

Nancy's Newsletter



May - 2024

From The Desk of Nancy DeAnne Land



Dear Ladies,

Blessings to you this month of May. Oh my how time passes by so quickly! As I sit here reflecting on the past few months, I'm thinking "Where did January, February, March, & April go?" You might be thinking the same thing.

May 1st was "May Day" which marks the halfway point between the first day of spring and the summer solstice (marking the beginning of the summer season in the Northern Hemisphere). Growing up I remember the saying "April showers bring May flowers", but for us here in Arizona we didn't see much rainfall at all in April.

When I was in elementary school, on "May Day" we would make flower holders out of paper and pick flowers to put in the holder. . . then we would give that to someone on the way home from school. All these years later, I still remember giving my flowers to a sweet elderly woman who lived a few houses down on the other side of the street from us. Mrs. Broast was her name. She was such a lovely lady and would let me come over to her house quite often, where we would sit under her big shade tree and she would always serve me a bottle of "Tab" soda. I'll never forget her smile the day I gave her the flower holder. It gave this sweet woman a bit of JOY that day and it really made me feel good to do something special for her.

Mother's Day is May 12th this year. It's always the 2nd Sunday in May. I love Mother's Day!

My Mom (Roberta Dennie) is 87 years old and has been a beautiful example to me all my life. Mom was always a woman with an uplifting spirit and positive attitude. Up until the past couple years her beautiful smile would radiate through the phone when I'd call her. Throughout my growing up years, Mom was so involved in our church. She taught Sunday School, VBS, and we even had Child Evangelism Good News Clubs in our home once a week after school. I worked alongside her even as a young girl. I played the piano for her and helped her with crafts. Mom was so creative and hand painted all her own flannelgraph scenes to use, which were so beautiful. They made the story come alive. Mom also knew how to tell a Bible story in such an exciting way! Mom taught me and my two brothers how to cook at young ages. She would give us each 1 night a week to cook a meal. . . and I loved that because the "cook" never had to wash the dishes. We had no automatic dishwasher back in that day. . . just us kids! Mom taught me how to sew in 4th grade and by 7th grade I was sewing all sorts of clothes for my friends and making money doing it. When my honey and I got married in 1976, my mom and I made my wedding dress. That was for sure the most special thing I ever made.

Mom always gave God thanks for everything and she truly was a Proverbs 31 wife. Proverbs 31:26-29 says "She speaks with wisdom and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her. Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all. Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised."

Just before my dad passed away in a care home with hospice 2-1/2 years ago, my mom moved to live with my older brother, Ray, in Oklahoma City. Mom had dementia and couldn't live by herself and with me still working and all the physical issues that I've gone through, I wasn't able to have her live with us. After being with him a few months, mom moved into my niece's (Melissa) house and lived with her & her husband & two teen boys for almost 2 years. Mom's dementia turned into aggressive Alzheimer's disease so my brother had to put Mom in a "Memory Care Facility" last October there in Oklahoma not far from him. Alzheimer's is such a horrible disease! Mom doesn't know me anymore and doesn't understand what a daughter is or the relationship of family. I am thankful each week when my niece goes to see her that I get to video chat with mom. Her "lightbulb moments" of knowing me are not there anymore. She doesn't read anymore, can't understand "word puzzles" that she used to love to do. Her personality has changed (for the worse many times), she can't reason, and all her personal hygiene has declined. Mom's life existence is to just sit in a chair and go eat her meals. She can't remember when she eats and most times what she ate. It's all so heartbreaking for me! 😞 I am truly thankful for the memories I have of all the good times with Mom and I am appreciative of this godly legacy passed down to me. Even though Mom doesn't know me, I love her more than words can say and I want to wish her a Happy Mother's Day. (over)

As for me, there is no greater joy than being a mother! Being a 'Nanny' to two of the most precious Grand CUTIES (Abigail & Alaina) is pretty special too! I know I'm not 'perfect' and that I have fallen short in many areas throughout the years. . . and at 68 years old I still fail at times. Let's just say 'I'm still a work in progress!'

I love being with my girls! I have two of the most wonderful daughters and I thank God for them. Sarah, our oldest, who made me a MOM for the very first time, is such a beautiful young woman and a great joy to me. She's also a huge help at home and at church with all that we do. Our thoughts and tastes are the same and she is my biggest cheerleader! We love getting to spend time together just kicking back (when chores are done) and enjoy watching movies. I love watching her play the drums, singing specials, and seeing her behind the pulpit opening up our Sunday morning service with a thought and a prayer. Her co-workers love her and she is truly a godly light in a dark world. She gives so much time at the church helping me decorate, put my Nancy's Newsletters together, and get gifts ready for special days. Many times she comes down to the church to help me after she has worked her own 8 hour shift at Ortho-Arizona. Sarah has a love for God and a heart for our Youth. Sarah is certainly a daughter to be proud of and I love her beyond words.

It's hard now that our youngest daughter, Becky, & her family moved to Centerton, Arkansas one year ago. I miss the times we'd meet together for dinner, or have them over for special occasions. I loved the times they would come to church with us on special occasions then us spending the day together. I miss her singing and hearing her play the bass. Becky has the most beautiful voice and an anointing to minister musically. Now our lifeline to each other is video chats and phone calls (which I am thankful for!). . . at least I can see all their faces and it almost makes me feel like I can just reach out and touch them. . . but I do miss the hugs. . . oh do I miss the hugs!

I love my calls with Becky and it's especially sweet when my Grand-CUTIES message me and tell me how much they love me. The girls will call me at times telling me about something special they did at school also. Becky is a wonderful Mom and I see her as a 'Wonder Woman!' She is so involved in the girl's lives, running them here and there, showing them Jesus throughout her day. . . and teaches them how to care for a home. I'm so proud of my beautiful baby girl and the woman she is and I love her more than words can say! This will be our 2nd Mother's Day apart and I will surely miss her! Becky, you're always in my thoughts and prayers. I hope you have a fantastic Mother's Day sweet daughter.

To be a mom is an overwhelming JOY in this life even though it comes with its 'real life' stuff too. We all go through different seasons and sometimes the storms of life can be overwhelming. It's not about 'IF' a storm will happen. . . but 'WHEN!' That goes for women without children too. 'Life' hits and most times it comes when you don't need it too. Things change and people deal with so many different, and difficult issues. . . especially in today's time.

You might even be saying to yourself that your childhood was challenging. Maybe your homelife was horrible. I just want you to know today that our Lord is FAITHFUL, COMPASSIONATE, LOVING, AND KIND. . . and He wants to be the person in your life that you need Him to be. As I've said many times before, God can turn your 'MESS' into a 'MESSAGE'. . . your 'TEST' into a 'TESTIMONY'. . . your 'TRIAL' into a 'TRIUMPH'. . . and being a 'VICTIM' into a 'VICTORY!' God has a purpose and a plan for you and He can also help make you be the kind of woman you need to be.

Whether you're married, single, have children, or don't. . . You can be the Woman of God that the Bible talks about. Proverbs 31:29 says 'Many Women do noble things but you surpass them all.'

On May 27th we celebrate 'Memorial Day' honoring all those in the armed forces who have given their lives in defense of this country. I am thankful for the men and women who have served and are serving in the armed forces that we as a nation might continue to have freedom. Let's continue to keep them all in our prayers asking God for protection each day.

In closing I want to wish all you Mother's a fantastic Mother's Day. I pray blessings upon you and that something in this month's newsletter will uplift and encourage you. Have a great God-filled month and may you be blessed more than you ever thought possible! May God keep you safe and healthy.

Remember Ladies (and my faithful men readers), YOU ARE SPECIAL!

Love,

Nancy DeAnne Land





The One Voice I'm Learning To Listen To As A Mom

"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God." (Romans 8:16)

Long gone are the diapers and sippy cups. No more onesies. Or high chairs. And as my children have outgrown one season and grown into another, becoming teens, young adults, and adults. I've been experiencing some proud mom moments. . . coupled with sighs of relief. . . as I see the fruit of my labor as a mom becoming a reality.

No, this relief isn't because my children are perfect or because I feel like I have made it. The relief is that through all these years of being a mom, I am learning who to listen to.

We all have those voices in our lives, often speaking with sincerity, that try to help us by telling us what we should or shouldn't do or be. Those voices can seem especially loud for us moms. Maybe it is even our own voice speaking words of insecurity, shame or inadequacy. Whatever voices seem the loudest, this new season of mine is marked not by becoming deaf to those voices but instead by becoming far more discerning. I still want to listen and learn. But when it comes to who I listen to and am shaped by, I'm more selective.

It's no surprise that as we turn to the pages of the Bible, we are often told to listen to voices of wisdom and truth. A good example is Romans 8:16: "The [Holy] Spirit Himself, Paul writes, testifies with our spirit that we are God's children." One of the primary jobs of the Holy Spirit is to speak to us. He reminds us who we are. His job is to testify to what is true. So the voice I am learning to listen to the most is God's voice.

Yes, we listen to the voices of others to learn and grow, but ultimately God's voice guides us and grounds us in this journey. Here are three reasons we listen to God's voice above all the rest:

1. GOD'S VOICE REMINDS US THAT WE ARE LOVED:

What really grounds us is not seeing the fruit of our labor, getting thanked for it, or feeling respected and fulfilled because of it. What steadies our souls is that our Father deeply loves us, and we are in Christ through faith. We are God's children, fully accepted and cherished, not because of our works as moms but because of the work of Christ.

2. GOD'S VOICE LEADS US WITHOUT DRIVING US:

People's voices try to drive us as moms, telling us what we should be and do. Too often, we get caught up in the chorus and become driven by fear, pride or insecurity. In contrast, the voice of God is one that will guide you into all the truth. John 16:13 "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come." He reminds us that motherhood is not a race or a competition. Just as He is leading us, He is leading our children. We don't have to be anxious, fearful or envious.

3. GOD'S VOICE MAKES US MORE LIKE JESUS:

Many times, the voices around us tell us what we're not. God's good and gracious voice reminds us of the hope of who we are becoming. Motherhood is not about perfection; motherhood is about God making us more like our perfect Savior, Jesus, every day. This process of being perfected is a lifelong journey of the Holy Spirit's work inside us that will one day be complete when Christ returns. We are to tune our ears to Him. . . the Author and Perfecter of our faith. Hebrews 12:1-2 "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." He alone can truly help us when we are weak, and He humbles us when we rely too much on our own strength.

So today when you hear all those outside voices, or maybe even the ones inside, stop and listen. But listen first to the voice of love and truth. . . the voice that matters the most. The voice of a good and perfect Father who saves all who trust in His Son, Jesus. The voice of the One who calls you His own.

PRAYER:

Dear Jesus, help me to hear You first. . . and to listen to who You say I am. . . before I ever look or listen to others in this motherhood journey. Thank You for loving me just as I am and for loving me so much that You don't want me to miss opportunities to become more like You. Help me to learn and grow as I follow You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



*"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose."
(Romans 8:28)*

The things in your life you want to throw out, that you consider unworthy, that you try to hide, might be the very ones God wants to use.

My mother-in-law stretches a newly finished quilt across the bed. It's fantastic! I tell her as I run my fingers along the careful stitching. She brushes off my compliment, "Oh, its just a bunch of scraps put together."

As I consider this, I also think of how my life can sometimes look to me like a pile of scraps. I often don't see the possibility of beauty or usefulness in it. I see small. . . I see ordinary. . . I see leftover or left out. But in that moment I suddenly realize God doesn't share this perspective. The Maker of the universe, the One who is so big we can't even fathom His beginning or end, dares to endow our little scraps with the divine. He is the 'sewer' of our stories.

This is the truth every tattered heart needs. . . There are no scraps in the hands of God, the One who works "All things together for our good" (Romans 8:28). Every little piece will one day have a place and a purpose.

Nothing in our lives is wasted.

Bit by bit, God is making something beautiful out of all of it. . . and all of us.

PRAYER:

God, You waste nothing in our lives. You take every bit of what we go through. . . what's hard, happy, and everything in-between, and use it to make something unexpectedly beautiful and of great worth. Give us eyes that see from Your perspective today. Amen.

(Author/Holley Gerth)



God's Prescription for Mother's Day



My mother has been with Jesus for more than 12 years. Time definitely has eased the pain of separation, but time has also faded my memories. Circumstances in my life cause me to think about her a lot, to miss her, and to reflect on what a blessing she was to me.

In addition to celebrating our mothers who are with us this Mother's Day, I want to remind all of us to take the time to remember our mothers (and grandmothers) who dwell only in our hearts.

*** LET US REMEMBER. . . I often write about the importance of remembering God. . . remembering who He is, what He has done for us, and who we are in Christ. Mother's Day is a special day set apart for remembering our mothers and calling to mind all they have done for us, all they mean to us, and who we are because of them.**

Our mothers were an instrument in God's hand to bring us into this world. God knit us together in our mother's womb (Psalm 139:13) and placed us into her arms at birth. What a joy and blessing it is for a mother to cradle her newborn child for the first time at birth and then to hold her child's hand throughout life.

That's how God intended it to be. Mothers (and fathers, too) are a gift from God to the child, just as much as a child is a gift from God given to the mother and father. There is a bond in the parent/child relationship that should never be broken. Just as God loves us and gave us spiritual birth, we should honor and love the one who gave us physical birth.

*** A MOTHER'S LOVE. . . The undying love of one's mother is best understood when a daughter becomes a mother herself. Now please don't misunderstand me. Childless women can also understand a mother's love because of the love they have received from their own mother. However when a woman becomes a mother and experiences her love for her child, a deeper understanding of her mother's love blooms.**

The love of a mother for her child is the closest thing to the love of God for mankind and especially His love for His children. From the time of conception (or adoption for some mothers), there is a oneness between mother and child that is sacred in God's eyes. It is a unity that God intends to last until they are separated by death. Sadly, not all mother-and-child relationships weather the storms of this life, and many are broken. Broken relationships grieve the heart of God, and every effort should be made to bring about reconciliation and restoration in family relationships.

*** GOD'S PRESCRIPTION FOR MOTHER'S DAY. . . Remembering our mothers is important, and how we remember them is crucial to a loving relationship that honors God. We are told to take every thought captive for Jesus (2 Corinthians 10:5), which tells us that how we remember is an active and willful choice. And God expects us to exercise a thought life that glorifies Him. How we remember will influence our thoughts, words, and actions and will direct the relationships in our lives.**

There's no perfect mother, and there's no perfect child. All relationships need good forgivers, ready to give grace to each other. As Christians, we are to love without conditions and with a heart of unselfish desire. We are to give all that we have because, in Christ, we already have all that we need.

There's a saying that our glass is either half-empty or half-full. This is meant to illustrate how we choose to live. Do we remember what we should forget? And forget what we should remember? We know that in God's grace, our sins are cast into the sea of His forgotten memory. . . never to be remembered or charged against us. We are to do the same. We are not to keep a record of wrongs (1 Cor 13:5) but rather to love with the sacrificial love that reflects the love of Jesus.

*** CAPTIVE THOUGHTS AND DEVOTED HEARTS. . . When we start by taking our thoughts captive for Jesus (2 Cor 10:5) and remembering the love of God and all He has given us, we can easily choose to remember the wonderful memories that positively influence, grow, and direct our lives. And we are likely to forget the events that were less than edifying (1 Cor 13:5d). When we do that, we live with a glass that is more than half-full, and we find satisfaction in what God has done, and what He is doing, in our lives, rather than having a half-empty glass that will leave us wanting, striving, and disappointed.**

If, like me, your mother has passed on from this life, make Mother's Day a special day to remember her. Keep the memories of her alive in your heart.

If you still have your mother, give thanks for her presence in your life. Make Mother's Day a grace-filled day of letting go of life's little issues and take captive every warm and wonderful memory of Mom. Hide those memories in your heart. One day memories will be all you have. . . and beautiful memories will be sufficient to fill your glass to overflowing on Mother's Day.

Honor God by honoring your mother in your mind and with your actions, and the love that God has given you will pour forth in love for others.

"Now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love" (1 Corinthians 13:13).

(Reasons for Hope Devotions/Shari Abbott)



Trusting Jesus in the Midst of Broken Dreams

"Then Jesus said, did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" John 11:40

One afternoon, after a doctor's appointment, I sobbed in my closet. It was my third season in a row as an elite runner with a new injury, and I was seeing many doctors each week to figure out my health issues.

My body was falling me, so I felt like a failure, even though I was working harder than ever to be healthy and happy again. It felt like all of my dreams for the future were crashing to the ground, along with who I thought I was.

My dad, who had heard me downstairs, came and sat with me in the closet, empathy in his eyes.

Why me? I asked him. Why do I have to go through this?

He replied, I don't know why, but throughout the Bible, God allowed His closest friends to experience pain. Then he reminded me of the story of Lazarus.

Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha, loved the Lord intimately. But when Lazarus got sick, the Gospel of John tells us Jesus waited days before going to Judea, and by then Lazarus had died.

'Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and she groaned in spirit and was troubled' (John 11:33).

Jesus was moved by others' tears even though He knew He would raise Lazarus from the dead. Jesus had told His disciples verses before, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up' (John 11:11). But He physically wept with the sisters before He performed the miracle.

'Where have you laid him? he asked. Come and see, Lord, they replied. Jesus wept' (John 11:34-35).

By raising Lazarus to life, Jesus brought much glory to God. 'Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God? (John 11:40).

That day in my closet, I battled to surrender my will. My desire for my running dreams to come true felt stronger than my desire to trust God. God was walking me through something deeply painful, but I just kept asking Him for a pain-free life.

Eventually I realized that while I didn't want hard things, I wanted God's will for my life and for Him to receive glory more than anything else. So I asked Him to lead me where I would need to fully trust Him, where I could not walk on my own.

Since that day, I've experienced a deepening sense of God's goodness, grace, kindness and love. God was always doing something in my life; I just had to trust Him enough to stay with Him through the storms.

I'm praying you, too, can enter into this kind of trust even in your pain and disappointment. May we give our lowest for His highest.

PRAYER:

God, thank You for loving us. Sometimes we must surrender things in our lives before You raise up something beautiful. Amid the hardships of this life, we say, Lord, come. We ask You to be with us in the brokenness we cannot understand. In Jesus' Name, Amen



With Mother's Day around the corner, women were asked to share their favorite way to celebrate the special day. Here's the facts:

51% most enjoy dinner out with a loved one.

36% want something homemade.

34% love to receive a bouquet of flowers.

31.5% want Mother's Day cards.

24.7% want gift cards.

15% say breakfast in bed is the best.

11.2% want jewelry.



The MOST POPULAR
Baby Names in The U.S.
Are:

"Emma and Noah"

Mother's Day Facts...

- * Mother's Day became an official U.S. holiday in 1914, signed into law by President Woodrow Wilson.
- * Anna Jarvis founded Mother's Day in 1908 before it was officially signed into law.
- * Americans spend more than \$3 billion on flowers & plants alone for Mother's Day.
- * More phone calls are made on Mother's Day than on any other day of the year, with approximately 122 million phone calls being made.
- * Americans buy \$113 million worth of cards for Mother's Day.
- * In the U.S., Mother's Day is one of the most popular days for both church services & dining in restaurants.
- * Why do moms love getting flowers so much? According to a study, flowers affect human behavior, making people feel more compassionate toward others & happier in general when fresh-cut flowers are around.
- * The sound of a mother's voice has been proven to lower their child's cortisol levels while raising their level of oxytocin.
- * The most popular day to have a baby is Tuesday.
- * Carnations were first used on Mother's Day to symbolize & honor moms.



Rose color meaning



White Rose:

White rose has always symbolized purity and innocence. Associated with weddings, white rose is also associated with youthfulness, innocence and worthiness.



Red Rose:

Red rose has been associated with courage & respect. Red roses depict the passion of a person. As it symbolizes love, a bouquet of red rose is perfect for displaying your feelings to the others person.



Pink Rose:

Pink roses are an example of elegance. They are symbolize romance, elegance and happiness. Gifting pink roses is the perfect way to say thank you to the other person.



Coral Rose:

A coral rose is symbol of desire. It also represents the feelings of enthusiasm and happiness.



Yellow Rose:

A yellow rose is the perfect gift that you can present to your friends as it has always been a traditional symbol of friendship. It also symbolizes a caring attitude and joy.



Orange Rose:

Orange rose symbolizes the feelings of pride, enthusiasm, as well as desire.



Peach Rose:

Peach roses are elegant and symbolize modesty. The color peach also indicates the feelings of gratitude, appreciation and sincerity.



Lavender Rose:

Associated with love, this color symbolizes love at first sight. The color is also associated with royalty.

More Mother's Day Facts & Trivia

- * Why is it that the word for mom starts with a "ma" sound in almost every language? It's because that's the first sound a baby makes.
- * The average number of children that women have these days is 2.
- * The highest number of babies that have been born at one time is 9.
- * If a stay-at-home mom's position was paid, they would make \$184,820 in comparison to other jobs and the work expected of moms.
- * 85 million mother's live in the U.S.
- * The heaviest human baby was born to Signora Carmelina Fedele in Aversa, Italy in 1955. Her son weighed 22 pounds, 8 oz.
- * The longest pregnancy ever recorded was 375 days.



*I am the daughter of
a King who is not
moved by the world.
For my God is with me
and goes before me
I do not fear because
I am His.*





TAKE SOME "ME TIME"

See "ME" time as valuable. Be firm with yourself about it. Stop all that you're doing & focus on recharging your batteries. It's important for your health, well-being, & creativity.



Create a "YAY!" List:

Every night, write down anything that made you say "YAY!" during the day. . . Think something like finding hidden money in your pocket, a surprise call from a friend, sunny skies, or discovering a new local restaurant.

This will help you recognize things going "RIGHT" in your life instead of focusing on the negative.



Sometimes all it takes is having tea time with a friend!

Boosting brainpower can be as easy as chatting with a friend. Even 10 minutes of talk time made participants in a study score higher on overall intelligence, memory, & problem-solving tests.

Conversation gives you the same benefits as doing mind strengthening puzzles & brainteasers. Enjoy a cup of tea with a friend & boost your brainpower.

"You'll know the people that feed your soul. . . because you'll feel good after spending time with them!"

A Mother is like a FLOWER each one BEAUTIFUL and UNIQUE.



TIP TALK...

(From Family Circle & Woman's Day Magazine)

ACCEPT THE SITUATION...

When you're in a stressful situation, think about what you **CAN & CAN'T** change about it. For example, acknowledge that you can't change a traffic jam, but you can choose the music you're listening to & the temperature in the car. **NEVER GIVE UP!** Always try to incorporate something so that your stressful situation is not as bad. Here are some ideas:

SMILE:

Flashing a real grin can release endorphins (natural hormones) that help relieve stress & pain & give a sense of pleasure & contentment.

SLOW DOWN:

You're never too busy for this tactic! SLOWING DOWN can lower blood pressure & levels of stress chemicals.

THINK POSITIVE:

Shifting attention away from the stressor & toward something you're grateful for can relax your mind & body. Feeling frazzled? Focus on a happy event!



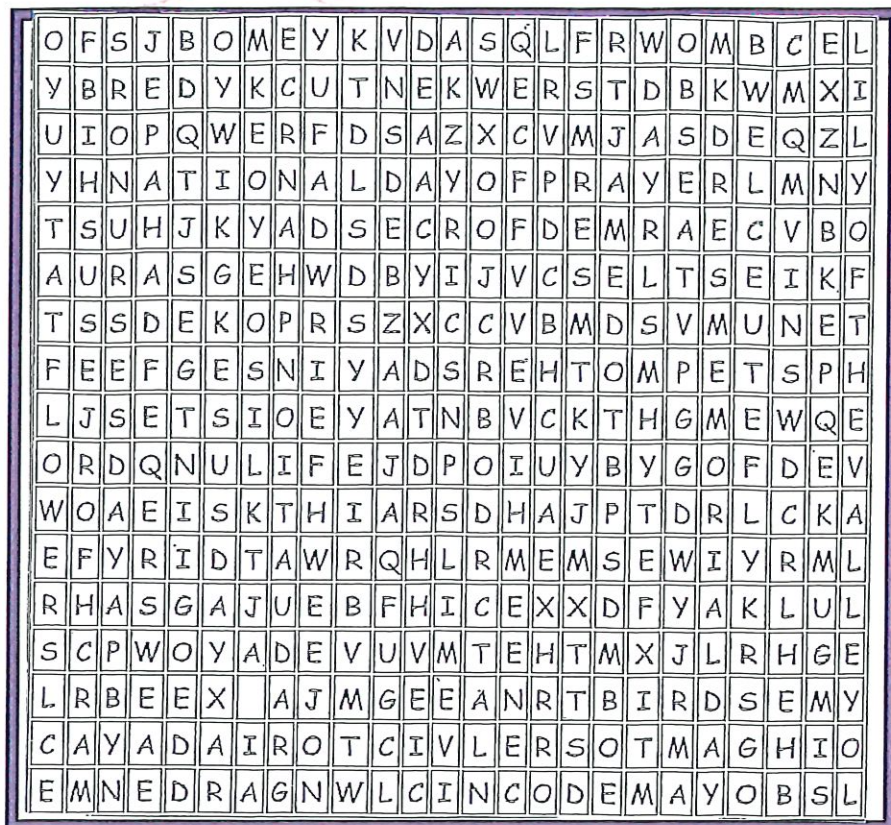
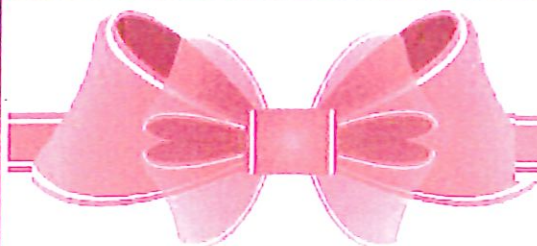
HAPPY Mother's DAY



You are never too old to color! Here is a MAY Coloring Page for you. I've listed some great health benefits from coloring. I hope you'll buy a pack of crayons, markers, or colored pencils at the store, then take a few moments to add a little joy & fun to your day. (If you'd like your colored picture posted in next month's Newsletter, just give it to Nancy or Sarah Land by May 26th)

- * Reduces stress and anxiety.
- * Reduces depression.
- * Increases focus & concentration.
- * Coloring can make you feel happy and relaxed.

May



- May
- Flowers
- Emerald
- Birds
- Garden
- Hawthorn
- Lily of the Valley
- Graduation
- Mother's Day
- Memorial Day
- Nurse's Day
- Cinco de Mayo
- National Day of Prayer
- Kentucky Derby
- VE Day
- March for Jesus
- Armed Forces Day
- Jesus Day
- Stepmother's Day

HOLIDAYS AND SPECIAL DAYS IN MAY:

- 1 - May Day
Mother Goose Day (this name began 1697)
- 2 - Brothers & Sisters Day
Nat'l Day of Prayer
- 4 - Renewal Day
Star Wars Day
- 6 - Nat'l Nurses Day
No Diet Day
- 7 - Nat'l Teacher's Day
Space Day
- 8 - V-E Day (1845)
Iris Day
- 9 - Lost Sock Day
- 10 - Clean Up Your Room Day
School Nurses Day
Military Spouses Day
- 11 - Eat What You Want Day
Nat'l Train Day
- 12 - MOTHER'S DAY (1st one in 1906)
- 13 - Blame Someone Else Day
Nat'l Babysitters Day
Apple Pie Day



- 14 - Dance Like a Chicken Day
- 15- Police Officer's Memorial Day
Nat'l Chocolate Chip Day
Nat'l Slider Day
- 17 - Pack Rat Day
- 18 - No Dirty Dishes Day
Visit Your Relatives Day
Armed Forces Day
- 19 - Plant a Vegetable Garden Day
- 20 - Pick Strawberries Day
Be a Millionaire Day (that'd be nice)
- 21 - Armed Forces Day
Nat'l Servers Day
- 22 - Buy a Musical Instrument Day
- 23 - Lucky Penny Day
- 25 - Nat'l Brown Bag It Day
Nat'l Missing Chlden's Day
- 27 - MEMORIAL DAY (Began 1865)
- 28 - Nat'l Hamburger Day
- 30 - Water A Flower
- 31 - Flip Flop Day
Nat'l Macaroon Day
Save Your Hearing Day



The Kitchen
IS THE
Home of the Heart

CHERRY DUMP CAKE

- 2 cans cherry pie filling (21 oz. each)
- 1 box Pillsbury yellow cake mix
- 1-1/2 sticks unsalted butter (melted)
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla



1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray a 9"x13" baking pan with PAM.
2. Add cherry pie filling to the bottom of the pan.
3. Sprinkle dry cake mix evenly over the cherries.
4. Mix vanilla with melted butter. Drizzle the melted butter evenly over the dry cake mix.
5. Bake for 45-55 minutes or until golden brown.
6. Allow cake to sit for 20 minutes before serving (which allows juices to rest). Serve warm or cold with ice cream if desired. (NOTE: You can also use a box of chocolate cake mix for a Black Forest Dump Cake)



TRIPLE FUDGE BROWNIES

- 1 pkg (3.9 oz.) instant chocolate pudding mix
- 1 pkg. Chocolate cake mix
- 2 cups semisweet chocolate chips
- Powdered sugar (for dusting)
- Vanilla ice cream (optional)

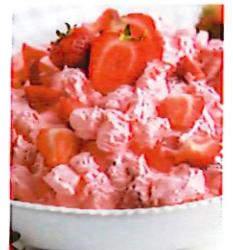


(Taste of Home)

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Prepare pudding according to package directions. Whisk in dry cake mix well. Stir in chocolate chips.
2. Pour into a greased 9"x13" baking pan. bake at 350 degrees until the top springs back when lightly touched (about 35-40 minutes).
3. Dust with powdered sugar. Serve with ice cream if desired. Enjoy!

STRAWBERRY FLUFF SALAD

- 1 (3.4 oz.) pkg. Instant Vanilla Pudding mix
- 1 cup milk
- 1 (8 oz.) container Cool Whip (thawed)
- 1 (20 oz.) can crushed pineapple (drained)
- 1 (10 oz.) pkg. frozen strawberries (thawed & diced)
- 1 cup mini marshmallows
- 1/2 cup shredded coconut (optional)
- Fresh strawberries for garnish (optional)



(Pinterest.com)

1. In large mixing bowl, whisk together instant vanilla pudding mix & milk until smooth & thickened.
2. Fold in Cool Whip until well combined & no streaks remain.
3. Add crushed pineapple, diced strawberries, mini marshmallows, & shredded coconut (if using) to the bowl. Gently fold until all ingredients are evenly distributed & coated in the pudding mixture.
4. COVER bowl & refrigerate for at least 1 hour before serving to allow flavors to enhance.
5. Before serving, garnish with fresh strawberries if desired. (Serves 6-8)

... SO GOOD ...

PINEAPPLE BLISS BARS

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter (softened)
- 1 can (20 oz.) crushed pineapple (drained)
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- Powdered sugar for dusting



(Pinterest.com)

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9"x13" baking dish.
2. In medium bowl, combine flour & 1/2 cup sugar. Cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Press evenly into bottom of dish.
3. Bake for 15 minutes, until lightly golden. Remove from oven & cool slightly.
4. In separate bowl, mix drained crushed pineapple, sour cream, 1/4 cup sugar, eggs, & vanilla until well blended.
5. Pour mixture over the baked crust. Return to oven & bake for an additional 25-30 minutes, or until set. Then dust with powdered sugar before serving. Cut into bars.



~The SECRET
INGREDIENT
is always
LOVE~

CROCKPOT FRENCH DIP SANDWICHES

- 5 lb. top or bottom round beef roast (or boneless chuck roast)
- 2 packages Au Jus mix
- 2 pkgs. 1.4 oz. Italian Dressing mix
- 32 oz. box beef broth
- 8 hoagie buns
- 8 slices Provolone cheese

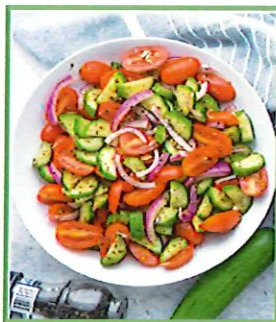


(Pinterest.com)

1. Place a Crockpot liner in your crockpot (or spray with PAM spray)
2. Place beef roast inside then sprinkle the Au Jus mix & Italian dressing mix evenly over the beef. Add beef broth.
3. Cover & cook on LOW for 6-8 hours, or until the beef is fork-tender.
4. Once cooked, carefully remove the roast & strain the broth into a bowl. This flavorful broth will serve as the perfect dipping sauce for your sandwiches.
5. Slice beef into thin, succulent slices. Layer slices onto hoagie buns & top each sandwich with a slice of Provolone cheese.
6. (OPTIONAL: If you choose, wrap assembled sandwiches & place them in the oven at 400 degrees for 10 minutes, allowing cheese to melt & flavors to come together.) Serve with reserved broth for dipping.

TOMATO, CUCUMBER, & ONION SALAD

- 2 cucumbers (peeled & sliced)
- 1 red onion (thinly sliced into rings)
- 1/2 pint of cherry tomatoes (halved)
- 1/3 cup white vinegar
- 1/4 cup oil
- 2/3 cup water
- 3 Tbsp. granulated sugar
- Salt & pepper to taste



1. In mixing bowl place halved cherry tomatoes, thinly sliced onion rings, sliced cucumbers (you can quarter them).

MONTEREY CHICKEN BUBBLE UP

- 2 cups cooked chopped chicken
- 1/2 (10 oz.) pkg. frozen spinach (thawed & drained)
- 1 can Cream of Chicken Soup
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp. onion powder
- 1-1/2 cups shredded Monterey Jack cheese (divided)
- 2 (6-oz) cans refrigerated Grands Jr. biscuits
- 1 can French fried onions (divided)

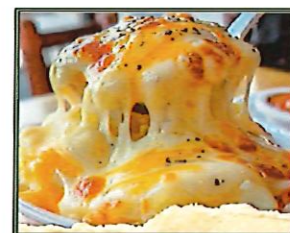


(Pinterest.com)

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly spray a 9x13-inch pan with PAM.
2. Combine chicken, spinach, soup, sour cream, garlic powder, onion powder, & half the Monterey Jack cheese. Stir in half of the onions.
3. Cut each biscuit into 4 pieces. Toss with the chicken mixture. Then pour the chicken mixture into the prepared pan.
4. Top with the remaining cheese & French fried onions.
5. Bake UNCOVERED 25-30 minutes, until bubbly & biscuits are golden brown. (Serves 6)

CRACKER BARREL CHEESY POTATOES

- 1 (30 oz.) bag frozen hash brown potatoes (thawed)
- 2 cups cheddar cheese (shredded)
- 1 can Cream of Chicken soup
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 cup sweet onion (finely chopped)
- 2 Tbsp. melted butter
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- chopped green onions for garnish (optional)



(Pinterest.com)

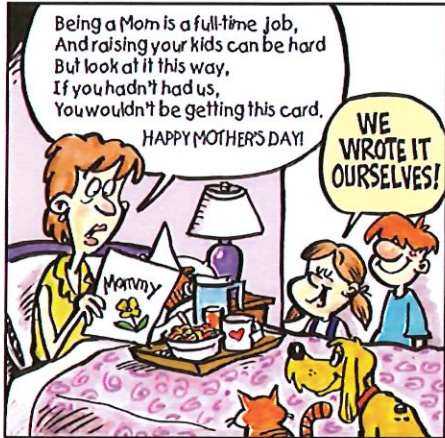
1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray a 9"x13" pan with PAM spray (or coat it with a layer of butter).
2. In large mixing bowl combine ALL above ingredients (except chopped green onions) & gently stir until everything is mixed well. Pour it into your prepared baking pan, spreading it evenly.
3. Bake in 350 degree oven (UNCOVERED) for about 35 minutes, or until the top is golden brown & bubbling. Remove from oven when done. Sprinkle chopped green onions on top as a garnish & serve.
2. In another bowl, mix together water, vinegar, & oil. Then add salt & pepper according to your taste.
3. Pour liquid over the vegetables. Gently toss together.
4. Place in fridge for at least an hour to chill. Serve & enjoy!

My kids laugh because they think i'm crazy
I laugh because they don't know it's Hereditary

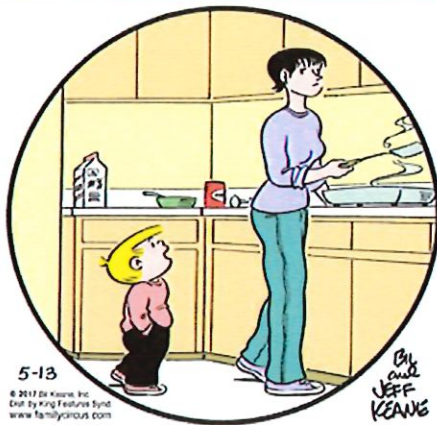


Laughter...

Happy Mother's Day



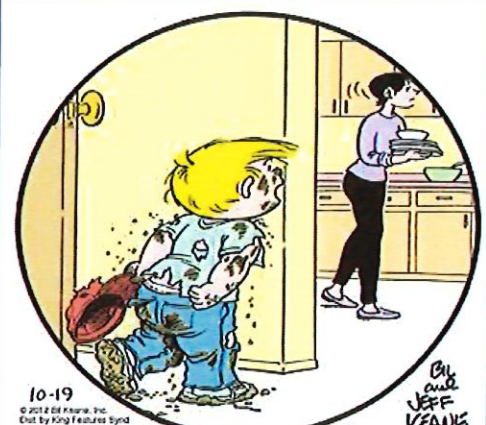
"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine" (Proverbs 17:22)



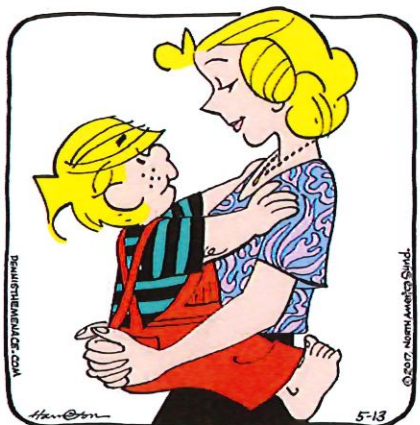
"Hope you've been good, Mommy. Tomorrow IS Mother's Day."



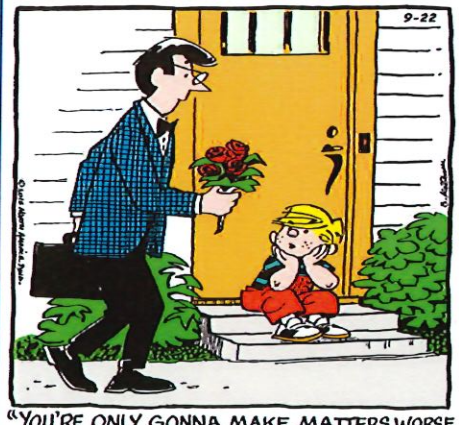
"Isn't it nice to have everything back to normal after your day off?"



"Mommy, are you in a good mood today?"



"If it wasn't for me, Mom... MOTHER'S DAY WOULD BE JUST A REGULAR OL' DAY FOR YOU."



"YOU'RE ONLY GONNA MAKE MATTERS WORSE WITH THOSE FLOWERS, DAD. I BROKE MOM'S FAVORITE VASE."



"KNOW WHAT, MOM? I THINK THEY SHOULD CHANGE MOTHER'S DAY TO MOTHER'S WEEK!"