

Community United Methodist Church of Kenilworth
455 Boulevard, Kenilworth, New Jersey 07033
Church phone: 908-276-1956
Pastor Roeline Ramirez 973-282-6237
Rev. Heme Ares, Pastor Emeritus
Pastor Don Knott, Retired Elder
Rev. Dr. Baktha Kumar, Counseling Pastor



The Circuit Rider

May 2025 Newsletter

Community United Methodist Church of Kenilworth

A Faith Community Ignited by God's Love

MAY 2025 EVENTS

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES, 10:30 a.m.

Adult and Youth Sunday School after Sunday worship

Pastor Don's Bible Study on Facebook Live, Fridays at 9:00 a.m.

Treasure Shop open 2nd Friday and Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Prayer Meetings every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom ID: 749 308 740

May 1, 2025 National Day of Prayer, 7:30 p.m. hosted by Kenilworth Interfaith Fellowship via
Zoom Meeting ID: 315 393 411

May 5, 2025 MetroHighlands Day of Prayer via Zoom ID: 891 0777 3540, Password 375980

May 11, 2025 Mother's Day

May 14, 2025 United Methodist Women, 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

May 18-20, 2025 GNJ Annual Conference in Wildwood Convention Center

March 22, 2025 Community Food Pantry, 4:00 p.m.

May 26, 2025 Memorial Day

May 30, 2025 3 M's Gathering (Music, Movements, & Meditation), Hybrid,
In-Person at Ignite UMC Fellowship Hall, Zoom Meeting ID 201 699 6704

May 29, 2025 Circuit Rider, 11:00 a.m. at Fellowship Hall



Pastor's Page

"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15

Dear Ignite UMC Family and Friends,

As we continue in the joy of Easter, we look back with grateful hearts on our Lenten journey. We fasted, prayed, and walked with Jesus through His Passion, only to rejoice in the glory of His Resurrection. He is risen—death is conquered, and new life is ours! Thank you for everyone who participated in our various events – empowering our souls.

Now, we are called to live each day with the Risen Christ, beginning in our homes. Let every household reflect His love—rooted in love, cooperation, forgiveness, kindness, hospitality, and faith. The Resurrection must shape how we speak, serve, and sacrifice for one another.

As Scripture reminds us: *"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord,"* let us remember that we are one big household under the Living God. Let us be united in serving God through loving one another and becoming bridge to making our household of faith even bigger.

This month, as we honor mothers and those who nurture us, we will be reminded that every home, whatever it looks like, is a sacred space. Every home is a small church where love is lived out daily. May our homes be filled with the presence of the Risen Christ, becoming a vital part of the one household of faith of the Living God.

HEART OF GRACE, WHERE LOVE BEGINS

OVERFLOWING WITH MERCY THAT NEVER ENDS

MADE STRONG IN FAITH THROUGH TRIALS AND TEARS

EVER GUIDED BY GOD THROUGH ALL THE YEARS

May the Risen Lord bless your home with peace, hope, and lasting joy.

Blessings,

Pastor Roeline "Wee" Ramirez



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Mario Fiorillo
- 8 Tony Sosnosky
- 8 Ivy Ronan
- 14 Diego Santana
- 20 Drew Restrepo
- 27 Edith Koerner
- 28 Tanith Viuya
- 31 Emily Fuquay



"Wishing you a day filled with love, laughter, and all of your very favorite things."

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Peter and Janie Tran
- 4 Elmer and Siony Delos Reyes
- 13 Roy and Ellen Jeremias
- 20 Dan Crisci and Ginny Johnston
- 20 Michael and Mel Freda
- 22 Jay and Tanith Viuya
- 27 Andres and Luz Restrepo



"Happy Anniversary! Here's to many more years of love and happiness together. Congratulations on another year of your journey."

THE UP SIDE

From GUIDEPOSTS, Feb./Mar. 2025

- 1. "A mindset I have for most things I do – because you know, you get anxious – I will do a form of prayer... I'll remind myself, 'Be open and look for the direction.'"
~Jeff Bridges, actor
- 2. "Grace is necessary, and you can be the one both offering and receiving it at the same time."
~from *The Prayer Jar Devotional*

by Wanda E. Brunstetter

3. "Peace of mind isn't life feeling easy – it's knowing you can cope regardless of what shows up in your life."

~Jennifer L. Taitz, psychologist and author

4. "'Every day is a good day. If I'm still alive, I have a chance.' I made the conscious decision not to have any more bad days, only challenging days. Only days that pushed me to be a problem solver."

~Rodney Scott, acclaimed chef and BBQ pitmaster, on his daily philosophy

5. "Sometimes the most honest prayers we can pray are the ones that sound like 'This is hard. I'm tired. Please help.'"

~Ashley Morgan Jackson, author

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Submitted by Toni Sosnosky

In 1952, a joint resolution by the United States Congress, signed by President Harry S. Truman, declared an annual National Day of Prayer. In 1988, the law was amended and signed by President Ronald Reagan, permanently setting the day as the first Thursday of every May. The president is required by law to sign a proclamation each year, encouraging all Americans to pray on this day.

What is the scripture for the National Day of Prayer? *1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*: Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. *Psalms 145:18*: The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

SPIRIT LIFTING
From GUIDEPOSTS, Dec./Jan.2025

*I have told you these things, so that in me
you may have peace. In this world, you will have
trouble. But take heart! I have overcome
the world.*

~John 26:33 (NIV)

I thought a visit to the zoo would cheer me up, but I was feeling beset with problems. Relationships that had gone off the rails. Butting heads with coworkers. Financial worries. I glanced at the news on my phone. Was it just me, or did it sometimes seem as if the world had gone crazy?

I put my phone down and looked up at a giraffe, who was looking back at me, chewing. The Almighty must have been in a whimsical mood when he made giraffes. Everything about them is crazily exaggerated: an 18-inch tongue, outrageous eyelashes, hooves the size of dinner plates, and, of course, the signature long neck.

Staring up at this gentle, silent animal calmed me. I reminded myself that I live out my life in the palm of God's hand. I may sometimes feel discombobulated, but this world has not spun out of the Father's control. In the end, all will be well. Still chewing, the giraffe seemed to nod.

*Father, help me remember that
nothing is going to happen that I cannot
handle with your help.*

Louis Lotz

Every day is a new beginning.
Take a deep breath, smile and begin again. God woke you up today for a reason. Trust His plan, His timing is perfect. He will make a way.
Amen

EXPRESSIONS OF STRESS!
From The Fishwrapper, May 7, 2024

1. You! Off my planet
2. Not the brightest crayons in the box now, are we?
3. Errors have been made. Others will be blamed.
4. I'm not crazy; I've just been in a bad mood for the past thirty years.
5. Sarcasm is just one more service we offer.
6. Whatever kind of look you were going for, you missed.
7. I'm just working here until a good fast-food job opens up.
8. I'm trying to imagine you with a personality.
9. Stress is when you wake up screaming, and you realize you weren't asleep.
10. Can I trade this job for what's behind door #2?
11. Nice perfume. Must you marinate in it?
12. Chaos, panic, and disorder — my work here is done.
13. Is it time for your medication or mine?
14. I'm not tense, just terribly, terribly alert.

*If you are distressed by anything external,
the pain is not due to the thing itself but to
your own estimate of it; and this you have
the power to revoke at any moment.*

~Marcus Aurelius

When Prayers

Go Up,

Blessings

Come Down.



PRAYER REQUESTS

(Let's pray for you. Send your prayer concerns & thanksgiving)



FOR SAFE PREGNANCY & THANKSGIVING FOR NEW BABY: Charis M.C., Samantha M.C., Janielle V.

FOR HEALING & STRENGTH: Mr. Meredith, Rishael, Mary Catherine R., Tony S., Gloria C., Sylvanna, James F., Sue, Cindee, Charles, Eileen, Bob W., Betty S., Cathy, Gianna, Bev (Mom Grace's friend) Bob Mier, Diana, Laura, Janet C., Jun V., Barbara, Jen, Boyet J., Brenda G, Edna R., Ofelia, Raissa S., Theresa, Bryan., Pastor Don, Elba, Sal, Pat, Al B., Gareth A., Terri, Gerliz Anne M., Judy, Jen & Binny (Norma's co-workers), Ricky O., Scott W., Rob. W., Tom & Shiela, Kathy S., Crissy, Pastor Hemi., Miriam S., John (brother of Kathleen)., Susan Frey., Aida Opacity, Patrick, Betsy's Father, Ellen J., Elmer Delos Reyes, Robin T, Joerlin, Nicole, Krishia, Jen

FOR COMFORT & PROVISION: Affected by various calamities and country's economic challenges.



FOR GUIDANCE & PROVISION: Mary O., Abuela B., Drew & Gracielle R. fam, Vercillie F., Analyn, Robin. T, Mary Ellen, Dee K., John D., Puma fam., Betsy DC' & parents, Karen W., A. Restrepo Fam, Fuquay Fam, Opacity Fam, Margaret N., Silva Fam., Yen & Will, Viuya Fam, Janielle & Gerald, Adrian M., Reden & Gloria C., Jane R., Ms. Toni, Kathleen E., Levine fam, Janet H. & Mom Grace., Mr. Tony S & Fam, Caffrey fam, Ptr Heme Ares & Norma Fam, Rachel R. Fam., James & Sharon S., Dale S., Luz A., Luisa & Lucianna R., Francis Fam, Vallez Fam, Jeremias Fam, Freda Fam, Crissi & Johnston Fam, Cindy P., Phil L., Marty K., Lori Strubble, Stephanie P., Pagan Fam., Kollory Fam., Abigail, Rich W., Duelly Fam., Ramirez Fam., Salvador Fam., Stephen N., Linda Sosa Fam., Edit Fam., Fabian & Nattali, Mayra S. & Fam., Marie M.G., Blanco Fam., Kevin C., Will & Ann Dougherty, Pastor Annie, Ana Patrick, Maria Silva R and fam., Maria,

FOR WISDOM, COMPASSION, AND MERCY IN LEADERSHIP: The President and all the leaders of our country. Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi UMC clergies and church leaders.

SPECIAL INTENTION FOR THIS MONTH: Peace in the country and the world. Provision and endurance for all who care for the earth.

For additional prayer requests, pastoral care and services, please contact Pastor Roeline

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Voicemail: 908 276-1956

email: ramirezroeline@gmail.com

igniteumckenilworth@gmail.com

KENILWORTH INTERFAITH FELLOWSHIP

invites you all to join the

**NATIONAL
DAY OF
PRAYER**

S E R V I C E



May 1st, 2025 @ 7:00 pm Via Zoom

Meeting ID: 315 393 411

Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/315393411>

One tap mobile: +16465588656, 315393411#

**“Pour Out to the
God of Hope
and Be Filled!”**

Romans 15:13



Chansonettes of Westfield

*Friends & Family Concert:
Salute to America*



Sunday, May 4th at 2pm

Westfield Presbyterian Church Chapel
140 Mountain Avenue, Westfield

Enter through the parking lot

*Free will offering
To benefit the Agape food program*

QUIET MOMENTS

From The Upper Room, May/June 2023

Read Psalm 148:1-14

*Sun and moon, praise God! All of you
bright stars, praise God!
~Psalm 148:3 (NIV)*

Sunrise walks are an important spiritual and physical exercise for me. Sometimes I wake up before dawn with a sense that the Creator has something to show me. And I'm never disappointed as I step out under the fathomless stars and into the calm, pre-dawn air.

Often I give voice to the spontaneous and heartfelt prayer of thanksgiving that rises within me. I understand how the beauty and magnitude of God's creation could elicit the psalmist's cry: "Sun and moon, praise God! All of you bright stars, praise God!" When a guiding star or clear crescent moon adorns the night sky, I'm especially glad to have been invited to witness God's handiwork.

In the stillness of these early-morning moments, I sense God's presence. I become aware of the calm that surrounds me in this place on this planet at this hour, and I'm grateful to God for leading me to this moment. With my soul stilled, I give praise and ask for guidance in my Christian walk.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

When my soul is still, I become
receptive to God's presence.

Prayer: Thank you, God, for quiet moments in the beauty of your creation. Open our hearts to your promptings to be still before you. Amen.

Joann Wilson (Nebraska, USA)

FREE IN CHRIST

From The Upper Room, May-June 2023

Read Luke 18:18-19

A person is not justified by the works of the law; but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith, in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.

~Galatians 2:16 (NIV)

Growing up in a family of over achievers, I always felt one step behind. I was not an all-A student, and I did not want to make decisions about my future based on how much money I would make. I wanted to take my own path in life, but I was surrounded by people who constantly put me down for my lack of societal perfection. I began to feel worthless, as if my life had no meaning. But I soon realized that I must not wallow in these worldly flaws. I was created in God's perfect image; I could rejoice in my differences. It was vital for me to recognize that through Jesus, I am free from the expectations of society.

Genesis 1:27 states that humans are made in the image of God. Yet, society has created standards for humanity that can lead us to doubt God's beautiful creation. We do not need to justify ourselves by social expectations; we are justified by our faith in Jesus Christ. In Jesus, we are free to be who God created us to be.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

I am perfect in the eyes of God.

Prayer: Faithful God, thank you for creating me in your image and for freeing me from the expectations of society. Amen.

~Lara Jarrous (Texas, USA)

THE MEMORY OF ELEPHANTS

From All God's Creatures, September/October 2022

Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, "My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please."

~Isaiah 46:9-10 (NIV)

I was on a safari ride at Disney's Animal Kingdom when I learned that elephants can remember the location of watering holes for years. The guide explained how important water is for the elephants' survival and how this incredible ability to remember past provisions allows the elephants to lead their herds back to those spaces. I find this incredible, because half the time, I can't even remember where I left my water bottle a few hours earlier!

This ability is particularly vital for elephants when facing periods of drought, because they remember not only *one* watering hole but also alternative sources of water. They will choose a different water source, sometimes traveling long distances, if they find their initial choice has dried up.

In the same way, God promises to keep up and to provide for our needs – but sometimes provisions don't sync chronologically with our expectations. I often find myself praying and then expecting an instant answer. While God does sometimes respond just as I have expected, other times, I find I have to actively do two things. First, I have to *remember*, just like the elephants, the places He has sourced provision for me in the past. Doing so not only encourages my spirit but also provides me with direction. Second, I have to *return* to those places. It's not

enough to actively go there. Even during the dry seasons, God still provides for me, but I have to do my part by remembering and returning to all those spaces of provision.

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

~Joshua 1:9 (NIV)

Written by AshleyClark

MORE FROM 199 PROMISES OF GOD

1. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

~Psalm 121:7-8

2. The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.

~Zephaniah 3:17

3. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

~Hebrews 13:2

4. Behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.

~Proverbs 1:23

5. But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

~Proverbs 4:18

6. The word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

~Psalm 119:105

WALKING IN GRACE 2025: A PREVIEW
From GUIDEPOSTS, Dec./Jan. 2025

So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.

~Corinthians 3:7

I picked out a maidenhair fern at the nursery. Even after the cashier warned me these ferns were delicate and suggested a heartier plant instead, I foolishly insisted on taking it home.

Several weeks later, the maidenhair was already looking pretty rough.

"If you name your plants and speak kindly to them, they'll grow better," advised my daughter, whose thumb had somehow proven much greener than my own.

The idea seemed a bit silly to me, but I was willing to give it a try. What did I have to lose?

I tried to think of an appropriate name for this poor plant that hung on despite my unwitting attempts to kill it. What popped into my head was "Miriam," the name of a friend of mine.

Miriam, like the maidenhair, was delicate in her way – a kindhearted soul with all the charms of a proper Southern belle – but she'd survived things that would surely have done in a person of lesser faith. Miriam was a survivor, which I hoped my little plant would be.

Each day, I complimented my fern, Miriam's, beauty. I offered plenty of sunlight and the occasional steam bath.

Soon my fern, Miriam, became strong, green, and gorgeous. Like my friend, this Miriam was resilient, too.

It all made me think – if calling them by name and speaking kindly to plants helps them grow, what must it do for humans?

Lord, help me be an encourager.

Written by Ginger Rue

ENCOURAGEMENT
From Prayer & Promises for Women

1. The Lord your God is with you; the mighty one will save you. He will rejoice over you. You will rest in his love, he will sing and be joyful about you.

~Zephaniah 3:17 NCV

2. Encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today." ~Hebrews 3:13 NIV

3. Be joyful. Grow to maturity. Encourage each other. Live in harmony and peace. Then the God of love and peace will be with you. ~2 Corinthians 13:11 NLT

God, your Word brings so much encouragement! No matter what I am up against, there is a source of strength, comfort, and wisdom. Because of all you've done for me, I find myself wanting to share it and be an encouragement to those around me. Let me be a resource of hope as I point others to you.

How can you encourage someone today?

BEAR

From All God's Creatures, Sept./Oct. 2022

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

~Proverbs 22:6 (NIV)

It was a video that no mother wants to receive from her eighteen-year-old son: clear footage of a large brown bear outside the window of the cabin he was staying in with a friend's family. Nathan and his friends had seen the bear in the distance while playing basketball and hurried inside before it reached their property. I watched the video again and shuddered. The cabin was a time-share in an upscale mountain resort, hardly a place where one would expect bears.

Still, this bear looked like it was out for an afternoon stroll, not a vicious hunt. I'd received Nathan's video on the same day that a neighbor posted a similar picture from her vacation. So bears were clearly eager to see what kinds of snacks the campers and cabin dwellers had available this summer. I just didn't want one rummaging for goodies near my son.

I'm a single mom, and Nathan is my youngest. He had just graduated from high school. The bear video felt like one more reminder that my days of protecting him from the world were ending. He was a legal adult about to start college. I'd done my best to mold him into a young man of faith and strong character, and now he would experience things that I didn't have a say in. Some of those experiences would include risks, even danger. All I could do was trust his good judgement (starting with the fact that he and his friends had gone inside when they saw the bear) and the heavenly Father who had His eye on Nathan as he launched into adulthood. It motivated me to pray all the harder that he would cling to Jesus through every adventure and challenge.

Walk of Faith: *Write a letter to God expressing any anxieties you have about your children (or grandchildren). Include a prayer asking Him to help you trust Him with their future.*

~Jeanette Hanscome

MORE PEACE OF MIND IS...

By Pat Brady

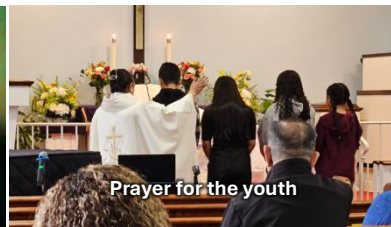
1. Peace of mind is not having to ask for directions.
2. Peace of mind is knowing someone saved you a seat.
3. Peace of mind is having your grandfather's lucky silver dollar in your pocket.
4. Peace of mind is having all your coupons ready.
5. Peace of mind is a pat on the back now and then.
6. Peace of mind is peppermint breath.
7. Peace of mind is deciding to let things be.
8. Peace of mind is friendly faces when you're the new kid.
9. An unhurried belly rub is peace of mind for the giver and the gifter.
10. Peace of mind is a ladybug dropping by for a visit.
11. Peace of mind is knowing you have time to go to the snack bar before the movie starts.
12. Peace of mind is having no special place to go and nothing special to do.
13. Peace of mind is knowing you always land on your feet.
14. Peace of mind is finding out your friend is in your class on the first day of school.
15. Peace of mind is the first whiff of spaghetti sauce.
16. Peace of mind is feeling you've got a good grip on life.
17. Peace of mind is having all your school supplies ready the night before.
18. Peace of mind is finding a love note in your teacup.
19. Peace of mind turns up in the oddest places.
20. Peace of mind is taking a moment to count your blessings.

Submitted by Jane Reilly

APRIL 2025 HIGHLIGHTS



Bible study with Pastor Don



Prayer for the youth



Mary Anoints Jesus
"Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume."



April Women's Fellowship



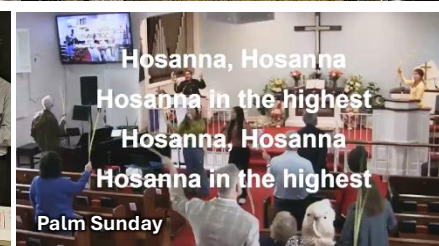
Holy Communion



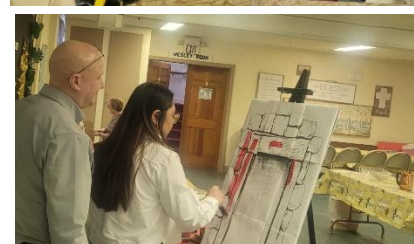
Christian Hymns for Seniors



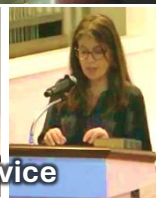
Time of Fellowship



Hosanna, Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna, Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest
Palm Sunday



Maundy Thursday



Good Friday Service



Hallelujah
Jesus is Alive!

HE IS RISEN



Easter Sunday Breakfast, Worship, Egg hunt, and Fellowship





Mother's Day Word Search



| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | N | A | M | D | N | A | R | G | D | J | V | K | B | E | C | P | U |
| I | S | N | O | S | S | E | L | X | Q | N | T | C | N | D | O | R | J |
| M | V | K | J | J | R | Z | G | L | F | M | O | T | H | E | R | E | K |
| V | N | V | A | D | Y | H | V | M | G | E | S | L | O | V | E | S | S |
| Z | N | A | V | L | T | Z | C | B | E | L | Y | S | C | U | G | E | H |
| Y | R | T | L | I | P | Q | S | M | U | B | I | R | T | H | E | N | S |
| P | V | O | Z | H | M | I | E | N | A | D | U | E | S | U | F | T | V |
| T | P | G | F | C | I | W | K | I | S | S | G | W | Z | I | Y | S | B |
| X | Z | P | B | A | F | A | M | I | L | Y | B | O | N | Z | C | T | W |
| G | W | H | W | D | G | N | D | K | I | R | E | L | W | A | P | T | F |
| N | H | O | F | Q | G | A | P | A | Z | K | S | F | Q | D | M | Z | F |
| W | V | O | D | W | E | S | A | D | Q | A | I | U | B | W | O | N | J |
| Y | U | L | C | F | I | X | R | O | I | G | W | F | J | Z | J | Q | N |
| B | C | E | M | U | F | R | E | P | F | J | C | S | C | A | I | L | T |
| V | T | Z | E | N | W | K | N | T | K | F | P | U | T | A | X | M | E |
| Z | C | V | S | E | M | S | T | I | J | S | O | G | Z | D | U | A | J |
| C | Z | T | A | E | E | V | H | O | M | L | C | U | M | Q | W | I | M |
| R | C | O | O | K | I | N | G | N | X | V | G | V | B | M | J | F | I |



MOTHER
GRANDMA
FLOWERS
ADOPTION
WISE



CHILD
LOVE
PRESENTS
PERFUME
LESSONS



PARENT
FAMILY
BIRTH
KISS
COOKING

