

Father's Love Letter

An Intimate Message from God to You

You may have seen a copy of this letter that has been around for a while in various forms, including a devotional book. It is paraphrased verses from the Bible, and you can access the entire script at www.fathersloveletter.com. In case you haven't seen it, here is a shortened version:

"I knew you even before you were conceived (Jeremiah 1:4-5). I chose you when I planned creation (Ephesians 1:11-12). It is my desire to lavish my love on you (I John 3:1) simply because you are my child and I am your Father (I John 3:1). I offer you more than your earthly father ever could (Matthew 7:11). For I am the perfect Father (Matthew 5:48). Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand (James 1:17), for I am your provider and will meet all your needs (Matthew 6:31-33). My plan for your future has always been filled with hope (Jeremiah 29:11), because love you with an everlasting love (Jeremiah 31:3). My thoughts toward you are countless as the sand on the seashore (Psalm 139:17-18). I rejoice over you with singing (Zephaniah 3:17) and I will never stop doing good to you (Jeremiah 32:40). For you are my treasured possession (Exodus 19:5). I want to show you great and marvelous things (Jeremiah 33:3). If you seek me with all your heart, you will find me (Deuteronomy 4:29). Delight in me and I will give you the desires of your heart (Psalm 37:4). I am able to do more than you could possibly imagine (Ephesians 3:20); I am your greatest encourager (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17). I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles (2 Corinthians 1:3-4). When you are brokenhearted, I am close to you (Psalm 34:18). As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you close to my heart (Isaiah 40:11). One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes, and I will take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth (Revelation 21:3-4). I am your Father, and I love you even as I love my son Jesus (John 17:23). For in Jesus, my love for you is revealed (John 17:26). Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled (2 Corinthians 5:18-19). His death was the ultimate expression of my love for you (I John 4:10). If you receive the gift of my son, Jesus, you receive me (I John 2:23), and nothing will ever separate you from my love again (Romans 8:38-39). Come home and I will throw the biggest party heaven has ever seen (Luke 15:7). I have always been Father and will always be Father (Ephesians 3:14-15). My question is...will you be my child? (John 1:12-13). I am waiting for you (Luke 15:11-32)."

*Love Your Dad
Almighty God*



Consistory Meeting Highlights

4/2021

Marlo Kooistra

- Finance Report: March ended in the black but the year to date is behind budget.
- Worship: The Piano was tuned for Easter.
- Outreach: Movie Night – “Soul” – moved to June 4 with the rain date June 5.
- Missions: The Lighthouse Pregnancy Center was added as a supported ministry.
- Future of RCA: An Ad Hoc meeting is scheduled for Monday May 24th at 7:00 PM to review RCA Vision 2020.
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Mission Notes

Al Verduin

We received communications from both George King and Bob Grahmann.

Dear Friends and Prayer Warriors,

Osaka Prefecture has an area smaller than Manatee County in Florida, and a little larger than Rock Island County in Illinois. Roughly, a fourth of all cases of Covid 19 in Japan are in Osaka. Our hospitals are over capacity, and are sending patients to hospitals in other prefectures. In our prefecture, over 10,000 Covid 19 patients are waiting at home for spaces to open in hospitals. I am 88 years old, have Diabetes Type 2, and have been through heart surgery 3 times. Even I cannot get the vaccine until June at the earliest. I can only consult my Dr's by telephone. Many will want to attend the funeral for my wife, who died last October, but without the vaccine we cannot gather to hold

the funeral. We are hoping to go to USA for her memorial service. But, at this time we cannot fly anywhere. Please pray for us, our people, and our work.

We have been locked down since March, 2020, like many all over the world. It has greatly limited our evangelistic opportunities. We are having services, under strict precautions, for those that cannot use the internet. We encourage all possible to attend via Zoom. We cannot visit homes, hospitals or elderly facilities, resulting in few souls being saved. This is the number one prayer burden for which Ruth and I are praying. Please pray that God will give us souls. Many of our people are working in the medical field, and elderly care system. Amazingly, though terribly exposed, none of them have yet contracted the virus. This is our second burden in prayer. Please pray for them also.

With all that gloomy news, is there any good news? Yes. First of all, my personal Bible study and sermon preparation has been richly blessed. In spite of many years of disciplined Bible study, I am still learning more about my precious Lord and Saviour. He is even more precious



and wonderful to me than ever before. I am continuing training of younger preachers, and they are responding and developing well. Ruth's ministries to children and ladies are also being richly blessed.

We do deeply appreciate the prayers and support of those that have enabled this ministry to continue. Thank you for your part. \$525 received for evangelism in Japan February through April, 2020.

His Servants in Japan,
George and Ruth

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Dear Friend,

Thank you for praying for me these past few months! I really appreciate your prayers and support. Since all my travelling ended 14 months ago because of COVID, I have been able to use the miracle of Zoom (even with all of its glitches and drawbacks) to continue my ministry of mentoring, encouraging, and training staff and students. My mentoring contacts live in such diverse places as the Former Soviet Union countries, Japan, and a Middle Eastern country. I have also had the joy of leading some on-line Bible study training groups for InterVarsity staff in the USA. I need your prayers for these mentoring and training calls as much as I did when I was travelling, because I need Jesus' wisdom, love, and strength as I listen to, share with, and try to encourage young people of many cultures and backgrounds all over the world, sharing the joys of going deep with Jesus and His Word. Here are some other prayer requests:

- I am a part of InterVarsity's national Scripture Engagement Team. On May 17-20 we are holding a four day Zoom conference to dig into the Old Testament Survey course written by Lindsay Olesberg that we produced 5 years ago (called "Origins") and figure out ways to put it all on-line. The course is a very creative journey through the Old Testament emphasizing themes, people, etc. but it calls for a lot of interaction and response. It was created in pre-COVID days when everything was in-person. Thinking of ways to put all of that creative interaction on-line will be quite a challenge! Please pray for wisdom and creativity for us.
- I will be leading two manuscript studies in Acts chapter 4 for a student leadership conference in Eurasia this summer. That's great, except that the "interactive" manuscript studies have to be taped beforehand so they can be translated into the various languages, because the whole conference will be on line, for students from 10 countries. I am still checking with the leaders of IFES in Eurasia about how to do an "interactive" manuscript study that is pre-recorded. Please pray for them, and for me, as we figure out how best to do this so that the students in these countries will be excited to engage the Scripture and seek Jesus in His Word.
- At the end of June, InterVarsity's Scripture Engagement Team is leading a national training in "**THE BEAUTY OF SCRIPTURE: EXPERIENCING THE BOOK OF RUTH**". We will study Ruth through Manuscript/Inductive Proclamation, Lectio Divina, line by line prayer through the book, and overview. I am leading a session on the historical background of Ruth and also leading the overview session. Pray for me and others as we lead the sessions, that

**those** in the class would understand the beauty and power of the Book of Ruth and meet God in His Word.

On a personal note, as many of you have also found out, spending all day every day on Zoom is fruitful but leads to “Zoom fatigue”, which is quite tiring. So we are taking a little break next week, from May 8-16. A friend of ours bought a cabin on a lake in Northern Wisconsin and invited us to stay for a week and “try it out”. Patricia and I really need this break. Pray for rest and restoration in this time.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support! Bob Grahmann

### *Did You Know?*

Kathy Klaassen



**Congratulations to Diana (Kleinmanns) Trout** who has taken a new position as of June 1 as a Worship Minister at The Journey Church in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. According to the press release, she will join a team “to continue exploring The Journey’s multi-ethnic worship experience and foster a spirit where all people can experience the presence of God in their life.” In addition, she will lead the hospitality team and expand the church’s online worship and ministry presence.

Our Diana sounds like the perfect person for the job! May God bless you, Diana, as you serve the Lord at The Journey Church.

### **Congratulations To Our Graduates**

**JILLIAN WESSELDYKE** graduating 8th grade at Lincoln Middle School and moving on to Hawthorne High School.

**ZACHARY TERPSTRA** for receiving his Associates Degree from Bergen Community College. Zach will be attending William Paterson University to work towards a teaching degree in special education. He is currently employed at the Gramon Family of Schools in Fairfield as a paraprofessional and will be guaranteed a teaching position there, working with autistic children, after he receives his Bachelors Degree.



**KELLY BOSLOPER** who graduated from Paul Smith College with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science.

**SAMANTHA RYAN** is graduating from Cedar Grove High School and will be attending The College of Charleston in the fall.

We extend our best wishes to each of you.

*May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him*  
*Romans 15:13*

### ***Congratulations to Dave & Kim Figueroa***

A year or so ago, Dave and Kim felt God's call to begin a ministry using the basics of the early church described in Acts 2 that focused on teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread together, and prayer. They started inviting folks to their house on Sunday evenings. The first few times they had from 5 to 10 folks attending, but that number grew greatly to well over 30 where they had difficulty fitting everyone into their home and able to all "sit around the same table" together and fellowship.

Dave asked if Living Word might consider allowing their group (now called The Gathering) to use our fellowship hall on a temporary basis on Sunday evenings until they could formulate more permanent plans. Being another opportunity for us to be a part of the extension of God's Kingdom in North Haledon, the Consistory approved that request and they have continued to use our fellowship hall ever since. The following is an exciting and wonderful update on this ministry.

On May 1, 2021, David Figueroa was ordained as a minister to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This wonderful reason to celebrate concludes a 10 year journey from his calling to his ordination. He is currently pastoring a church plant, The Gathering Place, which began as a Bible study in their home and now meets in our church building on Sunday afternoons. His wife, Kim, who grew up in our church has journeyed with Dave and stands with him in this ministry. Congratulations to both Kim and Dave on this milestone and prayers and best wishes to them as they continue in ministry.



### ***Library Corner***

Sandy DeYoung

*A Burning in My Bones* is the new authorized biography of Eugene Peterson. The author is Winn Collier, now a faculty member at Western Seminary and Director of the Eugene Peterson Center. Collier has written an engaging book that leaves you feeling that you know Rev. Peterson, a unique individual for sure. Eugene Peterson was a long-time pastor of a church in Maryland, but Montana was his birthplace, retreat, and retirement home. Peterson authored many books, but he is best known for his Bible translation entitled *The Message*. Peterson was a Hebrew and Greek

scholar, and he felt the need to do a translation of the Bible that would be easily understood by the average person, especially people unfamiliar with the Bible. He did not intend it to be used by clergy or theologians, but many have used it. Eugene Peterson was a humble man who hated being in the limelight. He was a better listener than talker and a better writer than preacher, according to many.

When I picked up this book, I was afraid that it might be boring, but it was anything but that. Collier is a talented storyteller. The book will be in the Library if you are interested in checking it out.



*Coming Soon to the LWRC PARKING LOT*  
Outdoor Movie Night

Pixar movie SOUL  
Friday, June 4 (Rain date June 5) 8 PM



*Please pray for the success of this venture in reaching out to our community. If you have questions, talk with any member of the Outreach Team. (Joel Wesseldyke, Kathy Klaassen, Katie Gerritsen, Ken Weigers, Michelle Rice)*

*HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO ALL OUR DADS*

Only a Dad

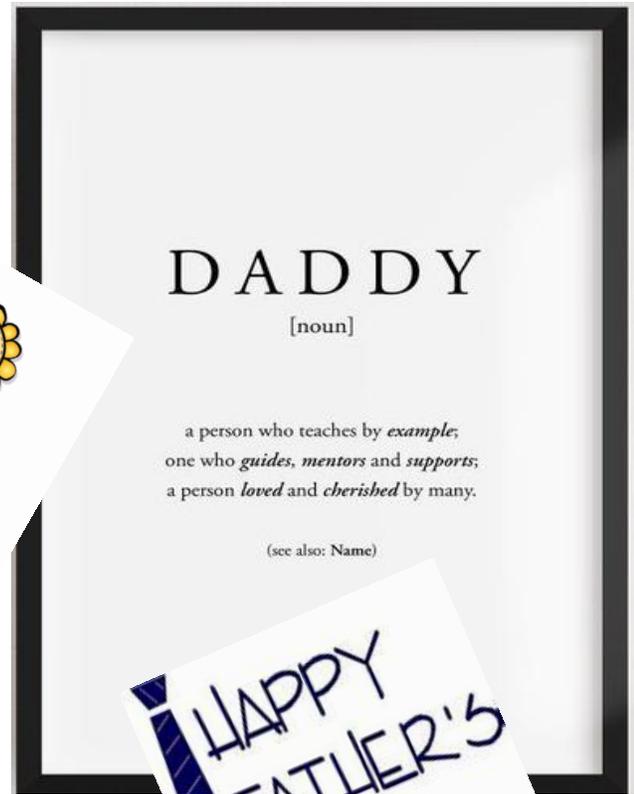
Only a dad, with a tired face,  
Coming home from the daily race,  
Bringing little of gold or fame,  
To show how well he has played the game,  
But glad in his heart that his own rejoice  
To see him come, and to hear his voice.

Only a dad, with a brood of four,  
One of ten million men or more.  
Plodding along in the daily strife,  
Bearing the whips and the scorns of life,  
With never a whimper of pain or hate,  
For the sake of those who at home await.

Only a dad, neither rich nor proud,  
Merely one of the surging crowd  
Toiling, striving from day to day,  
Facing whatever may come his way,  
Silent, whenever the harsh condemn,  
And bearing it all for the love of them.

Only a dad, but he gives his all  
To smooth the way for his children small,  
Doing, with courage stern and grim,  
The deeds that his father did for him.  
This is the line that for him I pen,  
Only a dad, *but the best of men.*

*Edgar Guest*



# June Schedules

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## GREETERS USHERS

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June 6          Jack & Jan Muzikowski  
 June 13        John & Joyce De Haan  
 June 20        Ted & Maureen Terpstra  
 June 27        Kathy Klaassen

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## AUDIO VISUAL SYSTEMS

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June 6  
       Sound          Jillian Wesseldyke  
       Camera        Lois Harriman  
       Powerpoint    Kayde Gerritsen

June 13  
       Sound          Joel Wesseldyke  
       Camera        Lois Harriman  
       Powerpoint    Bob Rice

June 20  
       Sound          Marlo Kooistra  
       Camera        Lois Harriman  
       Powerpoint    Joel Wesseldyke

June 27  
       Sound          Ken Wieggers  
       Camera        Lois Harriman  
       Powerpoint    David Wieggers

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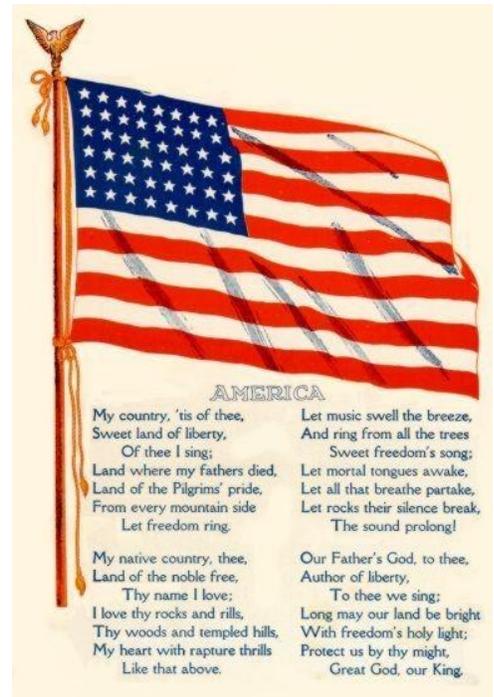
## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

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07      Paige Lynn Douma  
 10      Judilee Romano  
 11      Julie Hartley  
 13      Ken Wieggers  
           Karen Wighard  
 17      Kathy Lodema  
 22      Leighton Olivia Wighard  
 25      Alan Verduin  
           Analyse Figueroa



**June 14, Flag Day**

