

SEPTEMBER 2020

# HIGH STREET TIMES

Connecting Younger Generations **IN GOD'S LOVE**  
Embracing All People **WITH CHRIST'S COMPASSION**  
Strengthening Community **THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT**



HIGH STREET UNITING CHURCH,  
16-18 HIGH STREET, FRANKSTON

[WWW.FRANKSTONUNITING.ORG.AU](http://WWW.FRANKSTONUNITING.ORG.AU)



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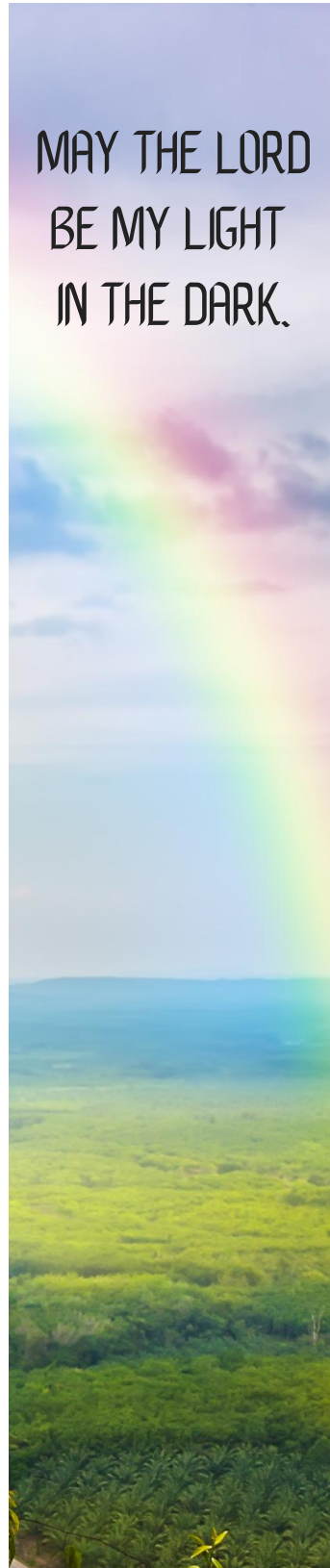
# FOR OUR PRAYERS.....

*Each month, High Street Times publishes the names of some of the people who are associated with our congregation, but who find it difficult or are not able to attend on Sunday mornings. At the moment, none of us can gather physically at the church, so we are praying for everyone! Nevertheless we especially remember the following:*

*Shiela Knoop, Barbara O'Malley, Gwen Paxino, Audrey Smith, Glad Thuraisingha, Audrey LaBrooy, Ruth Conn, Fay Dungey, Marie de Silva, Lola Coupe, Eileen McCarty, Molly Maughan, Pat Johnson, and Ruth Poole.*

- Pray for those who are ill with, or recovering from, the coronavirus, including Robyn's grandmother Zoe and Kate and David Sherry's daughter Lauren; and for those like Kate and David going through a time of self-isolation.
- Pray for those undergoing or recovering from surgery, including Beryl Curnow and Elaine Kenyon.
- Pray for Margaret Burrows in her continuing recovery.
- Pray for Wendy, Elaine Kenyon's sister, and for wisdom in diagnosing and managing.
- Pray for Eileen Carolus, her health and her family.
- Pray for Marlene Thresher's brother Fred and his wife Diane.
- Prayer for Rona Russell's niece Roberta, and for all of Rona's extended family.
- Pray for Naomi Briggs and the community in which she is providing care.
- Pray for Marlene Thresher and for Arthur Poole as they prepare for moves.
- Pray for Jacqui Harris' friend Justin who is in hospital with life threatening injuries.
- Pray for all those who have loved ones with whom they have much reduced contact.
- Pray for those who are struggling with isolation, or the loss of employment.
- Pray for teachers, and for students who are struggling with motivation and who are missing social milestones they would otherwise have expected, especially year 6 and year 12 students.
- Pray for all the ways in which governments, community organisations, churches, health-care workers, and individuals work to provide support and care for all in need.

MAY THE LORD  
BE MY LIGHT  
IN THE DARK.



**GRACIOUS GOD, INTO YOUR HANDS WE COMMEND OURSELVES AND ALL THOSE  
WHOM WE LOVE, TRUSTING IN YOUR LOVE AND GRACE FOR US IN JESUS, OUR  
SAVIOUR AND LORD. AMEN.**



# FROM THE MINISTER...

Dear friends in Christ,

While we've been in lockdown we've had to change the way we do lots of things. Our core vision of "Connecting with Younger Generations in God's love, Embracing all People with Christ's Compassion, and Strengthening Community through the Holy Spirit" remains central, but we have had to adapt to what it means to do such things as "Strengthen Community" in COVID times. Strengthening the worship community and supporting our pastoral network has been the foundation.

Those things are foundational because that is the way that God has always worked. Even from the stories of Abraham and Moses we hear that God calls together a community, in and through which to work and bring blessing. Our understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, three persons who share together in love and creativity, shows that working through community is inherent to the character of God.

As you will read in the pages of this magazine, the Church Council has adopted "Purpose Statement" to sit alongside our Vision Statement and used when appropriate to highlight to people why connecting younger generations, embracing all people and strengthening community reflect our understanding of God: God's nature in community, God's love for all people, and the blessing we see in different generations.

When the restrictions that we are under eventually start to ease, we are going to find ourselves in what will be an even more disconcerting phase for many. On the one hand, we will be able to get the soup kitchen started – watch the news sheet in the next few weeks for a call for volunteers for the Friday lunchtime Cooking Crew and the Sunday late-afternoon Serving Crew. We will also be able to start to meet in small groups. On the other hand, with more freedom of movement we will start to strike questions of when or whether we can gather for worship in anything like the ways we used to know. Our adaptation to worship over the phones and zoom was relatively fast, and completely necessary. The next adaptation will require much more creativity, as we will not simply be able to have two Sunday services in quick succession with large numbers of people, nor will everyone want to gather in that way because of safety concerns, and nor will everyone who has joined with us in our current worship format be able to meet physically in our building.

Creativity will be required. In the old story of the Exodus, Moses led the people out of Egypt, and before long they found themselves with a stretch of water – the Red Sea – between them and the land they had left; they were in the wilderness. Some wanted to go back, but to do so was not that simple. While they were in the wilderness they had to learn new structures – living in community under the 10 Commandments – before they would be able to move into the land ahead. We find ourselves in a kind of wilderness, too. We are learning to engage with one another in new ways under the different conditions of this wilderness time. With creativity and prayer, God will lead us into how we will best be able to meet the changed times ahead.

Through it all, God has called us to the vision of Embracing All People, Strengthening Community, and Connecting with Younger Generations. Pray that we will have the flexibility, grace, inspiration and sense of purpose to meet that vision in whatever ways will emerge.

In the meantime, "rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer" (Romans 12:12). And as Hebrews says, "Do not give up meeting together, and encouraging one another" (Hebrews 10:25), even if those meetings are over the phones and zoom!

God's peace,

**David**

(davidfoth7@gmail.com)

## WORSHIP LINKS

### TRADITIONAL

(9:00am)

Phone: (03) 7018 2005;

Meeting ID: 616 254 006;

Participant ID: (none – just press #); Password: 3199.

If you want to join using a video link that is also possible  
by going to

<https://zoom.us/j/616254006>

but the focus will be on people linking by phone.

### CONTEMPORARY

(children from 10:25, main worship from 10:40)

<https://zoom.us/j/556610676>

or phone (03) 7018 2005; Meeting ID: 556 610 676;

Password: 3199.

### WEBSITE:

Reflections accessible in text format.

<https://www.frankstonuniting.org.au/>

## OFFERINGS

If you are not connected to regular  
direct debit, one-off or regular  
offerings can be made to the church by  
transfer to

FRANKSTON UNITING CHURCH

BSB: 063 133

Account: 800128

Description: OFFERING

Alternatively, keep a bowl for your  
offerings at home, or mail a cheque to  
the church Treasurer at 31 Lucerne  
Crescent, Frankston 3199

## WELCOME BACK HANNAH!!

It's wonderful to be able to welcome Hannah back to the Children and Youth Worker role, following her parental leave. Given the changes to the environment due to COVID-19, for the next six months Hannah will be working for 1 day a week rather than three – which also allows for more time for the joys of juggling a new baby! Over these next six months, while the Contemporary service is worshiping over zoom, Meg Ryan will continue in her role with the young families in the Sunday 10:20 Children's Time. During the services, various worship leaders, Meg and Hannah may all be involved at various times with the all-age engagement.

## REMINDER FROM THE COVID SAFETY OVERSIGHT GROUP (CSOG)

All groups who wish to meet at the Church, when it is allowable, will need to ensure that they comply with the following requirements:

1. Ensuring that one member of the group has completed Infection Control Training.
2. Ensuring that those who are unwell do not attend, and that limits on numbers are adhered to.
3. Ensuring that a record of attendance is kept.
4. Ensuring that proper hygiene protocols are observed.

More details can be obtained from Jacqui.

# CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT – AUGUST

Notwithstanding all of the anxiety, isolation and dehumanisation that both our current Stage 4 Lockdown, and the ongoing challenges posed by COVID-19, is not wonderful that our church community continues to thrive? Thanks to the swift action and technological adeptness of (Rev) David, we have so seamlessly moved to the Zoom mode of delivery for regular church services and key meetings, including Church Council, COG, Elders and the new COVID-Safe and Community Outreach Groups. Not all churches have managed to so smoothly transition to this new mode of worship and, at our 4 August meeting, Church Council acknowledged all that David has done, and continues to do, to ensure that the cornerstone of worship has never been compromised. We are much blessed to have him as our Minister are we not? Have you also noticed the regularity with which visitors tune in to a service on a Sunday, either via computer or phone?

So, out of the foggy uncertainty around us, the beacon provided by God's love and Christ's promises, brightly shines through.

This report seeks to highlight some key elements of discussion and decisions made at our August meeting, as well as to indicate that we are trying to navigate these stormy seas with Christ at the helm of our boat, but unsure if we have yet perfected walking on water!

## Pipe Organ Repairs

The essential repairs to replace the original leathers for the windchest of our wonderful 106 year old, historically significant Aeolian pipe organ remains a matter of unfinished business. Thank you to those of you who so generously gave money late in 2019 to enable these essential repairs to occur. We have not forgotten about this but still do not have sufficient funds raised to pay the requisite \$24, 600 , whilst a considerable sum has been donated. So, we have been exploring other ways in which we might be able to cover the cost. Thanks to Graham Peacock, we have lodged an application for a potential grant from the Collier Foundation, who have supported Operation Larder in the past. Church Council is also looking to make an application for an alternative dollar-for-dollar grant from Frankston Council, through its initiative of a Local Heritage Preservation Grant Program. We are hoping one of these applications may provide us with the last portion of funds to restore our organ to its full sound capacity, and so ensure its future, as stewards of this wonderful instrument.

## Purpose Statement

As you would be aware, some time ago, Church Council endorsed our Vision Statement, which appears on key documents, namely:

**Strengthening Community** through the Holy Spirit  
**Embracing All People** with Christ's compassion  
**Connecting Younger Generations** in God's love

Church Council has also now endorsed a Purpose Statement, which seeks to add a why dimension to the Vision Statement, which essentially identifies how these elements are achieved. So, the following will also be used at other times, as appropriate:

**Strengthening Community** because that's God's nature  
**Embracing All People** because that's God's love  
**Connecting Younger Generations** because that's God's blessing

*CONTINUED NEXT PAGE*

### **COVID-19 Safeguards**

The COVID- Safe team has now met on 4 occasions to ensure that our Church and its facilities are compliant with ever-changing government regulations, and that the safety and security of all people using our facilities is consistently protected. We have done this in accordance with the agreed HSUC COVID safety principles. Part of our work has involved developing a new COVID-19 user agreement form, which Church Council has endorsed for use. This will be overseen and managed by Jacqui, in the Church Office, who is the conduit for all bookings of church spaces by internal and external groups. We will continue to meet periodically to ensure that we are responding both to government and Synod requirements.

### **Financial challenges**

You will no doubt have heard of the federal government's Job Keeper support program for businesses and organisations. Thanks to the ever-reliable and careful financial management by our Treasurer, Keith Holmes, we registered early for this support mechanism, given that our planned budget for the year has been so seriously hit by a lack of projected income from facilities hire and no fete. So, in the first quarter of the year, almost \$18,000 was received via Job Keeper, which ensured that our finances remain 'in the black'. Without this support, we would have been ~ \$5,000 'in the red'! However, such Job Keeper payments will diminish in September and early next year, and further early in 2021. Following a request from Church Council Executive, Keith presented a revised, proposed 2020 budget, noting that on current projections, we should be able to cover expenses for the next 6 months. However, we also gratefully acknowledge the wonderful way in which most people have continued to make their regular offerings by various means. This is greatly appreciated.

### **The Future?**

Whilst we know more challenges await us all, the enveloping and steadfast love and promise of Christ is with us all. Know that your Church Council will endeavour to adhere to our Vision Statement and continue to shine a light of hope.

**Ross**

**Huggard, Chairperson**





## LITERATURE FOR LOCKDOWN

Chinese novelist 杨绛 (YANG JIANG) wrote the following  
at age 103, she passed away at 105 on May 2016.\*

### \*Be Kind to Your Twilight Years\*

Seasons after seasons, we are unknowingly approaching our twilight years.

From the first cry on coming to the earth till the hairs turn grey, the baggage of our journey through life has been filled with all bitterness and sweetness as well as ups and downs. Next, how happy can we be on the path of our twilight years will depend on our physical and mental condition.

Life's glory and splendor are all behind us and we are now just going through the daily chores of keeping life going.

Once, we yearned for a glamorous life, now we realize the most wonderful and beautiful scenery in life are moments of tranquility.

Do not anxiously wait for the visits of our children. They have their own lives to take care of; they are like tops being spun continuously, sandwiched between the young and old. The old one is the evening sun, whereas the young is the morning sun, and of course the young will get more attention; this is nature's law. It is the human race and cycle of survival and no one can defy it. Please remember: our children are always busier than us.

In life, whether it is husband and wife or parents and children, no matter how harmonious and how close they are, each one is unique and an independent entity. Therefore we need to learn to cope with loneliness by finding ways to console and cheer ourselves up when feeling lonely.

In reaching our golden age, we have our self esteem and graciousness just like the cycle of the four seasons, each has its own grace and beauty. Smile and enjoy each phase of life.

Our twilight years are the beginning of a good phase in life. It is calm, peaceful, unhurried and joyful. We have to maintain peace, be less demanding, more accommodative and forgiving, not to over react when receiving attention or being ignored. To stay or to go does not matter anymore. Keep smiling while moving ahead each day and be kind to ourselves.

Being honest and sincere will make friendships last. Do not expect for a return on whatever you have given to others, after all, making others happy is life's greatest achievement.

Article Submitted by: Marlene Thresher



# SNAPSHOTS OF LIFE DURING COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS

## LINDY LANE

### **What has been different about your life during the restrictions?**

Lindy says the only differences in her life during these times are not being able to see her family. She still has one daughter who lives with her but she is not able to see her son or other daughter. She also misses seeing her sister who she is very close to, as they would often have lunch after church and spend Sunday afternoons together. Lindy also misses her friends and having lunch and dinner with them like she used to. During stage 4 lockdown she is really missing her beach walks as she lives more than 5kms from the beach. Those that know her well know she is a regular beach walker often going after work and on weekends.

### **What has been the most challenging?**

Lindy thinks the most challenging has been not being able to see her kids. Not seeing them for her birthday, Mother's Day and her son's birthday was difficult.

### **What have you been doing while spending time at home?**

Lindy always finds the day goes by quickly at home. She considers herself blessed that she can still work as she works for a medical company so is an essential worker. When she is at home she has been doing lots of reading and puzzles – she particularly loves word searches and crosswords. She and her husband have done a couple of 1000 piece jigsaws together. Lindy also spends a lot of time doing family history research which she has been doing for a few years and building up her family tree.

### **What has been the best, or a good, thing?**

Lindy feels that a good thing has been making sure she gets out every day to walk and exercise in some way. Also appreciating life each day and being grateful for what she has. It has really put things in perspective what we value in life. Life can be simple and we can still enjoy it.

### **What are you most looking forward to when restrictions ease?**

Lindy looks forward mostly to having her kids and their partners over for dinner again, and seeing her sisters and friends as well. And of course, those beach walks again.





# MICK & JEN JOHNSON

## **What has been different about your life during the restrictions?**

Jen says it's been different feeling a bit paranoid during this time including: scared that you might have the virus that you do not know and pass it to others; wearing a mask and doing hand sanitizers all the time; guarding yourself not to be so touchy; and if you are walking and see some people coming, staying distant and avoiding being too close with them. It's also different staying home all the time; not being able to go with Mick to go to Bunnings or to do food shopping; not being able to have some coffee or eat out, especially during birthday occasions in the family; and not visiting friends and family.

## **What has been the most challenging?**

Jen has had some difficulties working at home – she cannot work on time due to some computer technical problems, and has to catch it up beyond the scheduled work hours. Jen is feeling sleepy while working, and needs to drink coke to keep her awake! Mick has to do all the errands, including food shopping, and they cannot visit Mick's mum and friends.

## **What have you been doing while spending time at home?**

Jen and Mick have been keeping busy with working at home, gardening and doing some carpentry in the backyard and kitchen, doing general cleaning, playing games, attending an online class; virtual bonding or chatting with family, friends, current & former colleagues here, from Philippines and Singapore, and church members.

## **What has been the best, or a good, thing?**

Jen says some good things have been close bonding with family; waking up late in the morning; no pressure to wake up in the morning and catch up with the bus to go to work and sometimes working in pj's! Mick has had time to do some repairs in the house, and he also doesn't need to wake up early in the morning.

## **What are you most looking forward to when restrictions ease?**

Jen and Mick are looking forward to going to church, chatting in person with church members and singing in the choir, visiting Mick's mum, visiting friends and attending some social gatherings. Also, to do some food shopping together with Mick, see good movies in the cinema, dine out or have some coffee outside, and travel domestically in the other side of the city.

# NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH TEAM

Just prior to the beginning of the current lock-down, the Church Council had established a Community Outreach Team to initiate and oversee outreach activities for the community which would be valuable, sustainable, and safe, with the flexibility to accommodate the changing levels of restriction.

The group has done some research. Information about some of the meals and supports that are available for those in need are published elsewhere in this issue of High Street Times.

We have identified that there is a gap in services on Sundays, and are proposing that we set up a soup kitchen to provide simple meals of hearty soup and bread. We have been able to source bread and vegetables already.

The current lockdown has meant that we have needed to put the plans on hold for now, at least until it is allowable for 10 people to be gathered outside at once. Once we are at that stage we may be able to begin serving on a take-away basis.

The plan is to seek volunteers for a Cooking Crew, to prepare the soups at the Church on Fridays; and for a Serving Crew, to serve on Sunday evenings. We will put out a call for volunteers closer to when we will be able to start.

David Fotheringham and Jackie Annable (convenor)

## Meet "Sophia Dungan"



*Thank you for all your prayers, cards, gifts, and well wishes! We appreciate the love and support we received in this strange but special time, and look forward to meeting you all soon!*

# TREASURER'S REPORT

As reported to the Church Council in August

Our financial situation is holding up reasonably well due to two main factors:

- Giving has held up very well – about 90% of pre coronavirus giving.
- JobKeeper payments have meant that we are still in the black – we would be about \$5000 in the red without them.

Changes to JobKeeper Payments:

We are currently receiving \$1500 per fortnight for each of David, Mandy, Brenda and Jacqui. Some of this goes directly to the individual as a top-up if they were receiving less than \$1500 per fortnight, so we are left with about \$3500- \$4000 per fortnight which in effect works as a wage subsidy. The last payment at this level will be in October as a payment for September.

Hannah resumes in late August and the pay office has said that she will be eligible for JobKeeper; one month at the current level.

The announced changes are as follows:

Full time (> 20hours per week): \$1200 pf Oct-Dec, \$1000 pf Jan-Mar

Part time (< 20 hours per week) \$750 pf Oct-Dec, \$650 pf Jan -Mar

As the hours worked are as in March this year, this means that we would be paid the higher rate for David, Hannah and Jacqui and the lower rate for Mandy and Brenda. (This is assuming a full-time week is 38 hours). The hours currently worked have no effect on the subsidy.

Keith.







# Hannah is Back!

8HRS A WEEK

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After taking some parental leave, and welcoming baby Sophia into my life, I'm returning to work this week, on reduced hours for 6 months. As we are still under stage 4 restrictions, you can contact me on facebook, instagram, snapchat, tiktok, whatsapp, or email [frankstonucyouth@gmail.com](mailto:frankstonucyouth@gmail.com), text or call me on 0422628028, "Office hours" Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3 - 5 PM



# Frankston City 2040 Community Vision

Invite



You and your community are invited to help shape Frankston City's Community Vision for 2040. Frankston is a diverse area and we want to hear from people who represent all the different communities who live, work in and visit Frankston.

What will Frankston City look like in 20 years?  
What matters most to you about where you live?  
What needs changing to make our future better?

Frankston City 2040 provides you and your community with an opportunity to shape our shared future.  
Ways for you and your community to have your say:

- [Encourage your community to complete the survey](#) and each person will in the draw to win: A \$100 Coles voucher or one of 30 \$5 drinks vouchers to a local café.
- Complete the survey by phone interview — please see our contact details below to request this.
- [Be part of an online workshop](#)
- [Follow the conversation](#)

Have your say online until **Friday 18th September 2020**. For more information please contact [frankstoncity2040@frankston.vic.go.au](mailto:frankstoncity2040@frankston.vic.go.au), or call 1300 322 322 and ask for the Social Policy and Planning team.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Frankston 2040 Project Team



# KIDS CORNER

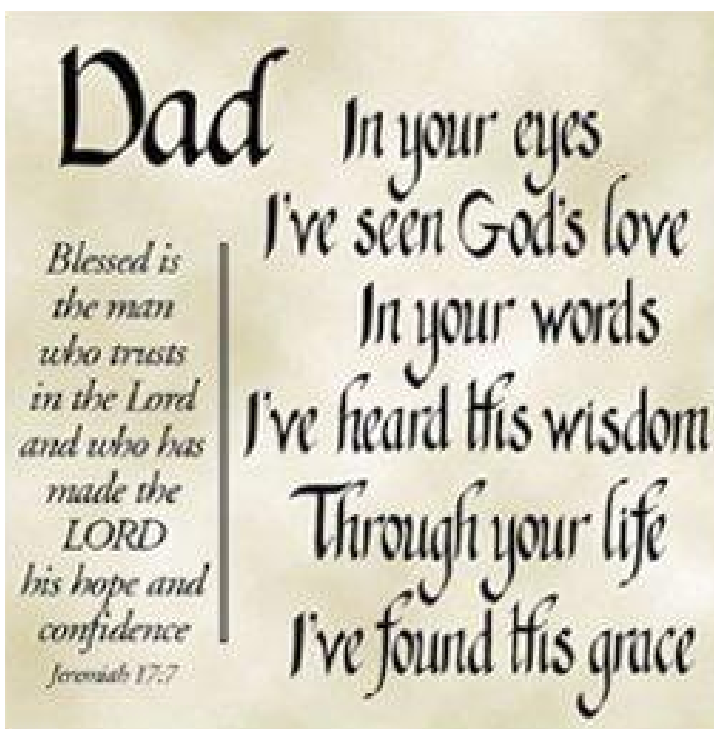
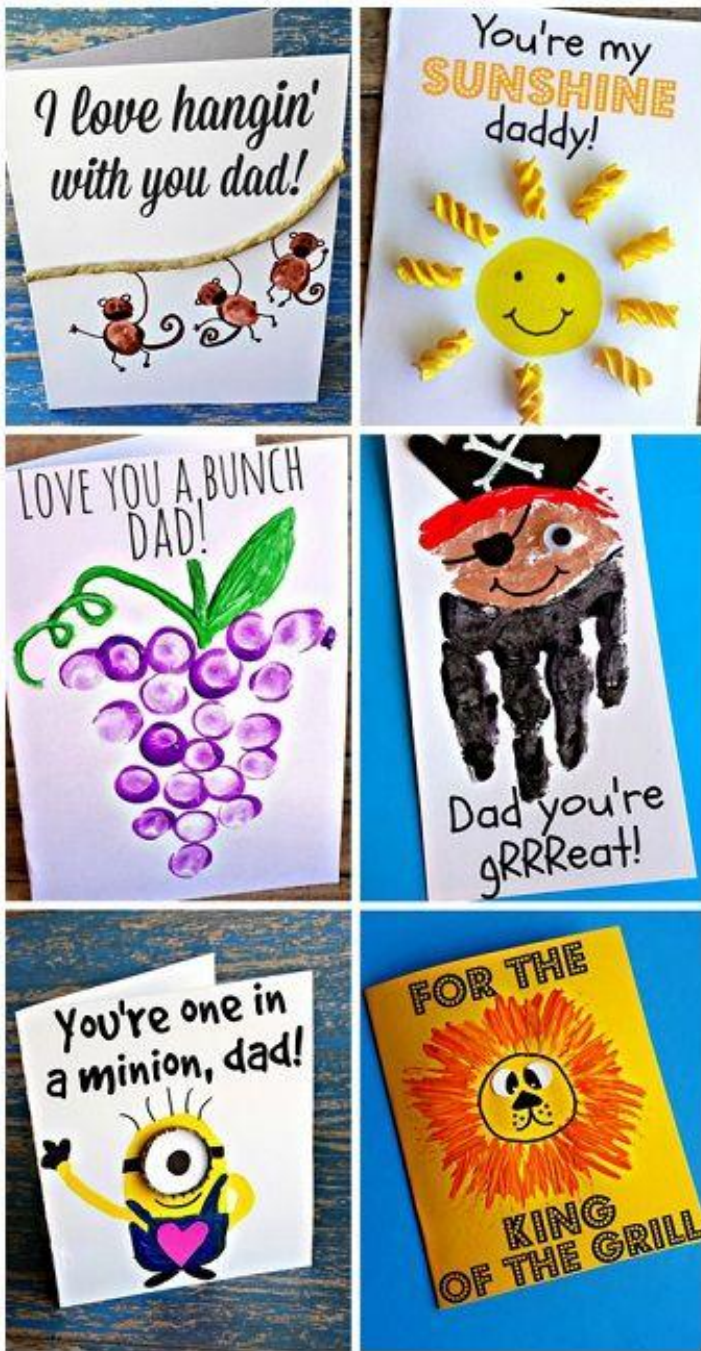
## Father's Day Activities

"Walk a little slower, daddy",  
said a little child so small.  
"I'm following in your footsteps  
and I don't want to fall."

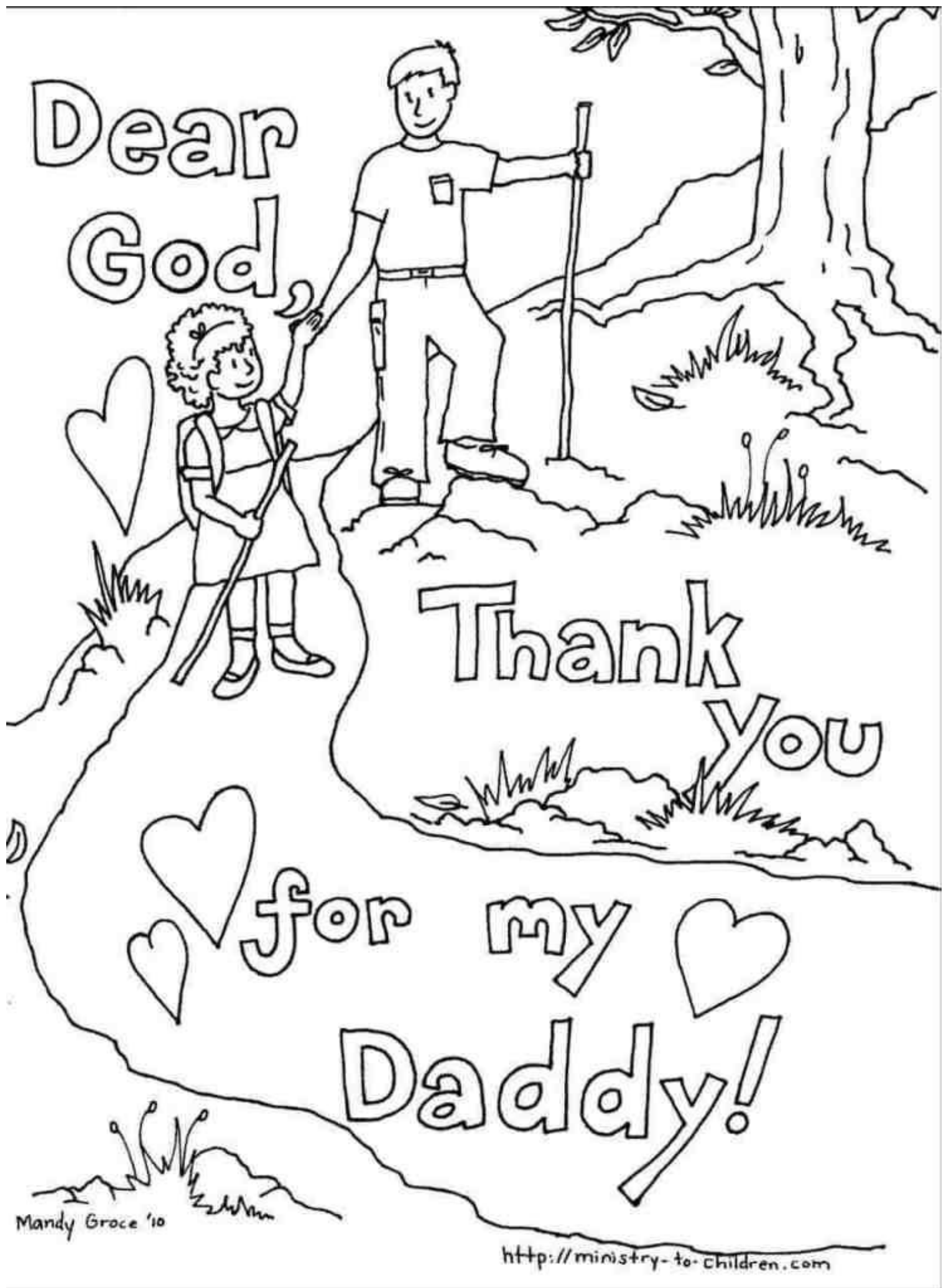
Sometimes your steps are very fast,  
Sometimes they're hard to see.  
So walk a little slower, Daddy,  
For you are leading me.

Someday when I'm all grown up,  
You're what I want to be;  
Then I will have a little child,  
Who'll want to follow me.

And I would want to lead just right,  
And know that I was true;  
So, walk a little slower, Daddy,  
For I must follow you."



Dear  
God,



Thank  
You

for my  
Daddy!