

MINISTER'S Message

May 12, 2019

Honouring the Women in our Lives ...

Each May we celebrate Mother's Day - a day set aside to honour those women in our lives that have nurtured and cared for us, mentored us and helped us to become who we are. It has become quite a "hallmark" occasion, however historically, that's not what the day's original intent was.

Mother's Day was, originally, a day to promote global unity and peace. It arose following war time (specifically the American Civil War and Europe's Franco-Prussian War). The first Mothers' Peace Day was in 1872; Julia Ward Howe, who wrote "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," is credited with its beginnings. During that same time period, also in the US, Ann Reeves Jarvis was working on creating a day to honour women's role in building peace among soldiers and their mothers on opposing sides of the Civil War.

Both Julia Ward Howard and Ann Reeves Jarvis endeavored to encourage women's groups across the United States to take time together learning about the pursuit of peace. It was in the early 1900s that Jarvis' daughter, Anna, succeeded in getting the 2nd Sunday in May declared to be Mother's Day. She did this to remember her own mother, and to encourage people to honour their mothers.

Of course, that movement spread and now many countries celebrate the day.

It is wonderful to celebrate those women who have given our lives meaning, however, imagine what kind of world we could share if we reclaimed some of the original intent of the day. If you consider God's intention that we love one another, it follows that striving for peace in our world is one way to practise that call to love. So, let us honour the women in our lives, and let us do so by striving to build a more peaceful world to share with them!

In peace,

Rev. Tammy Allan

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