

¡Saludos en el nombre de Jesucristo!

My friends, today I want to remind you of two things and share something about Mother's Day.

First, I want to remind all of you of the special event that we're having this Sunday to raise money for our church mission projects. Stephanie Lovato's daughter's softball team, the Sundancers, is hosting a pulled pork Barbeque dinner after church in the fellowship hall, and they are generously splitting the profits with us. I hope you will come out and get a delicious plate of barbeque for only \$12. You can either pay by cash, check, or by using the Venmo QR-code that you can find on the attached flier. Please tell all your friends, and feel free to share the flier attached with everyone you know.

Second, I also want to remind you that on May 28, it will be time to honor all our graduates from the LPPC community. If you have a son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, nephew, niece or any other family member who is graduating from some kind of school this year, (yes, even if it's kindergarten), we would love to have them in attendance on May 28. But since I know that so many of these family members don't live close by, I invite you to share their names with me so that we can let our congregation celebrate their great achievement. If you would like to recognize someone special on May 28 who is graduating this spring, please send Karen or me an email, or give us a phone call by no later than **Thursday, May 25**. Thanks so much!

Finally, I turn to Mother's Day. For most of my career as a pastor, I have always looked forward to the Sunday when we celebrate Mother's Day. We are told in scripture to honor our mothers, and it is good to have a day to celebrate motherhood. But for most of my life, I never thought Mother's Day had much to do with a lot of the themes you hear me preach on, namely the themes of peacemaking, equality, and changing the world to make it more like the reign of God. But then, after Mother's Day last year, one of you shared an article from me by Heather Cox Richardson about the origins of Mother's Day. According to Richardson, Mother's Day isn't just a day to honor our mothers and wives. It actually began in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as an anti-war movement, when so many mothers felt that decisions about war were all being made by men. So, Mother's Day started as a chance for the mothers of the world to make their voices heard

when the men of the world were the ones making the decisions to send their sons off to slaughter. As Richardson writes “Mother’s Day was...part of women’s effort to gain power to change modern society.” Who knew? This Sunday as we celebrate mom, I hope you will remember that this is not just a day to thank mom for all she’s done, it is also a day to celebrate the empowerment of women, the value of peacemaking, and the desire to make our world a less violent place.

For our worship services this Sunday, our scripture readings will be Ezekiel 34: 1-6 and John 14: 15-21. My sermon will be titled “But When Were We Ever Consulted?”. I look forward to being with you either at 8:30am in the Upper Room or at 10:30am either in the sanctuary or over Zoom.

Blessings,

Pastor Rich