftbryanfcc@gmail.com.

Luke 2: 10-12

¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

