

“An Everlasting Joy”
By Pastor Bill Hayden
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To all you mothers and grandmothers, thank you for persevering in holding the flaming Torch of Hope to generations past, present, and future. You should have more than one day of celebration for all you do to make the world better by sharing your wisdom from God's Word.

So many sons and daughters have survived the abuse from brokenness and have become great parents because of their relationship with Christ. Being raised by a loving mother and father who have a relationship with the Lord, is a blessing to behold.

In every generation, mothers have endured the many challenges of keeping their families moving in the right direction. I think of the struggle that my single mother faced when left with seven children to care for without our father. I can't imagine what my past would have been like without the extended family that came alongside her. Today, it might be improbable to keep such a large family together as a single parent without outside help.

The first thing that comes to mind when I think about a great mother is her love for God. She recognizes her need for God's wisdom in planning her family's everyday needs. While her household is sound asleep, she is awake, meditating on the Lord and looking to the future. Sharing her wisdom enables the children to set boundaries and avoid trouble in life. She teaches them to love God and honor and respect those in authority. She makes her children feel secure even during duress and fills their stomachs with good things. She speaks words of encouragement to the children when they struggle in their attempts to succeed. My mother did not possess all these qualities, but she sought God's help.

We are privileged to hear from a phenomenal mother and grandmother during our Chapel service on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12. Pam Wood from New Evergreen Church, the former wife of the late Pastor Tim Wood, will give her testimony. Even in her loss, the love and joy of the Lord she possesses for others is infectious. Romans 14:17 NLT For, after all, the important thing for us as Christians is not what we eat or drink but stirring up goodness and peace and joy from the Holy Spirit. Celebrate with us on Mother's Day at the Villages Community Chapel in Cribari Auditorium and every Sunday at 10 a.m. to be encouraged over the Word of Life and enjoy coffee and cookies with friends. The chapel is a place for needs to be met, faith to be affirmed, and new friends to embrace. You can view our worship services on YouTube at [villagescommunitychape.vgcc.club](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvillagescommunitychape.vgcc.club)