



The United Methodist Church

Together in Christ . . . Committed to Serve

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Our Ministry Team:

Staff:
Rev. Heather Bailes Baker
Pastor

Betty Kelly
Director of
Music

Ann German
Bookkeeper

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Support

Sonja Sheasley
Communications Manager

Lynn Tozier
Director of Youth, Children,
and Family Ministries

Lay Leadership:

Carole Eichner
James Tinsley
Lay Leaders

Richard Weir
Lay Member to Annual
Conference

Paul Gannett
Chair, Church Council

Barry Jones-Henry
Chair, Staff Parish Relations
Committee

Jeanine Lennon
Chair, Board of Trustees

Sharlene Moran
Chair, Welcoming and
Community Team

Katheen Silvia,
Chair, Finance Team

Allen & Patty Morrell
Co-Chairs, Outreach Team

Dear Church,

After a long winter, spring is finally here. As the weather warms, and flowers bloom, we give thanks to our mothers. The formal observance of Mother's Day was founded by Anna Jarvis, in Grafton, West Virginia, in 1908. Anna wanted to honor her mother by honoring all mothers and their care for others. She protested against commercialization of the day, and urged people to write handwritten notes to their mothers, expressing love and gratitude. How will you honor your mother, or the women who have mothered you, this month?

My mother was a Sunday School teacher in my home church for many years. Truth be told, she's still teaching, but not specifically in the Sunday School. Both of my grandmothers were also Sunday School teachers. All three women taught generations of children the stories of Jesus and the love of God. Their creativity and variety made the lesson come alive: stories, snacks, games, art, songs and more. More than a specific lesson, what I remember most was their love: for me and all children, for God, for the people of the church and for learning itself.

Each and every week in our church, Lynn Tozier and our Sunday School teachers are sharing this same love with my children and all the children of our church: love for them and all children, for God, for the people of the church and for learning itself. As they prepare for each weekly lesson, as they listen to each question asked and respond with courage and wisdom, they are loving our children and growing disciples of Jesus. Consider how many children have been loved and shaped by our Sunday School, and the men and women who have given their time and talent to teaching. Now imagine how their lives will touch and change others, creating ripples of grace and love.

This Mother's Day I invite you to give a special gift to the United Methodist Church of Osterville to honor your mother, the women who have mothered you, or the Sunday School teachers who taught you the stories of Jesus and the love of God. Visit our online giving portal through our website, www.ostervillechurch.com. You can give by credit/debit or EFT. It's easy and secure. In honor of Anna Jarvis, if you can, send a handwritten note to let your honoree know you gave as an expression of your love and gratitude.

I am grateful for the love and witness of my mother and grandmothers, who made loving children a priority. I am grateful to our Sunday School teachers, past and present, who make loving children a priority. Their work makes a difference in our church, our community, and our world. With love, they are shaping our children to be compassionate, courageous disciples of Jesus. May we give generously, and joyfully, to continue and support the work they do so well.

Happy Mother's Day!

Pastor Heather