

“AND THE RIGHTEOUS SHALL LIVE BY FAITH” (Habakkuk 2:4)

“AND THE RIGHTEOUS SHALL LIVE BY FAITH” (Romans 1:17)

Voices of Faith at Faith

Volume 32: May 6, 2026

To the beloved Faithful Islanders and beyond.

MOTHER’S DAY IS COMING SUNDAY (05/10/2026)

Mother’s Day was officially established in the U.S. by Anna Jarvis in 1914 to honor maternal sacrifices, growing from her mother’s 19th-century peace activism and community health efforts (Mothers’ Day Work Clubs). While inspired by earlier traditions like Mothering Sunday, the holiday quickly became commercialized, leading Jarvis to spend her later years protesting it.

Key Historical Points

- **Early Origins:** Ancient Greeks and Romans held festivals for mother goddesses like Cybele and Rhea, while early Christians celebrated "Mothering Sunday," a day to honor the Virgin Mary and the "mother church".
- **The Activist Roots:** In the 1850s, Ann Reeves Jarvis (Anna’s mother) created "Mothers' Day Work Clubs" in West Virginia to combat high infant mortality rates by educating women on sanitation, health, and caring for children.
- **War Efforts:** During the Civil War, Ann Jarvis organized mothers to aid soldiers on both sides, and later, "Mothers' Friendship Days" to promote reconciliation.
- **Official Recognition:** Following her mother's death in 1905, Anna Jarvis campaigned for a national holiday to honor the personal sacrifices of mothers. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a measure
- designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

- **Commercialization Protests:** Jarvis intended the day to be a personal one, characterized by visiting one's mother or writing handwritten letters, using white carnations as a symbol. She became disillusioned by the rapid commercialization by florists and greeting card companies, eventually fighting to have it abolished.

(THANKS TO AI FOR THIS SUMMARY)

Pastor’s Reflections on this special day. No matter where you go you will find that some people had a terrible experience with their mothers or other mothering figures.

Conflicts with mothering figures is not a new thing to us Christians as we hold onto both the Old and New Testaments as the Word of God that is set before us to teach and guide us. The pain of the first woman and mother we hear about in Genesis is Eve. Eve and Adam had two sons, Cain and Abel. Cain was a tiller of the ground and Abel was a keeper of the sheep. Cain, in an act of jealousy kills his younger brother Abel. Can you imagine the pain that Eve experienced? Her two sons, one would be so cruel that would cause his mother unending pain. Women who have lost children have always shared with me that the pain never heals you just learn to live with it. Mother Eve, we remember you together with other mothers whose own children ended lives of their other children.

Women who have struggled with having children when they desire so much to have children. We remember Sarah, Abraham’s wife; Rebekah, Sarah’s daughter-in-law; Hannah, Samuel’s mother. These women struggled with conceiving and at a later point in life were able to have a child/children. We thank God for the lessons of perseverance of these women. May God be with the women of our contemporary society who are struggling with having children. May God raise loving

and supporting communities for these women.

We thank God for the women and families that knew they could not raise the children born to them with love and offered as a gift children to families that were looking for children. One of my favorite shows is George Lopez. There's a scene where we find out that George's mom offered her young daughter to be raised by an Italian family because she knew she could not raise both George and his sister. This young woman grows up knowing that she is Italian only to find out that she's Mexican. Yes, the young woman said she had a wonderful life with her Italian family and that she would not trade parents for anything.

Then there are women who wanted so bad to have children and never had any. May God raise a cloud of witnesses to surround these women with love and understanding and support they need.

There are women who do not want to mother children of their own because of reason known to them and unknown to us and as a community we must support their decisions. Our Church History gives many examples of women that wanted to serve God more than bind themselves in a marriage union. The many nuns that were the backbone of the Christian Church could not spread the Gospel if they were mothers. To them a greater calling was to be God's messengers of HOPE in a broken world. I think of Mother Teresa, Albanian born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu, from a rich family but she chose to serve God in foreign lands. She made a difference among the poor of India.

Women who play a motherly role in the Church, raising many young people in faith. The women who volunteer for activities that benefit entire communities. Women in the

church who were faith role models for many of us, and I can never forget the mothering by those women.

There are millions of mothers who have been awesome mothers. We cannot erase or ignore this big day because there is a section of a population that had unloving mothers. And so I am thankful for all the mothers who raised children with so much love, and some are still raising children with so much love. Such mothers will give every part of their lives to love and protect their children. We thank God for these mothers, and we ask that we have more mothers like these in our world.

MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER...Dear Lord Jesus, we thank you for the loving mothers you have put in our lives. On this special day we ask that you bless families as they celebrate with their loved ones. Lord, we know that for some this day brings so much pain because they didn't have a good experience with their mothers; we ask that You continue to bring healing in such situations. Lord, we lift in prayer women who long to have children but are unable to, we ask that You continue to be their constant source of support and create spaces of healing as they travel on this path; abundantly bless them with comfort and hope beyond measure. Gracious God, surround with your indescribable love those women who feel called not to be mothers, let communities support them in their decisions and less judgmental on the path they are walking on. God bless all the women of the world. May we all be examples of love and compassion. AMEN!!

We have come this far by faith, even if it's the size of a mustard seed, the smallest of plant seeds.

CELEBRATING THE MAY BIRTHDAY SAINTS:



- 05/01 Karen Sykes
- 05/01 Madison Kasar
- 05/05 Jennifer Gainey
- 05/31 Pat Riecke

Please let us know if we missed your birthday.

REMEMBERING IN OUR PRAYERS:

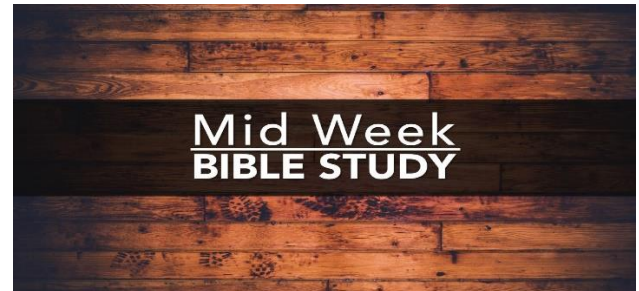
Mrs. Dukes, Andrea Brisbin, Trish Bradley’s family at the passing of her father Carl Simmons, Roy Kimbrell, Bobby Bellah, Stephen Bellah, Nettie Poulnot’s family and loved ones, Jimmy Farr’s family, Pastor Josh Knutson’s family and his congregations (Christ Community Church, North Charleston and St. Michael’s Lutheran Church, Moncks Corner) after his untimely death, Bishop Ginny Aebischer, Mike Shuey, Mikie Floyd, Ken HERNs, Rick Hartley, Bobby Webb, Patricia Beruf, Reid Melton, Jay O’Neill, Phil Ammons, Pat Lane, Helena Bradford, Donna Porritt, Nettie Poulnot, Dolores Dukes, Matthew Sharbrough, Trisha Melton, Harry Rakowski.



SERVING – Sunday, May 10, 2026
Lector & Prayer Leader Anthony Gainey
Acolyte Simon Gainey
Ushers Jimmy Sykes & Bobby Bellah
Communion Assistant Anthony Gainey
Communion Prep Karen Sykes

WE ARE STARTING A KID’S CHOIR

We welcome children to join the choir. To qualify for the choir, each kid has to have a pulse and be ready to sing to the Lord for the sake of His world. Please let Pastor Thulie or Mandy Summers know if your youngie is in!!!



Midweek Bible Study on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Come and Joins Us!!!!

Our sister congregation Martin Luther Lutheran Church in James Island has a music camp from Monday, July 27th to Friday, July 31st from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon. Several other Lutheran congregations are participating in this music event, and I plan on being there too. Registration forms are in the narthex.



Saints, we are overdue for SPRING CLEANING (indoor/outdoor)



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WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT....FROM SOURCES KNOWN AND UNKNOWN

“Always remember that your present situation is not your final destination. The best is yet to come.”

“It takes grace to remain kind in cruel situations.”

“Don’t wait for things to get better. Life will always be complicated. Learn to be happy right now, otherwise you will run out of time.”

“Every bad situation will have something positive. Even a dead clock shows the right time twice a day.”

“Be patient. Sometimes you have to go through the worst to get to the best.”

“Don’t close the book when bad things happen in your life. Just turn the page and begin a new chapter.”

Life is not always easy for me. There are times when struggles and challenges are overwhelming and I have always known that giving up was/is never an option. Having lived a life that was constantly marred by tribulations I had no other choice but to cling on to the ONLY HOPE, MY LORD, WHO CARRIED ME THROUGH CHALLENGES. So, I lift my head and move forward. I pray that you will also cling on to the anchor of our FAITH, JESUS CHRIST, when life feels overwhelming.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE...

“At couples counseling meeting, the speaker mentioned that couples are so disconnected that 85% of husbands don’t even know their wives favorite flower. Mick turned to his wife and whispered. ‘It’s self-rising, isn’t it?’”

“It felt uncomfortable driving into the cemetery. The GPS blurted out ‘you have reached your final destination.’”

“You know you’re a bad driver when Siri says: ‘In 400 feet, stop and let me out.’”

“9 out of 10 husbands agreed that their wives are always right. The 10th husband hasn’t been seen since the study was conducted.”

“If a man says he will fix it, he will. There is no need to remind him every six months.”

“Research has shown that laughing for 2 minutes is just as healthy as a 20-minute jog. So now I’m sitting in the park laughing at all the joggers.”

“I choked on a carrot this afternoon, and all I could think was, “a donut would never have done this to me.”

“I’m adopting a healthier lifestyle, so I parked and walked inside to buy donuts instead of using the drive-thru.

Peace, Pastor Thulie