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# PATHFINDER

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## A Word from the Pastor:

Dear Church Family,

As the month of May begins, I am reminded that in just a few short days, Mother's Day will soon be here. My mom loved Mother's Day; not just because she got to pick where we were eating lunch every year, but because she loved picking out a card to send to her own mother. Every Mother's Day, my mom also insisted on participating (and making my dad and me participate) in a long-time tradition of wearing a corsage or boutonniere. It's not as common as it used to be, but maybe you're familiar with it. On Mother's Day, tradition says you wear a red flower in honor of your mother still living or a white flower in memory of your mother's legacy. I couldn't help but smile this week as I remembered my mom bringing me a red flower to wear for the past several years, and my heart strings tugged just a little when I realized I needed to find a white flower for myself this year.

For many of us, and for a number of reasons, Mother's Day can be a difficult holiday to celebrate. As different as Mother's Day will be for me this year, I can't help but remember the women in my life who have mothered me—loving, and caring, and nurturing me throughout my life. I'm especially thankful for my grandmother—my mother's mother—this year. And I'm thankful for the mothers in faith who have come alongside me in my journey of faith and showed me how to love God more deeply.

The scripture text that is traditionally assigned for Mother's Day is Proverbs 31—one of the most often quoted verses about women of faith. Many books and devotions have been written about how to be “A Proverbs 31 Woman.” What I didn't realize until a couple years ago is that Proverbs 31, titled “The Sayings of King Lemuel,” is actually 31 verses of wisdom taught to a young man by his mother. In it, this young man quotes the words of his mother instructing him in how he ought to live his life and to be a man of good character. Towards the end, of course, he quotes what his mother has taught him to look for in finding the right person with whom to share his life. (Isn't that the most motherly thing you've ever heard?)

In Proverbs 31, this mother tells her son of *achayil 'ishshah*, which in Hebrew literally means: a strong and mighty woman. A strong and mighty woman is more precious than rubies, she says. She brings about good rather than harm all the days of her life. She is an incredibly hard worker who is up before the dawn. She is clothed with strength and dignity. She laughs at the future unafraid. She speaks with wisdom, and kindness is on her tongue. But most importantly, she is a woman of faith: she fears the Lord. Who are the Proverbs 31 women in your life? Who are the strong and mighty women more precious than rubies? Who are the ones who have surrounded you with love, have brought about good in your life, have spoken to you with wisdom and kindness, and have taught you what it means to be a person of faith? Whoever they are—thank them on this Mother's Day. Honor their life, remember their legacy, and give thanks to God for all that they have meant to you.



*You are cordially invited to a Floating Reception  
Honoring Denny & Jessica Freeland*

*Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>  
10 am  
Johnson Room*

This will be Denny's last Sunday as our Ministerial Intern.

### **Winter Jam**

On March 22, a small but powerful group of PUMC middle schoolers attended Winter Jam. It's a pretty great night when 20,000 young people gather to worship God and sing his praises.



# YOUTH

### **Mulch Day**

A new youth tradition has begun. On April 6, our youth gathered and completed what has become Parsonage Mulch Day. The yard looked great and "mulch" fun was had by all.





## Easter Egg Hunt

It was a beautiful Saturday morning as the lawn was filled with lots of giggles, laughter, and smiles! We welcomed and fellowshiped with visiting families, enjoyed crafts and games, ate lots of cotton candy, shared the Easter story, and hunted for thousands of eggs on the lawn. As always, a good time was had by everyone. Thank you to the volunteers who helped work the event! Also, thanks to all those who made donations of candy and eggs. **God is Good!**



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2019

Summer is just around the corner...and that means VBS will soon be here! We have a fun week planned, and are expecting a full house this summer with 120+ kids, and 75+ volunteers. There are many ways to still help, including upcoming work days to make decorations needed, as well as picking up a needed item from our donation board. There is no way that this could be possible without your continued love and support. Thank you in advance for helping to make this year a



**“Roaring” success!**

**Project Agape:** We are ½ way through collecting for this year! We will be coming together in September to pack boxes before they are sent to the Merci Center and they begin their long journey into the hands of many children in Armenia. Please continue to be on the lookout for needed items on the donation board.



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Return Service Requested

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Traditional Worship: 8:45 & 11:00 am Contemporary Worship: 5:00 pm



#### PUMC STAFF

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