Traditionally, the Seymour Marine Discovery Center gives a living flower to every mom who visits on Mother’s Day. This year, craft a forever flower from the comfort of home. Forever flowers do not require water and will never wilt! A definite win-win.

**What you will need:**
- Parchment or wax paper
- White, paper coffee filters
- Pipe cleaners
- Scissors
- Washable markers
- Liquid glue (Elmer’s or a comparable glue will work best)
- Spray bottle filled with water

**Step 1:** Stack 4-6 coffee filters together. Fold the stack into quarters. Use your washable markers to create a design on the top quarter of your coffee filter stack. Use a small amount of pressure on the marker to get as much ink as possible on the filter. The more ink, the more vivid the flower will be.
Tip: Choose colors on the same side of the color wheel to avoid brown or muddying of colors in the next step.

Step 2: Place the colored coffee filters in a container with sides. Using the spray bottle, lightly spray the coffee filters with water until the colors bleed together. After spraying, lightly press on the coffee filter with your fingers to ensure the colors have bled all the way through. Tip: No spray bottle? Use a spoon to slowly drizzle water directly on the coffee filter. Be careful not to completely drench the filter!

Step 3: While the coffee filters are still wet and folded, cut out the shape of your petals. You can cut them into lobes, straight lines, or triangles. Follow the green lines for examples; the pattern is up to you!

Step 4: Unfold the coffee filters and place on a sheet of parchment or wax paper to dry. Tip: To speed up the drying process, carefully separate the coffee filters from one another and lay
individually. Additionally, try placing in the sun or using a hair dryer (carefully, so the filters don’t blow away!).

Step 5: Once the coffee filters are fully dry, poke a hole with the pipe cleaner through the middle of a coffee filter. Twist a small spiral into the top of the pipe cleaner to secure the coffee filter.

Step 6: Dot a small amount of glue around the pipe cleaner twisted spiral, and push the sides of the coffee filter together. This will be the center of the flower.

Step 7: Using the other end of the pipe cleaner, poke a hole through the next coffee filter and slide it up to the base of the previous coffee filter. Add a small amount of glue to help it keep its shape, and press it up against the first coffee filter. Repeat this step until you are out of coffee filters.
Step 8: Gently lay the flower down on a flat surface until the glue dries.

**Tip:** To make the stem stronger, wrap a second pipe cleaner around the original stem.

Make a single flower, or make a bouquet!

Have fun, and have a happy Mother’s Day!