

at HOME

May 6th, 2026 | Mother's Day Issue — a weekly newsletter from Asbury Church

HELD CLOSE TO THE HEART

A Mother's Strength



Dear Friends,

As we approach Mother's Day, we return to one of the most intimate and mysterious moments in Scripture – found in Genesis 2:21-22

“Then the Lord caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man ... and the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman.”

Woman was not formed from dust like Adam, but from his side – from a rib. Close to his heart. Not under his arm. Not beneath him – equal in value, purpose, and dignity.

- And what is so striking, especially in light of what we understand today, is this: the rib is often noted as the only bone in the human body capable of regenerating itself when the protective lining is left intact.

From the very beginning, God chose to form the woman from the place in the body that carries within it the quiet mystery of renewal.

And mothers – how deeply they reflect this truth.

A mother gives, and gives again. She pours out yet somehow continues to be filled. She bends without breaking. She carries burdens, nurtures life, and even in seasons of exhaustion, she rises again with love still in her hands.

There is holy resilience woven into the heart of a woman.

This is not accidental. This is design.

Scripture echoes this strength and tenderness woven together:

- "As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you." ISAIAH 66:13
- "She is clothed in strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come." PROVERBS 31:25
- "God is within her; she will not fall; God will help her at break of day." PSALM 46:5
- "Her children rise and call her blessed ..." PROVERBS 31:28
- "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ has loved the church ..." EPHESIANS 5:25

To the woman among us: your strength may feel hidden at times, but it is holy. In your nurturing, your listening, your steadfast presence – you reflect the very heart of God.

And to the men among us: honor the woman beside you. See them. Speak life over them. Lift them up as God intended.

This Mother's Day, we celebrate more than a role – we celebrate reflection of God's own nature: nurturing, sustaining, restoring.

Let's Pray:

Father, we thank you for the gift of woman – for mother's grandmothers, spiritual mothers, and those who carry the heart of nurturing in quiet and unseen ways.

Thank you for their strength that rises again and again, for their love that reflects Your own, for the way they comfort, guide and hold others close.

Lord, You said "As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you." let Your comfort surround every woman reading this.

Renew what feels weary. Restore what has been poured out. Strengthen what feels fragile.

Place your deep peace within them and remind them that You are within them – they will not fall.

Help us, as a church family, to honor, cherish, and uplift the woman among us. Teach us to see them as You see them – strong, chosen, and deeply loved.

Bless them today and always.

In the matchless name of Jesus Christ our soon coming King, Amen.



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Sunday Worship -- 8 and 10:30am
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We will be praying for you!

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A Gentle Meditation: Held close to the Heart

Take a moment to become still.

If you are comfortable, close your eyes.

Let your body settle ... Feel the support beneath you.

Bring awareness to your breath – right at the base of your nostrils. No need to change it ... just notice it.

As you inhale, receive. And as you exhale, release.

Now gently bring your attention to your side – to the space along your ribs.

In Scripture this is the place from which God formed woman – close to the heart. A place of nearness, protection, and connection.

And for each of us, this space can remind us that we were created to live close to the heart of God.

Imagine a soft warm light resting there ...

Steady ... peaceful ... alive.

With each breath in, that light gently expands.

With each breath out, it softens and settles deeper.

Hear these words quietly within you:

“God is within you; you will not fall.” (psalm 46:5)

Let that truth sink beneath the surface ...

Not something to strive for – but something already placed within you.

If you are feeling weary, imagine that light restoring you ..

Renewing you ...

Like the quiet miracle of being made new. You are not empty. You are being refilled.

Rest here for a few moments, held close to the heart of God.

And as you return, don't rush past this – take this peace with you,

and let it open your eyes to the quiet, enduring strength of the women around you.

This is not ordinary strength. This is sacred. And it is worth seeing, honoring, and giving thanks for.

***With love and gratitude for every mother, every woman, and every act of strength,
HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!***

Kate Green, the Asbury Staff, and the Asbury Church Family