

**Manor Minutes**  
**Volume 16 Issue 24**  
**June 13, 2025**

- Operating Deficit Task Force – June 18, 6pm Library
- Choir Practice – June 19, 6:30pm

Stay up to date at [www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar](http://www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar)



Our Sunday school children and youth purchased all of these gifts through Church World Service for **\$611**, using the 2024-2025 Sunday school offering. Thank you for giving! If you would like to purchase gifts like these for folks in our country and around the world, visit [www.cwsbestgift.org](http://www.cwsbestgift.org) to see the whole selection.

- One month of rides to school for a refugee child in Egypt (\$10)
- One box of essential food items for a family in Sudan (\$15)
- Guidance through the school enrollment process for 4 girls in Kenya (\$5 each)
- Access to a community water system for a family in Kenya (\$10)
- One month of emergency food rations for a child displaced by disaster in Kenya (\$9)
- Five chickens each for 6 families in Tanzania (\$20 per family)
- Two 2-week food packets for refugees in Moldova (Ukraine response) (\$10 each)
- Six 5-gallon canisters of safe drinking water in Serbia (\$5 each)
- Books for 7 students in Vietnam (\$21)
- Pens, pencils and notebooks for 48 students in Haiti (\$64)
- One year of food and water security for a family in Honduras (\$77)
- One toy for a refugee child in the United States (\$25)
- Immigration legal fees for family reunification in the United States (\$50)



Gift cards available this week



Each gift card has \$25 loaded on them. The church earns an average of 10% on each card sold. Please see Pastor Gena after worship if you would like to purchase a card or 2 ☺.

- Applebee's (1)
- Bob Evans (2)
- Dairy Queen (1)
- Eat'n Park (2)
- Kohl's (1)
- Outback (2)
- Red Lobster (1)



Fairhill Manor Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
351 Montgomery Ave.  
724-225-8610

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Minister  
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor  
Elders: Jackie Nelson, Bread  
Sheila Harris, Cup

June 15, 2025 – 10:15am

**Prelude**

Sam Johnson, organist

**Welcome**

Pastor Gena

**Call to Worship**

Serena Dube

Leader: Majestic God, your name rests upon our lips and opens our hearts to the blessings of life.

**People: How is it that you care for each of us by name?**

Leader: How is it that you come to one and all in worship?

**People: How is it that in all your grandeur, we are not lost?**

**All: *We worship you in thanksgiving and praise, rejoicing in your tender, abiding presence. Amen.***

**Opening Hymn**

*"This Is the Day"*

Jody Mullis, pianist

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made; we will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

**Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer**

Pastor Gena

Loving and Merciful God, your power is beyond our scope, your wisdom is beyond our understanding. We turn to you in faith, assured that you know our every emotion and are aware of our every need. Today we pause to celebrate and to remember our fathers.

For fathers who have increased the joy in our lives, we give you thanks.

For fathers whose presence is greatly missed, we gratefully remember all they have given to us, providing for us in our growing.

May those who have recently lost, or who are facing the imminent loss of, their fathers, find comfort in their grief, hope in their despair, and courage in the love that their fathers have given them.

We give thanks, loving God, for the good men who sustain and support us in our living, who love us no matter what! What a blessing they are to all who know them!

We give thanks to you, O God, for all those whose gift for fatherhood is so strong that their caring spills over into the lives of others, providing guidance and stability, nurture and love.

How distressing it is for us to consider that not all fathers have been good fathers. We pray, compassionate God, for those whose fathers have been a source of hurt and pain. May their wounds be healed. May they find in you, in us, and in others, the nurturing, sustaining love that is needed for their growth and well-being.

We recall with sadness fathers who are separated from their children through life choices made by them or others. Give them the insight and wisdom, the courage and perseverance to parent in whatever creative and life-giving ways are open to them. Give them the courage to make decisions which allow their children to thrive.

We remember before you single fathers who struggle to be both parents for their children --to tend to all the emotional, physical and spiritual needs without the constant support of a spouse. May they find the strength, the courage and the wisdom for their task.

We pray for those fathers whose relationships with their children have been difficult or disappointing.

We pray for those who have been denied a chance to be fathers, and for those whose years of parenting have been cut short by the loss of a child. We turn to you, most holy God, knowing and trusting that you can console where consolation seems impossible. May these parents receive comfort for their souls and peace and hope for living, that their gifts may be shared with others.

Finally, O God, we rejoice with you, for the many fine men who have taken their place as fathers with open hearts, with willingness and joy. And we join all fathers, grandfathers, uncles and friends everywhere in praying that the children they love may be well and happy, a source of joy for years to come.

Hear our prayers this day, O God, for all those we have mentioned aloud, for those on our prayer list, and for those we name now in our hearts... Give us such assurance of your love that your love may spill from us into the lives of others.

We pray now in the name of Jesus, who found the qualities of a loving father in you. We pray together as he taught us...

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.*

Pastoral Prayer adapted from <http://dentalmethodist.blogspot.com/2013/06/pastoral-prayer-for-fathers-day.html>

**Prayer Response:**

*“Glory Be to the Father”*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

**First Scripture Lesson**

**Psalm 8:1-9**

Donna Stenski

**Anthem**

“O Lord of Host, My God & King,” by Craig Courtney  
Featuring Dale Hertrick, soprano saxophone

Choir

## **Children's Message**

Pastor Gena

Let me tell you a story about my Dad. When I was growing up, Dad was a dairy farmer. Do you know what a dairy farmer is? One time, after a cow gave birth to her calf, she was paralyzed and couldn't stand up. She was down over the hill on the farm, far from the barn, far from food and water (except the grass right around her), far from the place where the cows were milked. What would a paralyzed cow like that need?

Sometimes I would help Dad take water and grain down over the hill to her. We had to milk her too because her udder would get so full of milk that it would be painful to her. Milking her by hand had to be done once or twice each day. Dad took her medicines and gave them to her through an IV. We rolled her over to keep her from getting sores from her lying on one side for so long. Sometimes we would find that she had scooted even further down the hill while she had been trying to get up. Eventually, Dad found or rigged up a hoist. We got the canvas part under her and then he connected the ends to the tractor and lifted her up. He would let her stand there for a while with the support of the hoist.

This whole process went on for a long time, and this was just one of a couple hundred cattle that Dad had to look after on a daily basis. I don't remember how long it went on, and I don't remember if that cow ever stood up or was able to walk again. Maybe Dad remembers. What I do remember is how earnestly he tried to help her. He tried to think of anything and everything that might help. And he was dedicated to tending to her every single day, oftentimes more than once a day. It was a lot of work, and it took a lot of patience.

I didn't realize it at the time, but I learned something about Dad through that whole experience. He didn't give up on that cow. He gave as much as he could of his time and energy and skills to help her get well again. He was determined, caring, resourceful and patient. And that's how Dad is with me, too. He doesn't give up and does as much as he can to help. He is determined, caring, resourceful and patient.

Do you know what else I learned from these kinds of experiences with Dad? I learned to trust that God is the same way too. I trust that God doesn't give up on me, that God is patient, and that God cares for me - all because I experienced that kind of love through Dad. And, as we cared for that cow, I got practice in loving that same way.

I wonder what stories you could tell about someone in your life - stories that show you how God loves and cares for you. Often we learn about God's love through how others love us. And then we can share God's love through how we love the people - and animals - around us. If you have a story like that, let's share them this summer during our Children's Messages.

Dear God, thank you for Dad and for all of the people who show us how you love us. Help others to learn about your love by the ways we love them. Amen.

## **Second Scripture Reading**

**Romans 5:1-5**

Rev. Donahoo

## **Sermon**

Rev. Dr. Patricia Donahoo

This is a previous sermon from Rev. Chris based on John 5:1-17. Rev. Donahoo will be preaching on Sunday while Rev. Chris is on vacation.

When I think of my father, the first thing that comes to my mind is what an incredibly hard worker he is. My dad came up in the Ohio Valley at a time when the economy was still good enough that a man could get a good job in the mills straight out of high school, but that soon changed, and the factories closed down, and my dad found himself out of work. Having a family to raise and no college education my dad

was never too proud to do whatever it took to keep things afloat, and so he has over the years had more jobs than I can even remember.

My father worked for the Marks Toy Company, the bronze plant at CE Cast, he made tank turrets for the Blaw Knox Corporation, and also worked as a machine operator for Wheeling Machine. In between these well-paying factory jobs were periods of unemployment and underemployment. In order to make ends meet during these times my dad worked as a furniture mover, a swimming pool installer, a street sweeper, a delivery man for Wheeling Office Supply, a farm hand on a dairy farm, a tobacco pitcher for Block Brothers tobacco, a custodian for the Wheeling Christian Church, and a bartender for four different establishments at various times. There will often be a conversation between us in which he will remember a time and date the story by saying, "That's when I was working for . . ." There's always some new place.

My brother and I are tremendously thankful for all the work he and my mother did that put a roof over our heads, food on our plates, and sent us to school. There was a time, however, when we wished he wouldn't work quite so hard. After working for factories that could not resist the lure of cheaper labor in another country, my father began working as a custodian for West Liberty State College. This was a steady job with good benefits, and best of all, West Lib wasn't going to be going anywhere soon. He worked the afternoon shift from 3-11 M-F, which means that I did not see him all that much. This was compounded by the fact that on weekend evenings he would tend bar at a local establishment for extra money.

My dad grew up poor and he worried often about paying the bills and making ends meet. So much so that even after he got a raise, and my mother took another job for more money he continued to work seven days a week. It made him tired, irritable, and we worried that his health would suffer. But most of all, we missed him. During the week when we were going to bed he was just getting home, and, on the weekends, as we sat down to eat, he was on his way to work. So you can understand how it was good for him and the family when my mother finally convinced him that we could get by without the second job. We had less money, but we felt much wealthier for it.

I think that my father worked so hard because he believed that, if he didn't, he, and us, wouldn't have what we needed to survive. He worked so hard to make a nice life for us, and he was very afraid that it would not last. My father certainly isn't the only one who has ever felt that way. Many fathers spend so much of their time at work to help their family that they have too little time left to give to their families. Mothers who work outside of the home also work hard, but they seem to be better at finding that balance between the effort they put into their job and the work they put into their family. I know that my mother was. So many fathers were instilled with good values about the need to take care of their families. But often, because of pressure from society, or because of a job that is less than ideal, or because so many men are taught to identify themselves with their jobs, these values that were meant to install a good work ethic, become a weight that hangs on the backs of fathers everywhere.

As a result, there are so many fathers working double shifts, two jobs, late evenings, and long weekends, all for the family that they too rarely see. It is a noble sacrifice based upon the belief many men have that if they stop, even for a moment, everything they have worked to create will fall apart.

It is a noble sacrifice but, according to Jesus, an unnecessary one. Everything will not fall apart because, as he tells us, "my father is still working". The N.I.V. has it as "My father is always at work". In this story in which Jesus heals a man who had been lame for thirty eight years we discover that, in addition to God being our friend, God is also a workaholic for God works even on the day of rest.

The healing of this man would have been a great cause for celebration and joy, except that Jesus healed the man on the Sabbath. The Sabbath was the ritual observance and remembering of the seventh and last

day of creation when God rested. The Sabbath day was one of the first things blessed by God in the Bible, and the command to keep it one of the central tenets of the law.

Long lists of instructions were written about what one could or could not do on that day. Cooking was prohibited. Meals were prepared the day before. Lighting lamps were not allowed. Certainly no labor could be performed. The Sabbath was to be a day of complete and total rest as God had rested after creation.

The problem is that, in all the lists of what was or was not a Sabbath violation, no one thought to include healing on the Sabbath. Later it would be decided that violating the Sabbath was acceptable when life was in immediate danger, but that is not the case here for this man had been lame for 38 years. What would be one day more the Pharisees must have wondered? But Jesus does not wait. Who knows where he would be tomorrow or how many people would demand healing from him then? Jesus does not put off til tomorrow what can be done today lest his inbox and his to do list become so overwhelming he can never catch up, so he heals the man saying to him, "Take up your mat and walk".

When the Pharisees see this man walking, they demand to know who healed him, and the man told them it was Jesus, so they confront him. <sup>17</sup>But Jesus answers them, 'My Father is still working, and I also am working.'

Of course this answer was infuriating to the religious authorities not just because Jesus equates himself here with God. That was infuriating enough, but to add brazenness to blasphemy, Jesus dared to suggest that God was working, on the Sabbath.

The Sabbath helped to set the Jewish people apart from their neighbors and strengthened the sense of community among them. The belief that even God needed to rest as told in Genesis added to the significance of the Sabbath. It is remarkable that even rest is sanctified by God. For in resting, in observing this holy day, by refraining from work, humans were engaging in an act of God.

But as fantastic a blessing the Sabbath is, the lesson that Jesus tried to teach about it to the Pharisees, and now us, is that the Sabbath was given to us to improve life. If that is the case then it makes no sense to prolong the misery in someone's life for even one more day in order to remain faithful to the Sabbath. It does no good to follow the letter of the Sabbath if it causes us to miss the point of it

So Jesus healed the man and demonstrated and stated that, even on the day of the Sabbath, when we are at rest, God is working. But it is very easy and very common to fail to understand the message of a particular passage of the gospel, and it is also easy to actually get the opposite message from it. Many people will look at this story and think, "See, if even Jesus works on his day off, then I should too." We are taught as Christians to be like Christ and live up to his example. Certainly if someone needs our help on the Sabbath we, like Christ, should not hesitate to give it. But too many Christians, and too many Christian fathers in particular, see that God is always at his work, and take that to mean that we should also be.

Now Jesus does say, "My Father is always at his work and I am always at my work." but that does not mean that we should always be at work. You see the point is that God works all the time so that we don't have to.

It doesn't make any sense to work so much that you don't enjoy the life you worked so hard to create, as my father once did, and so many others do. Jesus was accused of thinking he was equal to God, which he was. We are not, but sometimes we are guilty of this idolatry when we think that the fate of everything hangs on us. Don't make that mistake. You are not God. The world will not stop if you take a day off.

For you fathers don't let the third Sunday in June be the only day you take for yourself and your family. Observe the Sabbath as best you can whenever you can. It does not have to be Sunday, it can be any day or night that you can get time to spend with your family, to spend enjoying the life you have worked so hard to create. If you find yourself getting worried that no one is in the office answering the phones, responding to emails, or writing reports, If you get nervous because you think no one is working, don't worry, God is.

### **Call to Offering**

Donna Stenski

Through these gifts, proclaim your word of grace. Shine forth through our offerings and our lives, that others may see your face and know your steadfast love. In your love and grace, we pray. Amen.

### **The Doxology**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow! Praise God, all creatures here below! Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts! Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

### **Dedication of Offering Prayer**

Pastor Gena

How grateful we are, O God, that you call us to serve with the Holy Spirit, who fills us with patience and generosity and genuine love. We pray that all we return to you will be used faithfully in ministry to the world. We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.

### **Invitation to Communion**

Pastor Gena

On Wednesday evening, the Elders, Rev. Chris and I had gathered with Doris Sorice, Bo and Patty Pryor, and Chuck Wiseman in Chuck's home at Southminster (the yellow building on the hill out South Main). It was lovely to visit together. There's something about a whole group of people visiting with one another – as opposed to just one or two Elders visiting – that really brings the sense of community alive in a way we feel here every Sunday. It was nice just to *be* together in one place. It was nice to hear one another's voices as we sang – to hear voices that we don't get to hear singing together very often these days. It was nice to sing songs together that we all know and love and have been singing for years. It was nice to pray the Lord's Prayer together, again hearing the voices of those we heard for years praying around us and with us here in this place, but don't often get to hear these days. To hold the bread and the cup, to hear the Words of Institution, to partake together. To hear one another's joys and sorrows, thanksgivings and difficulties. It felt like home because we were together.

Every time we are together, Doris, Bo, Patty and Chuck share a similar refrain: oh, how they want to get back to this place and worship together. I hope that those of us who *are* able to gather together, to sing together, to pray together, to laugh together, to share life together, to gather around this Table, with light shining down through those stained glass panels, will really appreciate the gift we have – the gift of actually being able to be here, gathered together as the Body of Christ. We certainly gather here around this Table today with a great cloud of witnesses, and we call to mind all those who want so longingly to be here. May we take the opportunity to gather and to be inspired by each other's faith journeys as often and as much as we can. All are welcome to this Table. May you come as eagerly as Doris, Bo, Patty and Chuck would if they could be here.

### **Communion Hymn**

*"Amazing Grace"*

Sam Johnson, organist

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

### **Prayer for the Bread & Cup**

Jackie Nelson

Holy Almighty God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, please hear our prayer. We celebrated Pentecost last Sunday with all of its fire, warmth, excitement, hope and challenge. The apostles were given a mission, and because of them we are here today.

Now, at this sacred table we also remember that we also have been given the Holy Spirit when we accept Jesus as our Savior. No fire, no wind, but we believe. This is our faith and hope and joy. As we share this bread and cup we remember our part in the mission. Mission Impossible should we decide to accept it. Holy Spirit, be with us now as we decide and equip us, we pray. I ask in Jesus holy name. Amen.

### Words of Institution

Pastor Gena

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.  
(1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

### Sharing Holy Communion

*You will receive the bread and cup together. Please hold them; we will take each together as one body. Disciples of Christ believe in an Open Table. All who profess Christ and follow Him are welcome to share His meal. Gluten free wafers are available in the Narthex.*

### Call to Discipleship

Pastor Gena

This is the promise of the gospel: God already knows you. God already loves you. God has already gifted you. God has already called you. You are invited—to deepen this knowledge, to feast in this love, to cultivate these gifts, and to follow this calling. There is a place for you among the people of God in this community of faith.

If you have come to know Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior and you would like to profess that you intend to begin a life of faith, learning to walk in his way of Love, you are welcome to contact one of the Pastors to take this step. If you would like to join this part of the Body of Christ at Fairhill Manor Christian Church, to covenant to journey together in this life of faith, please reach out to one of the Pastors to learn more. We all take these moments to rededicate our lives to following Jesus.

### Closing song

"Shalom," by Dan Forrest

Choir

Featuring Dale Hertrick, soprano saxophone

### Benediction


Pastor Gena

God will go with you each hour of every day. Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true. Know he will guide you in all you do. Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see. God will be there, watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

For years, King David showed special kindness to the son of King Saul's son Jonathan, because David and Jonathan had been dear friends. Which of the following statements is not accurate?

- A. The name of King Saul's grandson was Mephibosheth.
- B. He was lame in both feet.
- C. His feet had been injured when he was 5.
- D. He was injured while playing with his brothers.



Answer: D (See 2 Samuel 4:4; 9:1-7; 21:7.)



# THIS WEEK'S PRAYER REQUESTS

**Do you have a prayer request or need help?** Please feel free to contact Rev. Chris (412-956-6590) or Pastor Gena (724) 263-0033 directly and confidentially. Or scroll down on the opening page of our website ([www.fairhillmanorchurch.org](http://www.fairhillmanorchurch.org)) to "Requests for Prayer or Help." There you can send an email which will go directly to Rev. Chris. We are One Body in Christ!

## Homebound Members:

Mrs. Mary McDonough  
949 Bruce Street  
Washington PA 15301

Alice Cokeley  
900 N Cass Lake Rd, Apt 324  
Waterford MI 48328

Chuck Wiseman  
880 S Main St, Apt 214  
Washington PA 15301

Carol Brown  
36 Old Hickory Ridge Rd, Rm 213  
Washington PA 15301

Bo & Patty Pryor  
880 S Main St, Apt 102  
Washington PA 15301

Doris Sorice  
880 S Main St, Apt 336  
Washington PA 15301

Barb Bailey  
Terry Bailey  
Donna Bakaitis  
Todd Barnhart  
Vanessa & John Bereznyay  
Jeff Caldwell  
Bryan Carter  
Wanda Chicone  
Ruth Cox  
Sue Donaldson  
Benjamin Dube  
Connie Faust  
Gary Ford  
Kathy Moninger-Ford  
Barb Graff  
Irma Harper  
Sheila Harris  
Alberta Haught

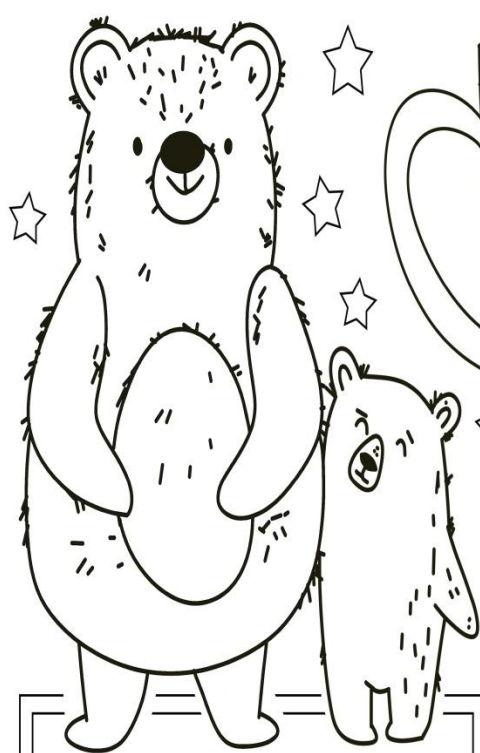
Aryn Hess  
Danni Iams  
Ed Jackman  
Kari Johnson  
Brandon Keenan  
David Leonard  
CJ Martin  
Pam McCord  
Norm McDonough  
Dick Moninger  
Joe Neckerman  
Carmen Oliverio  
Peggy Oliverio  
Michelle Oneal  
Sandy Petry  
Dick Pilgun  
Betty Riecks  
Jeannie Riffle  
Joan Riffle  
Lori Riffle  
Dee Ryan  
Mike Ryan

John Samida  
Valerie Shetler  
Doug Smith  
Darci Sprowls  
Wayne Starnes  
Cathy Stewart  
Beth Teagarden  
Jane Teagarden

## In the Military

|                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| Lance Dague      | Andrew Gregg   |
| Terrell McClain  | Zachary Keene  |
| Brandon Lipscomb | Sarah Lipscomb |
| Travis Ringer    | Emily Chase    |
| Dylan Demain     | Noah Rudolph   |

The brave men and women who serve our country make incredible sacrifices every day. We are forever grateful for their service and dedication. Please remember the military members that are deployed and away from their family that they may return to their homes safely.



My dad is the best because:

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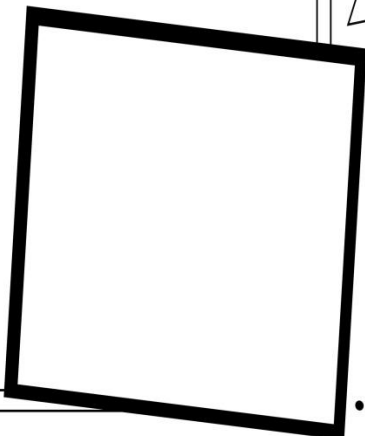
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My dad's name is \_\_\_\_\_.

His favorite color is \_\_\_\_\_.

His favorite food is \_\_\_\_\_.

Draw a picture of your Dad!

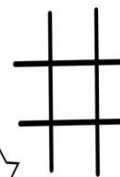
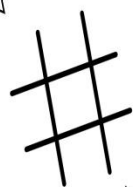


### WORD SEARCH

|         |      |       |
|---------|------|-------|
| PROTECT | HERO | TOOLS |
| HAPPY   | LOVE | FUNNY |
| STRONG  |      | DAD   |

V P J H H Y Y D E L  
O W R Q A E T A A O  
B L N O T P R D C V  
S X U G T O P O D E  
W A T N L E O Y T I  
E L O A N F C L S W  
H Z S L R N U T S E  
R R Q S T J I N H X  
L S T R O N G K N H  
Y P Y H Z J T L E Y

TIC TAC TOE



# DAD

Color and cut out the bookmark!