

## Upcoming Events

**Mother's Day: Today!!**  
**Ladies Bible Class: May 17 (Rescheduled)**  
**Mid-course Review: Saturday Meeting 2021**  
**Memorial Day: May 25**  
**Panera Bread Open Bible Study: TBD**

## Influence of Mothers

*"The future destiny of a child is always the work of the mother."*  
– Napoleon Bonaparte

*"My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am I owe to my mother. I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual and physical education I received from her."*  
– George Washington

## May Birthdays

2 Peggy Woodruff                      15 Kena Brown

### Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.  
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.  
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

**Preacher:**  
(Vacant)

**Church of Christ**  
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# Indio Informer

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## A MOTHER'S DAY TRIBUTE

By Nelson Kidder (via Linda Carpenter and the Pickerington Church of Christ, adapted)

A very happy Mother's Day to all of the mothers and grandmothers among us!

The history of Mother's Day as a national holiday is attributed to Anna Jarvis. In 1908, Ms. Jarvis held a memorial for her mother, Ann Jarvis, in Grafton, WV. Jarvis's mom passed in 1905, and she began working to see that our nation would set aside a day to honor our mothers— "the person who has done more for you than anyone in the world," in Anna Jarvis's words. The first state to officially declare a Mother's Day holiday was WV (Jarvis's home state) in 1910. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation creating Mother's Day as a national holiday, to be celebrated on the second Sunday of each May.

In a "thank you" note to President Wilson, Anna Jarvis wrote of this as a way for our "country to honor their mothers and fathers in a way that will perpetuate family ties and give emphasis to true home life." Sadly, it was not many years before commercialization of Mother's Day had begun to such a degree that Jarvis protested publicly and even started a petition to have the holiday rescinded. She was saddened that Hallmark Greeting Cards, candy companies, and other businesses were detracting from the true meaning of honoring mothers as she had intended. Jarvis' original intention was for children "to appreciate and honor your mother by writing a personal letter, by hand, expressing love and gratitude."

Most of our nation's holidays have little or nothing to do with God's spiritual instructions for us, His children. But that is

certainly NOT the case with Mother's Day or Father's Day. Although these are not religious holidays or special spiritual days to New Testament Christians, the precepts embodied in Anna Jarvis's original intentions for Mother's Day are very biblical. Exodus 20:12 (the 5th Commandment): *"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you."* Ephesians 6:2-3: *"Honor your father and mother—which is the first commandment with a promise, that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."* King Lemuel in Proverbs 31 said of a virtuous wife, *"She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness. Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her."* And Paul attributed Timothy's standing as a fine Christian man to his godly mother and grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5).

My mother and my grandmothers are not alive today for me to thank them with a personal letter or a phone call. But I thank my God for these wonderful Christian women, who taught me so much, and especially about God! "Thank you, Mom, for the wonderful Christian mother that you were. Your life lives on in your children, who still rise up and call you blessed." I also thank God for my wonderful wife Reda, and the Mom to our three sons. (We have not always made her life a bed of roses. Sometimes, it's been thorny.)

Abraham Lincoln once said, "All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother." (Many of us can probably say, "AMEN" to that.) If your mom is still living, I pray that you will honor her today, and every day as God instructs and as Anna Jarvis recommended. Happy Mother's Day!

*Life doesn't come  
with a manual.  
It comes with a  
Mother!*

***A Gift for Mother***  
By Arthur Pigman  
(Modified/personalized)

It is a good custom that children remember their mothers on that special day called Mother's Day. What is the best gift we can give? A card or candy is always nice. Flowers of any kind or color are usually appreciated - even a flower from the yard or flower garden is very special if coming from a small child. But these gifts are not the greatest that we can give!

If our mother is a Christian, she has taught us to live as a Christian. She has been involved in teaching us about God, and Christ, the Son of God (2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14,15). Our mother has been interested in us learning about the church that Christ purchased with His own blood (Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28). And when we became old enough, she was thrilled that we were born again by becoming a child of God (John 3:3-5). As we became old enough to leave home, she was naturally concerned about us. When we established our own home, she was proud and thankful that we had grown to maturity.

Now that it is Mother's Day, what can we give our mother? The greatest gift we could give to her is to be a faithful Christian. *"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth"* (3 John 4). In the context John was talking about his spiritual children, but it is also true that Christian mothers can have no greater gift than to know that their own children are living faithfully as children of God. If we and our mother live faithfully then someday, we can both live with God eternally in heaven.

***"Honour thy mother"***  
Ephesians 6:2