

Prayer of Thanksgiving: God has given us the gift of parents. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise)," (Eph 6:2 ESV)

Happy Father's Day to all fathers!

Please do not forget to pray for all the shut-ins and isolated brothers and sisters in our congregations Mrs. Jack and C. Campbell (Fredericton) and J. Steffes (Caribou, Me), Mr. Ross Bathurst, P. Ward (Saint John) and others.

Open Hand Food Bank – Moncton - is in need of grocery plastic bags to give out food to those in need. If you are interested in donating your unused grocery bags, you can bring them to church and someone will collect them and bring them over. Those who want to bring food to give to the **Open Food Bank** may do so by bringing to church and giving it to **Michael M.** of the Moncton congregation.

ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2018

Times of worship services: **Moncton** – 10:30 AM every Sunday **except for June 17 services will be cancelled..**

In Saint John , worship services will be June 10 and 24 at 2:30 PM

Communion- on the second and fourth Sunday of the month.

Address: Moncton—70 King St. —Sage building;

Saint John—50 Newport Cres., Portland United church.

Thanksgiving weekend 2018: Again this year we will be celebrating the Thanksgiving weekend on the evening of Friday October 5 and on Saturday October 6. Mr. Bill Hall, new GCI Canadian Director will be the invited guest speaker. Everyone is welcome. More details will be forthcoming.

The good news of the gospel is a message to be shared with others. Please pray that God will give us the love and wisdom to be able to share this message with others in a loving, clear and confident manner as we participate in his missional work on the earth in our generation. **"5 ¶ Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. 6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person." (Col 4:5-6 ESV)**

Please pray that God will put an end to the senseless violence happening every in our North America continent and other parts of the world.

Pray that we will see the good works that God has prepared for us in advance so that we can enthusiastically participate in the on-going work He is doing now on this earth in bringing people in relationship with him in Jesus by the Holy Spirit.

Please pray, as per Jesus instructions, the disciples prayer, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. 10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matt 6:9-10) as our world is suffering so much and in need of complete restoration by the King of kings, Jesus. As we are his royal priesthood, let us proclaim the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light, as we are instructed in 1 Peter 2.

Pray for the world and for all people: we live in a world that does not know the way to peace. Important to pray as we are instructed by the apostle Paul — **"1 ¶ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. 3 This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior," (1Ti 2:1–3 ESV)**

Honoring our parents

Posted by GCI Weekly Update on June 13, 2018 under [From the President](#) |

Dear Brothers and Sisters,



Joseph and Tammy
Tkach

Though I was told that I was my paternal granddad's favorite grandchild, it didn't always seem that way to me—he was a strict disciplinarian. Because he died when I was young, I didn't know him well, though I did know he was something special by the way my parents, aunts and uncles honored him—especially on his wedding anniversary and on Father's Day.

Father's Day is celebrated in the U.S. and 69 other countries on the third Sunday in June (some other countries celebrate it in September). Last year in Australia there was quite a furor over the notion of changing the name to "Special Person's Day." Some reasoned the change would ensure that children without dads would not feel excluded from the celebration. While it behooves us to include children who don't have at-home dads, I don't think a name change would help much—

we'd also have to change the name of Mother's Day and several other holidays to avoid exclusion or offense. My only complaint about Father's Day is that, because it falls on Sunday, we fathers don't get a day off work!

Father's Day and Mother's Day celebrations give us opportunity to obey the commands given in the Bible to honor our parents. However, those commands present a problem for people who have had abusive parents. What are they supposed to do? While there are no easy answers, it's important to remember three things: First, that God fully understands what those who were hurt by their parents endured—he sees and cares. Second, that giving honor does not mean condoning or continuing to endure abuse. Third, that the ability to honor those who have abused us does not come from within—it's a gift from God that involves sharing in the mind of Jesus who willingly died for undeserving sinners ([Romans 5:8](#)). With Jesus, by the Spirit, we can give honor to those who don't deserve it. We do so by looking beyond the pain they've caused, and instead of seeking revenge, seeing them as a child created by God. Don't get me wrong, God does not love the pain they have caused, but he does love the child he created.

Though we may not know all the factors that led a parent to be abusive, we know God did not create them that way and does not want them to remain that way. We also know that our Lord says, "love your enemies," "pray for those who persecute you," and "turn the other cheek." Jesus also says, "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them" ([Luke 6:32](#)). The apostle Paul adds in [2 Corinthians 5:14-17](#) that we should regard no one (parents included) from a merely human point of view—instead, we should see them in relationship to Jesus, who intends that they become new creations in him, by the Spirit. When we ask God to help us see an abusive parent in that way, our hearts begin to change. We find ourselves less focused on their bad behavior and more focused on the person God created them to be.

Let me emphasize that we are not called to honor our parents on our own power. Instead, enabled by the Holy Spirit, we see them in the light of Christ—the light of what our Lord intends for them. In that light, we are able to honor our parents because we know that Jesus, as Mediator, stands between us and them—he is Lord and Savior of that relationship. We also know and trust that Jesus' purposes for us cannot be thwarted by bad parenting. Through him and by him we have a heavenly Father who graciously rules over all earthly fathers (and mothers). Giving honor to a parent is not mere emotion—it's an attitude that comes from faith, hope and love in God through Christ and by the Spirit. Also, giving honor does not require a positive relationship (in some cases, a face-to-face relationship with a badly abusive parent is not possible). Nevertheless, Jesus calls upon us to rise above the bad relationship to extend honor, even if from afar. We do so by focusing on our relationship with Jesus, who enables us to grow into his maturity, including his ability to love the unlovely. We do so remembering how Jesus showed incredible honor toward us when we were completely dishonorable.

One last thought: When children see parents honoring their parents, they will likely imitate that behavior. Despite the challenges, honoring others is a healthy activity for others as well as for ourselves.

Happy Father's Day,

Joseph Tkach, GCI President

(Excerpt from We Believe – GCI - You are encourage to read and study it all. I believe you will find it a great blessing.

<https://resources.gci.org/we-believe>)

9.1 What is the Church?

It is the whole community of faithful Christians in heaven and on earth who are incorporated into Jesus Christ by the personal and particular ministry of the Holy Spirit. On earth, the Church gathers in local congregations to worship God in Word and sacrament, and to witness to God by serving and

obeying God in faith and according to the Holy Scriptures, thus fulfilling the mission Christ gave to it under the leadership of those God appoints in the Church for that purpose. (Acts 1:8; Eph. 4:11-13; 1 Pet. 2:9)

9.2 What is the mission of the Church?

Before ascending, Jesus commanded his followers to "make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all I have commanded you." This "Great Commission" is for the Church in all times. (Matt. 28:16-20)

9.3 How should Christians view the Church?

The New Testament teaches us to view the Church as God's covenant people and family, as the body and bride of Christ, and as the temple where God in Christ dwells by his Spirit. (John 1:12; 1 Pet. 2:9-10; 1 Cor. 3:16-17; 2 Cor. 6:16b-7:1; Rev. 19:6-10; 21:9-10)

9.4 Why is the Church called "the body of Christ"?

Because all who belong to the Church are united to Christ as their head and source of life and are thus united to one another in Christ for mutual love and service to him, all in response to the ministry of the Holy Spirit being carried out on the basis of Christ's completed earthly ministry. (1 Cor. 12:12-27)

9.5 What are the identifying characteristics of the Church?

The Creed lists four identifying "marks" of the Church: one, holy, all-encompassing and apostolic.

9.6 In what sense is the Church one?

The Church is called one because it is the company of all faithful people who have given their lives to Jesus Christ, as he has and continues to give himself to them by his Word and the Holy Spirit. The members of the Church are one because they form the one body of Christ, having "one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all." The Church is called to express this unity in all relationships between believers. (Eph. 4:5-6)

9.7 In what sense is the Church holy?

The Church is called holy because the Holy Spirit dwells in it and sanctifies its members, setting them apart to God in Christ, and calling them to moral and spiritual holiness of life. Since Christ cannot be separated from his people, the Church is holy because he is holy. Despite all its remaining imperfections here and now, the Church is called to become ever more holy, sharing more fully in all that Christ has done for it, for that is what it already is in Christ. (Gal. 2:20; 1 Cor. 1:2; Lev. 11:44; 1 Pet. 1:15-16; Rev. 5:9)

9.8 In what sense is the Church all-encompassing?

The Church is called all-encompassing (catholic in some translations of the Creed, not in reference to a denomination, but, from the original Greek, meaning universal). The all-encompassing Church holds the whole faith once for all delivered to the saints and maintains continuity with the apostolic Church throughout time and space, thus uniting, in Jesus Christ, all local congregations and various associations of the one, universal Church.

9.9 In what sense is the Church apostolic?

The Church is called apostolic for two reasons: First, because its members hold the faith of Christ's first apostles—they are in continuity with them and their message. Second, because the Church, like the apostles ("apostle" meaning "sent") is sent to proclaim the gospel and to make disciples throughout the world. (Matt. 28:18-20; Luke 9:1-6; Acts 1:8; John 15:26-27; Eph. 3:8-10)

9.10 How are we as members of the Church to view each other?

In union with Christ, we are united to each other within the body of Christ, the Church. As Jesus by his death removed our separation from God, so by his Spirit he removes all that divides us from each other. The ties that bind us together in Christ are deeper than any other human relationships and are more fundamental than what distinguishes us from one another. (Eph. 2:19-20; 2:14; 4:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:4-7, 12-13, 27; Gal. 3:28)

9.11 How are we to live out the oneness we have in Christ?

Through the Holy Spirit, we have communion with Christ, which means we share in the relationship that Jesus has with the Father and the Holy Spirit. As members of the body of Christ, we also have communion with each other through him. That fellowship is lived out by loving and serving one another, and by worshipping together, hearing the gospel preached, and together partaking of the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper. (John 17:20-21)

9.12 How are we to serve within the Church?

The Holy Spirit gifts each member of the Church with certain gifts that are to be used to serve the Church, and through the Church to serve the world. Each of these gifts, which vary from member to member, are important and are not interchangeable. They are essential contributions to the unity of the one body of Christ. The equality of the members of the Church does not derive from the interchangeability of the parts, but in the fact that the gifts given the members are all of grace—gifts from God through Jesus by the Holy Spirit. The differences among the members are good and are to be used to bless each other in ways that individual members cannot bless themselves. The differences in the Church constitute a non-hierarchical ordering of the members where their gifts are utilized in and for love. (John 17:20-21; 1 Cor. 12:1-11)

9.13 How are the Church on earth and the Church in heaven joined?

The worship of the Church on earth is a participation in the eternal worship of the Church in heaven. One day we will be able to experience this unity. When we worship here on earth we are joining in with the eternal worship that is already and forever taking place. (Heb. 12:22-24)

9.14 How do Christians enter into communion with Christ and with one another?

By the ministry of the Holy Spirit working through Word and sacrament. Because the Spirit uses these means to bring about his saving purposes, the Word of God and the sacraments are called "means of grace." We practice two sacraments, baptism and the Lord's Supper, because these were instituted for the Church by Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 10:17; 12:13; Col. 3:16)

9.15 Why should Christians gather for worship?

As members of the body of Christ, we gather for worship to honor God with thanks and praise, to receive the sacraments, and to hear God's Word proclaimed so that the gospel may be in our hearts and put into practice in our lives. Through these encounters with God in worship, we are reminded of God's nature and character, and we grow in faith, hope and love for him. This prepares us to go out from worship to make God known in

word and deed. We typically hold our primary worship gathering on the first day of the week in celebration of the fulfillment of God's promise to be our rest through our Lord's resurrection. (Rom. 10:8; Acts 2:42, 46; Mark 16:2; Acts 20:7; 4:33)

GCI principle website and Moncton Websites—www.gci.org, www.worshipim.ca,

www.facebook.com/GCIMoncton; <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgKazyWhmKmDZy69vJcFfPg>. For a wealth of helpful articles about God, grace and his plan for salvation, who we are, etc., please see the GCI.org website. *Contact Information: Pastor's contact information: email—evatour47@outlook.com*