



Expect the Unexpected by Tricia Bergey

In the summer of 2017, my husband, Dale, and I spoke to Bethany Birches campers on the theme of "Expect the Unexpected." Our preparation and study were memorable as I saw how God was with His people in many, many unexpected events recorded in the Bible. Unexpected things happened in 2017, and they have continued since that summer. But what is it like for you to expect unexpected events?

I'm reading through Genesis now, and this past week read the Lord's announcement to Abraham and Sarah that Sarah will have a son. That certainly qualified as an unexpected event, and Sarah's response to hearing the news was to laugh to herself at the thought of having a child in her old age! The Lord knew her response and said, "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" (Genesis 18:14).

As July of this year neared, Dale and I reflected on last July. Ever since we moved into our home in Telford in 1994, I wanted to live there the rest of our lives. We built the house, so we had a lot of great memories of that project that involved family and friends. I became quite content in our home and neighborhood. I didn't even like imagining being required to move to another house; the thought overwhelmed and saddened me.

In recent years, I realized that I was looking at our house differently than I had previously. I was more able to identify with holding loosely to the things that I liked in this world. There was an early season of my married life that I had some discontentment that brought me discouragement. God replaced that with the joy of a contented life. How have I lived my contented life? Was my contentment at home now preventing me from considering anything that would call me away from that place? Jesus taught us that where our treasure is our heart will also be (Matthew 6:21).

In the spring of 2023, a very unexpected turn of events happened in my life. As I said, my thoughts had begun to change. After a conversation followed by prayer and thought, we offered to sell our house to our son and daughter-in-law and began the search for a new place to call home. We did not have any plan, but God showed us that He did. Even in this life event that was never part of "our plan," we became in awe of God. This resulted in times of searching for words to describe how it all transpired, and we were filled with emotions that evoked tears when explaining it to everyone who was dumbfounded by our surprise decision to sell our home and move to an unknown place.

God will be with you wherever you are, and He wants your living space to be a home where His Spirit dwells. He can replace what you cherish with new, special touches...and sometimes He provides what you surrender or give up. There are many unknowns in our lives on this earth. God provided me with many unexpected things in our new home such as a view of sunsets, some favorite flowers, and the friendship of new neighbors. Our church family is learning in our study of Hebrews that when we live for Jesus, we are being called to something better.

Lord, help us to be content with what we have, but do not let our contentment cause us to miss an opportunity to introduce someone to You and to trust You. Amen

August 2024



WOMEN'S MINISTRY MISSION STATEMENT: Encouraging women to connect in deeper, genuine relationships both with each other and with Jesus Christ.



Making Connections

Meet **Lois Linsinbigler**.

Thank you, Spice Ministry, for allowing me to share my story.

I grew up in Hatfield. My parents were Henry and Marian Mann. I have three brothers and two sisters. I was raised in a Christian home. My family went to Bethany Bible Fellowship church in Hatfield. I accepted the Lord as My Savior at Bethany. A missionary was speaking at the church that morning. She asked if anyone would like to ask the Lord into their heart. I raised my hand and accepted the Lord. I was only nine years old. Then when I was 14 years old, I was baptized.



I graduated from North Penn High School in 1977. From there I attended a Bible School in East Providence, Rhode Island. I majored in Christian Education. The Bible School was only for three years. I transferred to Central Bible College and finished my Christian Education major with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Christian Education. My desire was to be an Elementary School Teacher, so I continued my education at Evangel College. I graduated in 1984 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. Years later, I attended Gwynedd-Mercy College with a Masters in Reading Specialist.

After college, I began teaching. I taught in several Christian Schools and at a Charter School in Philadelphia. I also spent many years teaching Sunday School and co-led a Girl's Ministry at Family Worship Center in Lansdale. I retired in December 2022 from teaching school.

In 1988, I had my daughter, Faith, and she has been such a blessing in my life!

I met my husband, Harry, in 2011. We married the following year on October 5, 2012. We have had our ups and downs, but through it all, we still love each other. The Lord has blessed our marriage. We have a wonderful family and three precious grandchildren.

Harry and I began coming to Franconia Mennonite Church in July 2020. We met Pastor Larry and started to attend Celebrate Recovery. We became members of Franconia in the spring of 2021.

I enjoy spending time with my family. I just finished teaching my first year of Sunday School at Franconia, and I absolutely love it. Since I retired, I started crocheting again; it was a hobby I started years ago but struggled to keep it up while I taught school. I also love to watch Hallmark movies.

Franconia Mennonite Church is a wonderful church. Each Sunday the pastors bring a message that teaches and challenges us. We are so happy to be part of this congregation.

My favorite verse is Lamentations 3:22-23, 25: "The faithful love of the Lord never ends. His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning. The Lord is good to those who depend on him, to those who search for him."



Get Involved!



**Sept. 13-15, 2024
Women's Retreat
at
Spruce Lake
Canadensis, PA**

Alisa Childers, speaker

- Former CCM recording artist with the Dove award-winning group ZOEgirl
 - Investigated her doubts about faith
- Now she's a Christian apologist, and wrote the recent book, "Deconstructing Christianity: What It Is, Why It's Destructive, and How to Respond."

Cristabelle Braden, worship leader

- Award-winning singer/songwriter, speaker, writer, podcast host and brain-injury advocate.
- Her songs express her own healing process through brain trauma, invoking resilience and hope!

If you are interested in attending the retreat with others from Franconia Mennonite Church, email franconiawomen@gmail.com ASAP.

A memory verse from Hebrews 4:16: "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Other Upcoming Activities

Sewing Circle

Tuesday, August 13
8 AM – 4 PM

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesday, August 13 at 7 PM



CONTACT US: franconiawomen@gmail.com

Women's Ministry Co-Chairs: Gail Reinford & Sydney Leaman
Team Members: Janet Derstine, Julie Stitt, Charity Veltre, & Heidi Yoder,