

Ignite 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,
Rev. Dr. Baktha Kamar, Counseling Pastor



The Circuit Rider

May 2026 Newsletter

Ignite Community United Methodist Church of Kenilworth
A Faith Community Ignited by God's Love

May 2026 EVENTS

Adult and Youth Sunday School @ 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship Services @ 10:30 a.m.

Choir Practice @ 9:30 a.m.

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

Treasure Shop open Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Prayer Meetings, Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom ID 749 308 740

Free ESL Classes, **Tuesdays**, 5:30 p.m.

28 Days of Prayer Mom.-Fri. until May 15 @ 7:00-7:20 a.m. To register, visit
<https://member.gnjumc.org/default.aspx?page=3352&occurrence3led=946&profileled=1747>

May 4, 2026 Clergy and Laity Prayer Meeting @ 12:00 p.m.-12:30 p.m.,
Meetijng ID 891 0777 3540 PW: 123456

May 5 & 12, 2026 Bible Beginner's Class @ 6:30 p.m., Ignite's Fellowship Hall,
Zoom ID 749 308 740

May 7, 2026 Kenilworth National Day of Prayer @ 7:00 p.m.,
Zoom ID: 315 393 4311. One tap mobile: +13126266799,,315393511#

See remaining May 2026 Events on Page 5, United Methodist Women



Pastor's Page



"Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." – John 14:6

Beloved Church Family and Friends,

The joy of Easter still lingers among us, reminding us that resurrection is not simply something we celebrate but a way we are called to live. Thank you for the many ways you made our celebration so meaningful, especially through the Easter breakfast shared with our community. In your presence, prayers, and acts of service, we saw a clear witness of hearts seeking to walk in God's way.

As spring unfolds, we see renewal all around us. We see new growth, color, and life. These are not just seasonal changes. They are quiet reminders that God is always leading, restoring, and making a way forward. Jesus tells us in John 14:6, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." These words are not only comforting the disciples. His "I statement" is a guide to a world full of competing paths and voices. We are called to follow His way above all else, trusting Him even when we do not fully understand where He is leading.

As we enter the month of May, we give thanks for all mothers, both biological and spiritual, who have helped guide us along this path. Through their love, patience, and faithfulness, we see reflections of God's own way that is steady, self-giving, and true. Their lives remind us that walking in God's way is lived out in simple and faithful steps each day.

We are also reminded of our call to pray for one another and for our nation. To follow God's way means choosing peace over division, compassion over indifference, and trust over fear. Prayer keeps us rooted in Him and helps us discern His will when the world feels uncertain. I invite you to join the Kenilworth Interfaith Fellowship Prayer on May 7th, as we seek together to align our hearts with God's purposes.

As Pentecost Sunday approaches, we look ahead with longing and hope. We cannot walk God's way by our own strength alone. We need the Holy Spirit to fill us, guide us, and strengthen us. We pray to be empowered with courage and wisdom, so that our lives may reflect Christ more clearly and faithfully each day.

Finally, as we observe Memorial Day, let us remember with deep gratitude those who gave their lives in service. Their sacrifice reminds us of the cost of commitment and the value of living for something greater than ourselves. As followers of Christ, we honor them by committing ourselves to God's way, seeking peace, standing for what is right, and trusting His truth in all things.

May this season continue to draw us more deeply into God's way. And may we walk forward together, trusting Christ who is our way, our truth, and our life, in every step we take.

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Roeline "Wee" Ramirez*



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Mario Fiorillo
- 8 Toni Sosnosky
- 8 Ivy Ronan
- 14 David Santana
- 20 Drew Restrepo
- 27 Edith Koerner
- 28 Tanith Viuya
- 31 EmilyFuquay



"Wishing you all the best on your special day. May it be filled with love, laughter, and lots of birthday cake. Happy Birthday!"

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



"Have a wonderful day. May you continue to make memories that will last a lifetime. Happy Anniversary!"

May Blessings

FOLLOW YOU THROUGH LIFE
wherever Christ may lead you.
May love be right beside you,
may joy and peace precede you.
May God's word light your path
each day with grace and patience
guide your way.

THE ORIGIN OF MOTHER'S DAY: 5 SURPRISING FACTS ABOUT THE HOLIDAY

From goodhousekeeping.com

For many people, Mother's Day is simply a joyous occasion each May, a time to spend with our children and our mothers – marked by flowers, cards, and maybe some mimosas over brunch. So you might be surprised to learn that its cheerful greeting card messages belie a much darker, more complicated origin story. In fact, Mother's Day traces its roots back to wartime traumas, and includes plenty of controversy. Here are five surprising facts you may not have known about Mothers's Day and its complex origins.

1. Mother's day officially began as a tribute to one woman. Anna Reeves Jarvis is most often credited with founding Mother's Day. After her mother Ann died on May 19, 1905, Jarvis set out to create a day that would honor her and moms as a group. She began the movement in West Virginia, which prides itself on hosting the first official Mother's Day celebration three years later at Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church, according to CNN. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a bill recognizing Jarvis' idea as a national holiday to be celebrated each second Sunday in May.

2. But before that, Mother's Day started as an anti-war movement. Although Jarvis is widely credited as the holiday's founder, others had floated the idea earlier - with a different agenda in mind, according to National Geographic. The poet and author Julia Ward Howe had aimed to promote a Mothers' Peace Day decades before. For her and the antiwar activists who had agreed with her position - including Jarvis' own mother - the idea of Mother's Day should spread unity across the globe in the wake of so much

trauma following the Civil War in America and Franco-Prussian War in Europe.

“Howe called for women to gather once a year in parlors, churches, or social halls, to listen to sermons, present essays, sing hymns or pray if they wished - all in the name of promoting peace,” West Virginia Wesleyan College historian Katharine Antolini noted, as cited by *National Geographic*.

These early attempts to create a cohesive peace-focused Mother’s Day eventually receded when the other concept took hold.

3. Mother’s Day is a \$25 billion commercial holiday. These days, Mother’s Day is a \$25 billion holiday in America, with those who celebrate spending about \$200 on mom, according to National Retail Federation data published in 2019.

More people buy flowers for Mother’s Day than any other time of the year except during the Christmas and Hanukkah season.

4. Jarvis died regretting her idea for this very reason. Commercialism is the exact opposite of what Jarvis would have wanted: In her lifetime, she went after florists’ aggressive marketing, eventually facing arrests for public disturbances, according to *CNN*. She also railed against first Lady Eleanor Roosevelt for interpreting Mother’s Day inclusively as a way to promote the well-being of women and children at large. She didn’t even believe in organizations using the occasion as a way to raise funds for charity; she didn’t trust the purity of their efforts and saw them as profiteering off the holiday.

“To have Mother’s Day the burdensome

wasteful, expensive gift day that Christmas and other special days have become, is not our pleasure,” she said in 1920, according to *National Geographic*. “If the American people are not willing to protect Mother’s Day from the hordes of money schemers that would overwhelm it with their schemes, then we shall cease having a Mother’s Day - and we know how.”

Jarvis herself never profited from her idea. In 1848, at the age of 84, she died penniless - having used all her money to fight the holiday’s commercialization - in a sanitarium.

5. The white carnation is the official Mother’s Day flower. The white carnation became the official flower of the holiday shortly after Jarvis’ own mother died. On May 10, 1908 - three years after that loss - Jarvis sent 500 white carnations to Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in her mother’s honor for that first Mother’s Day celebration, according to *Time*.

Jarvis compared that flower’s shape and life cycle to a mother’s love. “The carnation does not drop its petals, but hugs them to its heart as it dies, and so too, mothers hug their children to their hearts, their mother’s love never dying,” she said in a 1927 interview, cited in *National Geographic*.

So if you’re buying flowers for mom this year, consider the white carnation - but also pause to consider the holiday’s uncommercial origins. After all, it’s not about flowers, or cards, or gift cards, or jewelry – it’s all about love.

Happy Mother’s Day!

May 2026 Events (Continued from Cover Page)

- May 10, 2026 Mother's Day
- May 13, 2026 United Methodist Women, 11:00 a.m., Ignite Fellowship All,
Zoom ID 749 308 740
- May 17, 2026 Kenilworth Street Fair (please be mindful of street closures)
- May 17-19, 2026 GNJ Annual Conference at Wildwood
- May 21, 2026 Community Care Pantry
- May 25, 2026 Memorial Day
- May 28, 2026 Circuit Rider

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women met on Wednesday, April 11, 2026 in Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m. The program presented was "National Tom Foolery Day", telling us about a day to celebrate laughter and why laughter is important for good health.

The next meeting will be on May 13th at 11:00 a.m. Pastor Roe will be presenting the program, in honor of mothers and veterans. Please bring a bag lunch; dessert will be provided by our hostesses. All women are welcome join us.

COMMUNITY CARE FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry provided food and non-food items for 24 families on Thursday, March 19, 2026. Nine Pet Smart Gift Cards were also distributed.

Your donations continue to make it possible for us to provide for families in need. Items needed on a regular basis

are: canned fruits and vegetables, pasta, tomato sauce, canned tuna/chicken, beans, and rice. Financial donations are always welcomed!

So, thank you again so for your kindness and generosity! Without your loyal support, this mission could not continue.

THE TREASURE SHOP

The Treasure Shop is open on Saturdays from 10:00 to 1:00 p.m. We do receive new items every week, and we have been offering a "special" each weeki.

Thank you to all who come to donate and to all who come to shop. We look forward to your visit!

Faith brings peace.
Peace brings blessings.

*"A grateful heart
attracts blessings."*



PRAYER REQUESTS

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



FOR PEACE: Middle East Situation and all around the World

FOR HEALING & STRENGTH: Kathie B. Baby Cece, Baby Nova, Beverly A., Cathy P., Bob W., Bill L., Jane R., Joe, Carl, Linda S., Ptr. Annie, Eileen, Cyndee, Lobianco Family, Ellen J., Joy, Dee K, Robert, Barbara L., Tom & Shiela M., Aidan, Mary Catherine R., Laura, Barbara H., Janet C., Tony S., James F., Sue,, Jun V., Boyet J., Brenda G., Edna R., Ofelia, Raissa S., Theresa, Pastor Don, Elba M., Al B., Terri, Gerliz A. M., Judy, Jen & Binny, Ricky O., Scott W., Rob. W., Kathy S., Crissy., Susan F., Patrick, Jen, Mari, Ciera, David, Carol, Frank, Lou B., Jose R., Natalie W. Dr. Subnani and her son, Kirk., Letty S. Jackie. Josephine's Son.

FOR SAFE PREGNANCY JOURNEY: Pastora Kenia Vanessa Mendoza (wife of Pastor Adrian)

FOR JOB: Kluivert F

FOR GUIDANCE & STRENGTH: Mary Ellen, Mary O., Abuela B., Drew & Gracielle R. fam, Vercillie F., Owen F., Fam., Anallyn, Mary Ellen, John D., Puma fam., Betsy DC's parents, Karen W., A. Restrepo Fam, Fuquay Fam, Opacity Fam, Margaret N. & children, Silva Fam., Yen & Will, Viuya Fam, Janielle & Gerald Fam., Reden & Gloria C., Jane R., Ms. Toni, Kathleen E., Levine fam, Janet H. & Mom Grace., 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 S., Stephanie P., Pagan Fam., Yvette & Justin, Kollory Fam., Abigail., Rich W., Duelly Fam., Ramirez Fam., Salvador Fam., Stephen N., Linda Sosa Fam., Edit Fam., Charis & James, Malcolm Fam., Fabian & Nattali, Mayra S. & Fam., Blanco Fam., Ana Patrick, Maria Silva R. fam., Kluivert F. & fam., Maria M., Linda B., , Lim Family, Kathleen, Lorraine S. Jayson C., Justin W., Faith S., Adrian M., Nelie, Amy N., & fam.,

FOR WISDOM, COMPASSION, AND MERCY IN LEADERSHIP: Government and Religious leaders. **IGNITE COMMUNITY UMC LEADERS.**

SPECIAL INTENTION FOR THIS MONTH: For all mothers. For grieving veterans' families. GNJ Annual conference

FOR ADDITIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS, PASTORAL CARE AND SERVICES, PLEASE CONTACT PASTOR ROELINE

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igniteumckenilworth@gmail.com



KENILWORTH INTERFAITH FELLOWSHIP

INVITES ALL TO JOIN THE

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

GLORIFY GOD
AMONG THE NATIONS



SEEKING HIM
IN ALL GENERATIONS
1 CHRONICLES 16:24 NASB
THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026

75th



NATIONALDAYOFPRAYER.ORG

@7:00 PM VIA ZOOM

ZOOM MEETING ID: 315 393 411

ONE TAP MOBILE: +13126266799, 315393411#

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

REGISTER HERE

CAMP-PASSION

DISCERNING COMPASSIONATE ACTION BY
DISCOVERING GOD, SELF, AND OTHERS

Identity-Faith Formation & Leadership Institute
for Youth and Young Adults

June 26-28, 2026
GRETNA GLEN CAMP & RETREAT CENTER
87 Old Mine Rd, Lebanon, PA 17042

Fun and
Reflection

Vocational
Exploration

Worship and
Fellowship

For inquiries:
revadrianmendoza@gmail.com or igniteumckenilworth@gmail.com

FROM LOSS TO ABUNDANCE
From The Upper Room, May/June 2024

Read Isaiah 61:1-6

[The Lord has sent me to] provide for those who grieve in Zion – to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

~Isaiah 61:3 (NIV)

Following a fierce summer storm, my husband and I went outside to see an uprooted tree stretched across our yard. As we cleaned up the broken branches littering our lawn, I mourned the loss of the tree. On summer days we had rested under its shade, listening to the rustle of leaves in the breeze and the singing of birds in its branches. Now all that remained was a ugly stump. However, my husband took a more pragmatic view, realizing the tree's absence allowed more sunlight to reach his vegetable garden. The plants would flourish with more sunlight to strengthen them.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

When I feel empty, God's
love can fill me.

Losing a tree cannot compare to losing someone or something precious, but it provides a picture of how God can turn loss into abundance. Amid the pain of significant losses in my life, God filled up the emptiness with an abundance of love. God gave me beauty and joy in spite of my loss and mourning, and praising God lightened the heaviness.

Where a tree once stood, now light floods our garden. Likewise, our scars of loss

do not need to remain places of pain and darkness. Rather, they can be markers of where God met us and brought new light to our lives.

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for comforting us when we are brokenhearted. When we mourn, you offer beauty, joy, and praise to fill us up. Amen.

Valerie Ronald (Manitoba, Canada)

MAY BLESSING

A blessing in May.

To me, 'May' is a month of hope,
because it is called may.

So may this month be a blessing for you.

May growth and luck come to you.

May you receive the sweet from
all your hard work.

May you and your friends and family
be healthy and get along well.

May you be a happier soul.

May you become a stronger and tougher
person.

May all be well, may you be blessed.

"May is the month of expectation,
the month of wishes,
the month of hope."

~Emily Bronte

HONESTY

From Prayers and Promises for Women

Keep me from deceitful ways,
be gracious unto me and teach me your law.
I have chosen the way of faithfulness.
I have set my heart upon your laws.
~Psalm 119:29-30 NIV

“Everything that is hidden will become clear,
and every secret thing will be made known.”
~Luke 8:17 NCV

The king is pleased with words from righteous
lips; he loves those who speak honestly.
~Proverbs 16:13 NLT

Instead, we will speak the truth in love.
So we will grow up in every way to become
the body of Christ. Christ is
the head of the body.
~Ephesians 4:15 NIRV

*God, there is no deceit in you. You
never try to trick me or mislead me, and your
only true enemy is called the father of lies.
I hate lies, yet I struggle with lying at times.
Forgive my lies and make me brave enough
to tell the truth. Even when it might hurt,
remind me that lies hurt worse.*

*Is there anything you need
to be honest about now?*

MAY QUOTES

1. The world's favorite season is the spring.
All things seem possible in May.”
~Edwin Way Teale
2. “May is proof that change can be
beautiful.” ~Unknown

HONOR

From Prayers and Promises for Women

“My father will honor the one who serves me.”
John 12:26 NIV

Humble yourselves under the mighty power
of God, and at the right time he will lift you
up in honor.
I Peter 5:6 NLT

Anyone who wants to be godly and loving
finds life, success, and honor.
Proverbs 21:21 NIRV

Love each other like brothers and sisters.
Give each other more honor than you want
for yourselves.
Romans 12:10 NMCV

*God, in everything I do, I seek to
honor you, I know I don't always do a great
job of it. I want all of my work, my efforts, my
accomplishments to give glory to you. And in
my failure, let me be honoring you, as well.
Help me to accept my shortcomings with
humility and give you glory in everything.*

*What does it mean to honor God
in everything you do?*

MORE MAY QUOTES

1. “May is the month of rebirth and renewal.”
~Unknown
2. “May is the month of beauty, where we can
appreciate the world around us.” ~Unknown
3. “May is the perfect time to take a breath of
fresh air and enjoy the beauty of spring.”
~Debasish Mridha

SOME DAYS CELEBRATED IN MAY

WORLD TUNA DAY, May 2nd

World Tuna Day celebrated every year is an event dedicated to the versatile fish and promoting the importance of sustainable fishing practices.

The day was established by the United States in 2016 to highlight the environmental, economical, and nutritional significance of tuna.

WORLD LAUGHTER DAY, May 3rd

The first Sunday of May is World Laughter Day, a celebration that raises awareness about all the benefits of laughing and promotes world peace through laughter. Laughing can instantly help reduce stress and brings us closer to other people, as we share our happiness with them. Those who take part in World Laughter Day help spread positivity and cheerfulness in a way that could help change the world.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK, observed from May 4th to May 8th

Teachers' Appreciation Week is celebrated annually during the first week of May, and it is an extra week dedicated especially to celebrating teachers. It is more than just a gesture of appreciation, it is a tribute to the impact teachers leave on individuals, communities, and society as a whole.

NATIONAL NURSES DAY, May 6th

National Nurses Day is observed every year on May 6th to commemorate the important role that the nurses play in our lives every year. This day marks the beginning of National Nursing Week, which ends on May 12th, the birthday of Florence Nightengale.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, May 7th

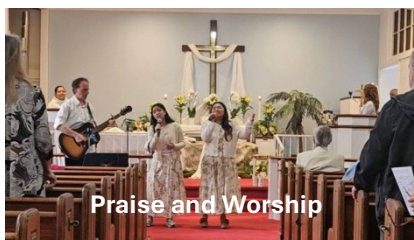
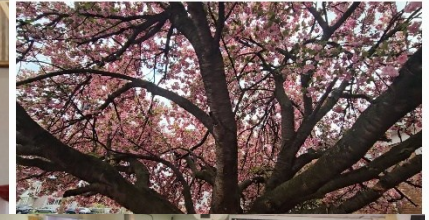
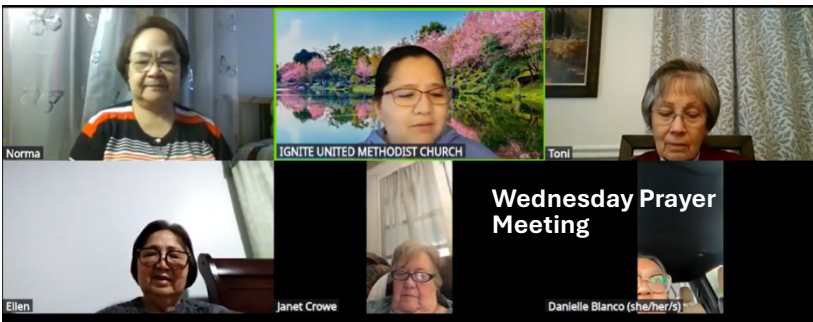
Every year on the first Thursday of May people of all faiths in America are encouraged to participate in the National Day of Prayer, and turn to God for guidance and to pray for their country.

A SERMON FOR YOU IN A SENTENCE OR TWO

By William A. Leier

1. If you look back too much, you'll soon be headed that way.
2. The task of a faithful minister is to comfort the afflicted and to afflict the comfortable.
3. Three commands of our Lord are: Come unto Me, Learn of Me, and follow Me.
4. Children brought up in Sunday School are seldom brought up in court.
5. It doesn't take much of a person to make a Christian, but it takes all that there is of him.
6. There wouldn't be so many non-church goers if there were not so many non-going churches.
7. God's work done in God's way by God's people will never lack for God's blessing.
8. We are all manufacturers – some make good, some make trouble, some make excuses.
9. The largest room is room for improvement.
10. No one will know of your honesty and sincerity unless you give out samples.
11. A little girl repeated the 23rd Psalm this way: "The Lord is my shepherd. That's all I want."
12. The reason we sing "Glory to God in the Highest" is because God came down to the lowest.
13. Truth is not always popular, but it is always right.

APRIL 2026 MEMORIES



A BOOK LOVER'S YEAR 2026
Great Books, Inspiring Quotes, and Perfect
Places to Read (From the month of January)

“A book to me is like a friend, a shelter,
advice, an argument with someone
who cares enough to argue with me
for a better answer than the one we both
already have. Books aren't just a door to
another world – each book is part
of a door to the whole world, a door
that always has more behind it.
Which is why I still can't think of anything
I'd rather do more than read.”

~*Alexander Chee*

“A book, too, can be a star...
A living fire to lighten the darkness, leading
out into expanding the universe.”

~*Madeleine L'Engle*

“I want a book to take me
to the place I want to be.”

~*James McBride*

“The ability to read awoke
inside me some long dormant
craving to be mentally alive.”

The Autobiography of Malcolm X
by Malcolm X

“The unread story is not a story;
it is little black marks on wood pulp.
The reader, reading it, makes it live:
a live thing, a story .”

Dancing at the Edge of the World
by Ursula K. Le Guin

“I love the sound of the pages flicking
against my fingers. Print against fingerprints.
Books make people quiet, yet they are so loud.

The Book of Phoenix
by Nnedi POkorafor

“I have always imagined that
Paradise will be a kind of library.”

~Jorge Luis Borges

“I think books are like people,
in the sense that they'll turn up in
your life when you most need them.”

~Emma Thompson

“Books are mirrors;
you only see in them
what you already have inside you.”

~Carlos Ruiz Zafon

“It is really hard to be lonely
very long in a world of words.
Even if you don't have friends
somewhere, you still have language,
and it will find you and wrap its little
syllables around you and suddenly
there will be a story to live in.”

~Naomi Shihab Nye

“All we have to decide is what to do
with the time given us.”

The Fellowship of the Ring
by J.R.R. Tolkien

“You have brains in your head.
You have feet in your shoes.

You can steer yourself
any direction you choose.

You're on your own.

And you know what you know.

And YOU are the guy
who'll decide where to go”

Oh, the Places You'll Go
by Dr. Seuss

*Thanks, Jane. It's a wonderful
calendar.*

Happy Mothers Day



APPRECIATION

- BEAUTIFUL
- BREAKFAST
- CANDY
- CHARMING
- COMFORT
- DEVOTED
- FLOWERS
- FORGIVING
- GIFTS

GUIDANCE

- HUGS
- JEWELRY
- JOY
- KISSES
- LAUGHTER
- LOVE
- MATERNAL

MOM

- MOTHER
- NURTURE
- PERFUME
- PROTECTIVE
- SHARE
- TELEPHONE
- TENDER

THE BEST

- WARM
- WISE

DIRECTIONS:
Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.