

The Good News Letter

Volume 26
Issue 5

May 2024

A House United

When President Lincoln declared in 1858, “A house divided against itself cannot stand,” he was echoing Jesus. Scribes thought Jesus was casting out demons by Satan’s power, so Jesus responded, “How can Satan cast out Satan? ... If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand” (Mark 3:23-25, NIV). There are countless modern examples: Civil wars. Families torn apart. Business partners going separate ways. Even churches splitting.

Jesus used the “house divided” image to point out the nonsense of the scribes’ words. It takes someone *other than* the “strong man” (v. 27), or demon, occupying a space to cast that demon out. Evil can’t drive out evil. Sin isn’t stronger than sin. Hate doesn’t solve hate. Violence doesn’t end violence. Two wrongs don’t make a right.

Jesus came to “bind” evil with goodness, conquer hate with love and teach us the same. Throughout the gospels, Jesus treats *all* people with love — even those who oppose him — so that, in the end, we all will be a house *united* by God’s goodness.



Church Information



We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper on May 5th. If you are an ordained Elder or Deacon, you can serve communion. If you are interested in serving, please sign up. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex, or call the church office at 605-347-2395.



Church office hours are Monday—Friday, 8:00 a.m. to Noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Please feel free to give the church office a call with any questions or concerns at 605-347-2395. After hours you can call Carla at 605-423-6034.

Our Sunday Worship Schedule and Live Streaming Services

9:00 (adults & children)
10:00 a.m. ~ Worship Service
11:00 a.m. ~ Fellowship

May 5th ~ Worship ~ 6th Sunday of Easter with Holy Communion
Paula Zavitz

May 12 ~ Worship ~ 7th Sunday of Easter/Ascension Sunday ~
Mother's Day

May 19th ~ Worship ~ Pentecost
May 26th ~ Worship ~ Trinity Sunday



Church Information

You may also join us on Facebook Live Sunday mornings by going to **<https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianSturgis>**. The service can also be viewed on our website, **www.fpcsturgissd.com**, a short time after 11:30 a.m.



Church Committees

- May 2nd ~ 1:00pm ~ PW Circle
- May 2nd ~ 5:30 pm ~ Christian Education
- May 6th ~ 5:00 pm ~ Worship
- May 6th ~ 6:00 pm ~ Mission
- May 7th ~ 9:00 a.m. ~ Home Communion
- May 7th ~ 6:15 pm ~ Deacons
- May 10th ~ 12:00 p.m. ~ Alliance of Churches ~ Love, Inc.
- May 13th ~ Welcoming
- May 13th ~ 6:00pm ~ Finance, Personnel & Stewardship
- May 21st ~ 7:00 p.m. ~ Stated Session ??



News from the PNC

Friends in Christ,

First of all, thank you to all of you who participated in the recent round table discussion. We are in the process of using that information to compile a church profile. We are composing information that include the strengths and weaknesses of our church, as well as our desired qualities of a new pastor. All of this will be put on the Presbytery website that is accessible to pastors seeking a church. The pastors will be putting their information on the same website for us to view.

Our Presbytery liaison has indicated that most current seminary graduates have already found a church, so there will be few pastoral candidates until next January. However, there may be pastors currently serving a church who may be seeking to move. This spring and summer the PNC will be reviewing the pastor profiles on the website.

Please continue to pray for the PNC and our church as we go through this process of finding a new pastor. We trust that God is preparing our next pastor and that He will guide our decisions.

From the PNC

Teresa Forbes
Beth Bauer
Betty Nettleton
Randi Oviatt
Ray Kaitfors
Galen Remington
Grace Hill





Spring is here with the promise of growth and new beginnings. The Kiwanis Food Pantry continues to provide support to families in the Sturgis area. The generosity of First Presbyterian Church with the donation of food and money continues to touch many people.

May's suggested items:

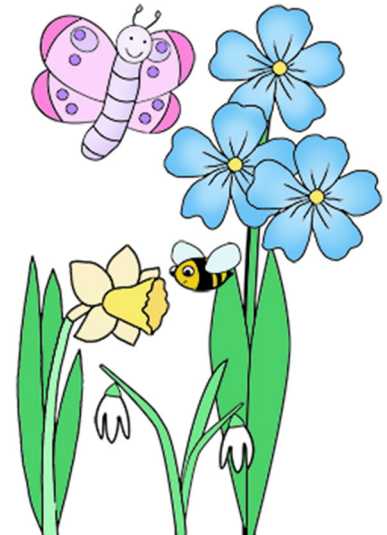
Total 2018	3164 pounds
Total 2019	2371 pounds
Total 2020	818 pounds
Total 2021	1227 pounds
Total 2022	876 pounds
Total 2023	937 pounds
January, February, March 2024	253 pounds

May 5	Cereal
May 12	Peanut Butter
May 19	Jelly
May 26	Picnic

The Food Pantry is open from 9:00 AM to 11:45 AM Wednesday, and Friday (excluding major holidays). Volunteers are the foundation of this service.

Please also continue to save Lynn's Dakota Mart receipts; the money received through this program is utilized for purchase of regularly stocked products at the Food Pantry. For each \$10,000 in receipts the Food Bank receives \$100.

Please feel free to contact me at 605-490-3078 or betty.nettleton@gmail.com if you have any questions or suggestions. Thank you for your continued support!
Betty Nettleton





Presbyterian Women May 2024 Newsletter

The snow is melting and the grass is turning green. We are seeing evidence of God's creations daily. Every month The Presbyterian Women host the Northern Hills Connection, an ecumenical women's organization. The generous members of Presbyterian Women utilize the receipts from the luncheon to provide monetary support to many organizations in our community. During the month of April, nearly \$3000 was distributed to local organizations; an additional \$600 will be donated to the State and National Presbyterian Women.

An afternoon of "Comedy, Cake, and Coffee" was filled with laughter and great conversation Saturday, April 20, 2024. Eighty-five people attended this event co-hosted by PW and Welcoming Committee. Thank you to all who contributed to this event!

The next meeting will be held Thursday, May 2, 2024 at 1:00PM. Study will be Chapter 4, "24/6 Living" Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 20:8-11.

Study Guides are available in the church office. All are welcome to attend.



Northern Hills Connection

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

12:00 Noon \$12 Inclusive

1st Presbyterian Church Fellowship Rm.

1319 Junction Ave, Sturgis

Speaker

Pamela Somervold

Belle Fourche

Special Feature

Reader's Theater

Julie Watkins & Friends

Music

Lora Wilson & Faith Shuck



Reservations required by May 17. Please call: Mary 605-645-7601 or Marlene 605-580-5493. Or email maridel.sprenger@yahoo.com

Prayer Coffee: Tuesday, May 14 @ 9:00 AM

1213 Charles St., Spearfish (All women are invited and encouraged to bring a friend)

Affiliated with Stonecroft Ministries (Women connecting with God, each other, and their communities)



THANK YOU

Happy Easter to all Presbyterian. Thank you for the card!

Also all the cards I get from the church. I love the valentine made by someone named Avery in the children's section. I have it on my wall. I also have to thank the youth choir. How nice to have you come to my room Angel singing. I used to sig in the choir about seventy-nine years ago!

God Bless you all.
John Hobernight

Dear First Presbyterian Church Mission Giving:

Thank you so much for your generous donation to the school nurse fund. Your support and kindness helps many students in Meade School District. We appreciate you!

Meade School District Nurses
Julie Dobler Heidi Komes
Natasha Geige Karrie Wendt

First Presbyterian Church,

The Sturgis Kiwanis Food Pantry gratefully acknowledges your recent generous donation of \$545. The First Presbyterian Church have been a consistent supporter to the Pantry, we really appreciate it.

Barry W. Furze, Secretary/Treasurer

Presbyterian Women,

C.I.S.S. would like to thank you for your very generous donation to our non-profit organization. We appreciate your continued support of our mission.

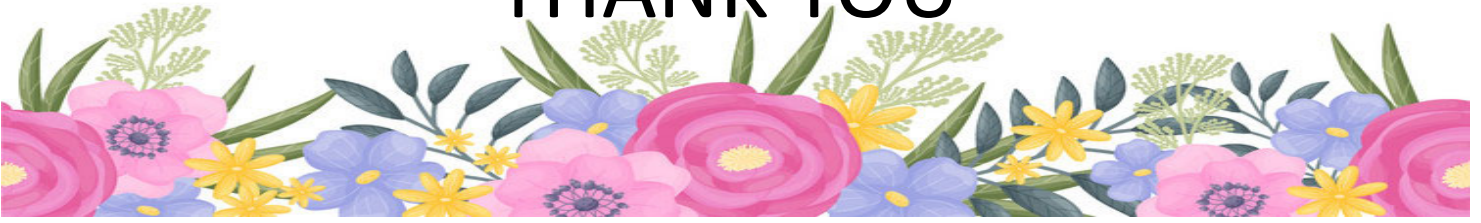
Thanks!
C.I.S.S. Staff

Presbyterian Women,

The Sturgis Kiwanis Food Pantry gratefully acknowledges your recent generous donation of \$675. The Presbyterian Women have been a consistent supporter of the Pantry, and we really appreciate it.

Barry W. Furze, Secretary/Treasurer

THANK YOU



First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for your recent and very generous donation of \$1,000. Your support of providing medical and dental services to those without insurance is very much appreciated.

If any of your church committees, teams or classes would like to learn more about Good Shepherd Clinic, I am available for presentations. Please contact me.

Sincerely

Chris Davis/Executive Director

Presbyterian Women,

You are making a difference and changing lives! Because of you and your commitment to help the people in our community, we are able to unite people and resources to improve lives in the Black Hills by Delivering measurable long-term solutions to community issues in early education, affordable housing, food security, abuse & neglect, substance abuse, mental health, economic opportunities, and transportation and much more.

We wish to extend our sincere appreciation for your generous contribution to the United Way of the Black Hills.

We deeply value your continued support

With profound gratitude,

Executive Director

John Cass

Development Director

Mari Sheldon

Thank you for the beautiful prayer shawl. It is beautiful and very much appreciated. You all will always be my church family.

Thank you too to my special friends, Janice Lundgren and Dale Adams for delivering the best wishes and the shawl.

In the Peace of our savior

Kay Mentele

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for your financial contribution of \$1,000 to the Northern Hills Area CASA (NHCASA). Your generosity truly makes a difference in the lives of abused and neglected children. In our local communities.

~~ Amy Cermak, Executive Director



THANK YOU

Dear Welcoming Committee,

Thank you so much for the gift card to Longhorn's Steakhouse. It is one of our favorite places to eat on special occasions.

It has been a joy and pleasure to have worship with you!

With Love

Pastor Paul & Susan

Dear Presbyterian Women,

Thank you so much for the generous \$200 check. We will put the money to good use as we celebrate my/our retirement. God bless you and continue your good work in serving others and in growing your relationship with God.

With Love,

Pastor Paul & Susan

First Presbyterian Church,

I want to thank everyone who has kept me in their prayers thru my health problems.

I am doing better and hope ot get back to church soon!

Again, thank you to all my church friends!

Carolyn Woods

Presbyterian Women

We thank you for your donation you made to the Alliance of Churches in March. To someone struggling this will help to provide a warm meal or a warm bed for a night or a tank of gas. It might help keep the utilities on.

Again, thank you so very much!

Deb Looby

Mission Committee

Thank you for your generous donation you made to the Alliance of Churches in March for your missions. To someone struggling this will help to provide a warm meal or a warm bed for a night or a tank of gas. It might help keep the utilities on.

Again, thank you so very much!

Deb Looby



YOUR Mission-Funded Projects

The tithes and offerings of the congregation fund mission projects chosen by the Mission Committee and approved by Session. The Mission Committee felt it was important to inform members and friends of First Presbyterian Church how their mission funds were being allocated. An article about a specific mission-funded project will be appearing in The Good News Letter throughout the year. The Mission Committee hopes you will find these articles informative and that they will encourage you to increase your financial support for mission activities.

Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF)

The Medical Benevolence Foundation has supported healing ministries and programs in over 100 hospitals and clinics throughout the world since 1964. MBF is a validated mission working in partnership with PC (USA), congregations, individuals, and mission networks. Funds continue to be needed to support medical ministries in developing countries. A gift to this account will be used where most needed, supporting MBF in its work for medical mission.

A donation financially supports mission hospitals, rural clinics, construction of medical facilities, and training of indigenous medical personnel. A gift will provide medical supplies and equipment to hospitals and clinics, financial support to medical missionaries, vaccinations to thousands of children every year, and program support for HIV/AIDS orphan feeding programs.

First Presbyterian is allocating \$500 to MBF in 2024,
the same amount it allocated in 2023.

Special dates

- Ascension Day, *May 9*
- Mother's Day, *May 12*
- Pentecost, *May 19,*
- Trinity Sunday, *May 26*
- Memorial Day, *May 27*



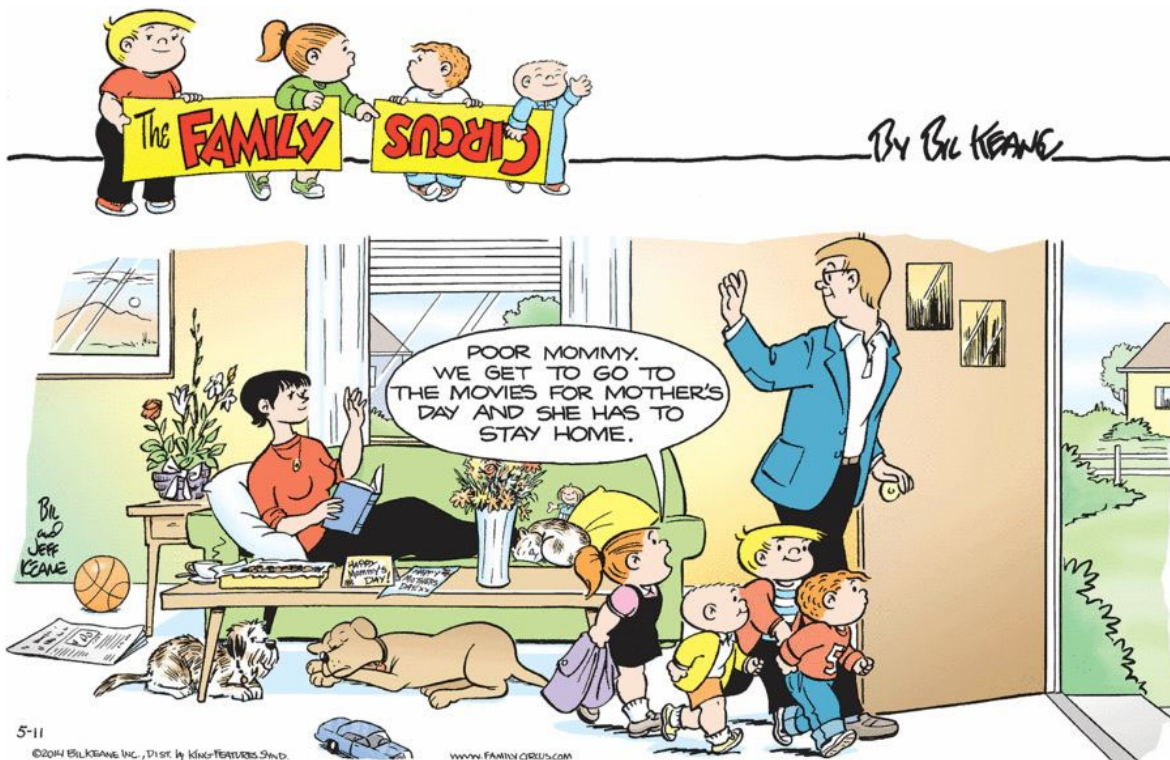
Memorial Day



One Memorial Day, some children were asked what the holiday meant to them.

“That’s the day the swimming pool opens!” answered one eager boy. What he didn’t realize or appreciate was that he can freely go to the pool because more than one million people have put their lives on the line to preserve America’s democracy. Many of them have died so citizens of other countries might also enjoy the privileges of political, social and economic freedom.

Memorial Day is our opportunity to pause and remember the sacrifices of many of America’s best citizens. They made the supreme sacrifice on our behalf, so please remember to honor these heroes on May 26.





Devotion

May 2024 Daily Bible Reading *Who I Am in Christ*

What we think about ourselves, our inner monologue, often comes from outside ourselves. Our culture, belief systems, and experiences may have left us with a sense that we are not worthy, that we have been measured and found wanting. However, our thoughts are not God's thoughts. Psalm 8:4-5 says, "What is mankind that you are mindful of them, and human beings that you care for them? You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor." 2 Corinthians 10:5 tells us that we are to take every thought captive into obedience to Christ. Often our viewpoint is not the same as God's. He created us, loves us, and desires for our good in all things. In Him we are complete. Take captive your thoughts and align them with God's perspective of you.

I am known by Him:

- Day 1 Luke 12:6-7
- Day 2 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-16
- Day 3 Isaiah 49:14-16
- Day 4 Psalm 100:3

I am His child:

- Day 5 John 1:12-13
- Day 6 1 John 3:1
- Day 7 2 Corinthians 6:18
- Day 8 Romans 8:15-17

I am Loved:

- Day 9 1 John 4:16-19
- Day 10 Jeremiah 31:3
- Day 11 Lamentations 3:22-24
- Day 12 Romans 8:37-39
- Day 13 Psalm 36:7-9
- Day 14 Romans 5:5
- Day 15 Ephesians 3:14-19

I am saved by grace:

- Day 16 Galatians 2:20
- Day 17 1 John 4:9-10
- Day 18 Ephesians 2:4-9
- Day 19 Titus 3:4-7

I am forgiven:

- Day 20 Ephesians 4:32
- Day 21 Jeremiah 31:34
- Day 22 1 John 1:9

I am never alone:

- Day 23 Joshua 1:9
- Day 24 Zephaniah 3:17
- Day 25 Isaiah 41:10
- Day 26 2 Corinthians 1:21-22

I am cared for:

- Day 27 1 Peter 5:6-7
- Day 28 Jeremiah 29:11-12
- Day 29 Nahum 1:7
- Day 30 Matthew 11:28-29
- Day 31 Isaiah 46:4

Church Information



Pentecost, the Church's Birthday

Pentecost was originally a Jewish harvest festival when the first fruits of crops were given as offerings to God. On the first Pentecost, 50 days after Jesus' resurrection, the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus' followers. They were filled with power and love, thus empowering them to witness to God's actions in Christ to all who were nearby. Some 3,000 people responded to their claims that Christ was Lord and Savior of humankind.

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus' first followers on the day of Pentecost is often called the Church's birthday. You can read the entire story in Acts 2.



ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Many Christian churches will celebrate Ascension Day on (or near) May 9, which is 40 days after Easter. Theologian Friedemann Hebart explained Christ's Ascension this way:

"When Jesus' work on Earth was done, he took leave of his disciples and went to be with his Father. A time for sad farewells, one might think. Yet the church celebrates the Ascension with special joy. What is the reason for joy when Jesus leaves his people?

"The Ascension is not the end of Jesus' work, but a new beginning! How could Jesus ever leave us alone? Because he has gone to be Lord of the universe, he can continue his work of life and love — among us, too. His work was not just a short episode in Galilee. In the person of the Holy Spirit, the same Lord is present among us, still revealing the Father's loving heart, so that we, too, can believe — and sing songs of joy."



Mother — and more

Though I've primarily known God as Father — along with metaphors such as rock, eagle, shepherd, potter — I also learned of Scripture passages portraying God as mother. For example (all NIV):

- "For a long time I have kept silent. ... But now, like a woman in childbirth, I cry out, I gasp and pant" (Isaiah 42:14).
- "As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you" (Isaiah 66:13).
- "Like a bear robbed of her cubs, I will attack them" (Hosea 13:8).
- In others, God is pictured doing traditional "women's work": making clothes (Genesis 3:21), sweeping (Isaiah 14:23), preparing and hosting a meal (Proverbs 9:1-6), baking bread (Luke 13:21).

One of my favorite images of God is tucked in Hosea. While many modern dads nurture their toddlers this way, the tender words surely call to mind a mama's care: "It was I who taught [Israel] to walk. ... To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them" (Hosea 11:3-4). Most importantly, God — however known — is loving and good.

—Heidi Hyland Mann





Our Life at the Church



An afternoon of "Comedy, Cake, and Coffee" was filled with laughter and great conversation April 20, 2024. Eighty-five people attended this event co-hosted by PW and Welcoming Committee.





Our Life at the Church





May

BIRTHDAYS

May 1

Rosy Thompson

May 2

Tom Eddings

Connie Matz

Don Nettleton

May 4

Kathleen Morrell

May 6

Thayne Dunn

May 8

Maurice Dragoo

May 11

Breezy Millar

May 12

Karen Kuiken

May 14

John Coyle

Rev. Paul Henschen

Elaine Rowett

Mimi Shewey

May 22

Dusty Anderson

May 24

Linn Bauer

May 26

Ryle Millar

May 27

Emmilyn Pickett

Jerry Sleeper

May 30

Marion Horst

Aubree Pickett



May 5

Roy & Rhonda Sigman

May 16

Maurice & Sandra Dragoo

May 20

Steven & Hondi Dunn

Emmitt & Sheryl Pittman

May 28

Dusty & Tiffany Anderson

Linn & Beth Bauer





Darrel & Tami Hatzenbuhler

May 29

Lyle & Julee Steinman

Gary & Connie Udell

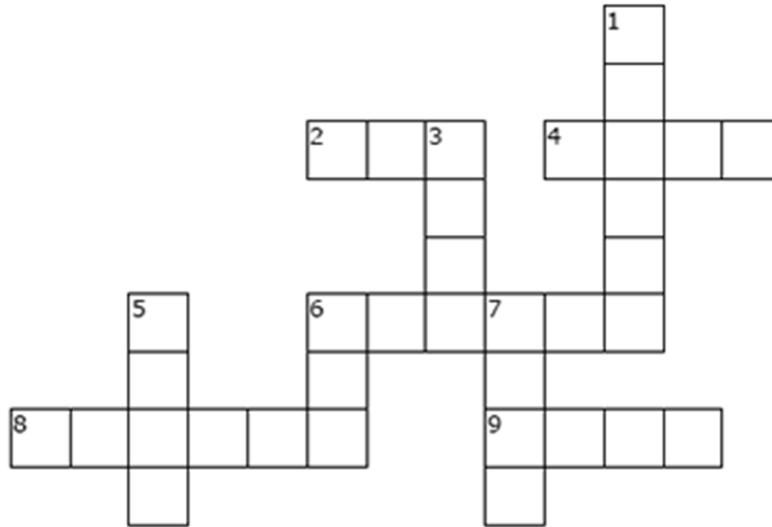


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 11:30 a.m. Men's Lunch 4:45 p.m. Bells 5:30 p.m. Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Choir	2 1:00pm PW Circle 5:30pm CE Meeting	3 Camp Rimrock work Camp --->	4 Camp Rimrock work Camp --->
5 6th Sunday of Easter 9 Sunday School 10:00am Worship/ Holy Communion Paula Zavitz/Bells 11:00am Fellowship Parish 4 Camp Rimrock work Camp --->	6 5:00pm Worship 6:00pm Missions	7 9:00am Home Communion 6:15pm Deacons	8 11:30am Men's Lunch 7:00pm Choir	9 Ascension of the Lord (Acts 1:1-11)	10 12:00pm AOC @ Love Inc.	11
12 7th Sunday of Easter Ascension Sunday 9am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship Parish 1 Mother's Day	13 5:00pm Welcoming 6:00pm Finance, Personnel & Stewardship	14	15 11:30 a.m. Men's Lunch 7:00pm Choir 7:00 pm Baccalaureate @ Community Center Theater	16	17 Camp Rimrock work Camp --->	18 Camp Rimrock work Camp --->
19 Pentecost 10:00am Worship Don Nettleton 11:00am Fellowship Parish 2 2:00 p.m. HS Graduation Camp Rimrock work Camp --->	20 	21 12:00 p.m. Northern Hills Connection Lunch 7:00 pm Session??	22 11:30 a.m. Men's Lunch Last day of school	23	24	25
26 Trinity Sunday 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship Parish 3	27 Church Office Closed 	28	29 11:30 a.m. Men's Lunch	30	31	

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

A Mother's Day Crossword

My son, obey your father's commands, and don't neglect your mother's instruction. Proverbs 6:20 (NLT)



ACROSS

2. To hold someone close with your arms to show that you love them
4. A piece of writing in which the words often rhyme
6. A woman who has given birth to a child; s female parent
8. The first day of the week
9. The strong feeling of affection which you have for your mother

DOWN

1. The brightly-colored bloom on a plant which has a pleasant smell
3. Another word for present; something which is given
5. Considerate and helpful; used to describe a person's behavior
6. The fifth month of the year
7. To assist someone in doing something; _____ your mother clean the house

FLOWER	KIND	HUG	MOTHER	LOVE
SUNDAY	HELP	MAY	POEM	GIFT