

## **WFWP USA: The Many Faces of Motherhood**

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Every year on the second Sunday in May, Mother's Day is celebrated. Advertisements everywhere encourage people to honor the mothers in their lives and rightfully so. Yet motherhood extends beyond biology. It lives in every person who nurtures, protects, guides, and loves with a mother's heart.

Motherhood isn't always defined by pregnancy or birth certificates. It sometimes shows up in adoption, fostering, and stepparenting. Others find it through mentorship, teaching, and spiritual guidance. And some fathers step into both roles after loss, learning to nurture alongside provision.

### **The Heart of Mothering**

What makes someone a mother isn't how a child came into their life, but what they give once they're there.

The sleepless nights.

The quiet sacrifices.

The persistence to keep showing up, even when exhausted. Seeing potential where others may see problems.

Offering patience when it would be easier to withdraw. Choosing love, again and again, in ordinary moments.

Mothering happens in classrooms where teachers invest in struggling students. In churches where spiritual mothers guide younger women. It shows up when aunts, grandmothers, and godmothers fill gaps left by circumstance - and when fathers learn to braid hair, dry tears, and teach strength and courage.

### **Holding Space for Grief**

Behind the celebrations, Mother's Day can also hold absence, loss, and complicated relationships. This day carries both gratitude and ache. The absence is real, and sitting with - and honoring - that grief matters just as much as celebrating presence.

If needed, mute the noise. Take time to process what the day feels like for you. Remember to extend yourself grace - grief is not linear, and some days will feel heavier than others. However this day shows up for you, lean into what feels right.

### **The Unseen Hearts**

Some of the most profound mothering goes unnoticed.

The foster mother who loves a child she may lose.

The stepmother trying to build relationships across complicated lines.

The single father learning tenderness and strength.

The spiritual mother praying for those she'll never meet.

The mentor who becomes family.

These hearts don't often get cards or flowers. Their sacrifice isn't always acknowledged. Yet their impact is immeasurable - shaping futures, restoring hope, filling spaces that might otherwise remain empty.

### **A Sacred Calling**

Motherhood takes many forms, but its essence remains: a steady, selfless love that nurtures life and shapes the future. To those who mother in visible and invisible ways, and to those carrying the weight of absence - you are seen. Happy Mother's Day!

### **Wisdom Thread**

Who has mothered you, whether or not she gave birth to you?

If this day brings grief, how can you honor both the loss and the love?

Where are you called to nurture and guide others?

### **Podcast Highlights**

Kaeleigh Moffitt: Family First, Leadership that Lasts

[open.spotify.com/episode/4mvCznZDouaWGRGgrFJu0o?si=xL37UW5IRkai0WpPQZ0aUQ](https://open.spotify.com/episode/4mvCznZDouaWGRGgrFJu0o?si=xL37UW5IRkai0WpPQZ0aUQ)

Rhia Luz Nkulu: Leading with Compassion, Rooted in Love

[open.spotify.com/episode/0UdFS4Ochj1VGyncEkB2Oj?si=mJw94rXYQxy3udCA3qW4JA](https://open.spotify.com/episode/0UdFS4Ochj1VGyncEkB2Oj?si=mJw94rXYQxy3udCA3qW4JA)