

March 2020



THE SPICE

A taste of what's happening for women.

Jesus Loves Me by Carol Landis

“One thing I know in the midst of all this,” she said, “is that Jesus loves me. This is the core of my beliefs; it is what I go back to.” This simple, confident statement of faith made decades ago by a close friend, continues to challenge and encourage me. She spoke these words during a time where she felt bombarded by conflicting beliefs among the very persons who had been instrumental in shaping her faith.

I recognize this may not seem a theological lightbulb moment. It may even feel trite. Like a part of our childhood, linked to the familiar children’s song: *Yes, Jesus love me, yes Jesus loves me, yes Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so.** In fact, my 2-year-old granddaughter sang those very words to me last week while driving in the car.

But what if we moved this simple truth from basic knowledge and applied it to life’s circumstances? What happens when we bring this truth into our difficulties? Those places in our lives where we just can’t feel the presence of Jesus. Into the heart wrenching discoveries, great losses, seemingly justifiable fears for the future? Into tough places of disagreement. What if we allowed this simple fact to transform our perspectives in every situation? Could it bring a place of shared belief to disagreements? Is there potential to be gleaned from my friend’s foundation that would completely transform one’s outlook? Can we refocus and see the messy stuff of life as an opportunity to receive the power of Ephesians 3:18-19? *“To grasp how wide and long and deep is the love of Christ... that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”* Not filled with ourselves, or our fears, rather filled with the fullness of God.

Because Jesus loves me, I am never alone. Because Jesus’ love is with me, I can depend on the strength of my Omnipotent Heavenly Father. When I value Jesus’ love for me above all other desires (even desires for another’s love), I will experience security and stability. Because Jesus love is so basic all can grasp it - it is like the dandelion that shows up on city sidewalks *and* the lawn of country clubs. It can be received by everyone who touches my life. Such a belief, as confidently sang by my little granddaughter, is transforming. When fully accepted and completely owned this love can compel us to place Jesus’ love for us, and our reciprocating love for Him, above everything else. This is contagious.

*Women’s Ministry Mission Statement:
Encouraging women to connect in
deeper, genuine relationships
both with each other
and with Jesus Christ*



THE WORD

And I pray that you being rooted and established in love, may have power together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

(Ephesians 3:17b-19, NIV).

Think About It

When the truth that Jesus loves me transforms my life – it is contagious.

Women’s Ministry Contact:
Carol Landis
franconiawomen@gmail.com

**Written by Wm. B. Bradbury*



Prayer Shawl Ministry

by Linda Landis

Our prayer shawl ministry was started in 2005 by Bev Ehst (wife of Pastor John Ehst). If we wanted to participate, we were supposed to bring size 11 or 13 knitting needles. The church supplied the yarn. Nineteen ladies showed up the first night. We had some older experienced knitters and some younger ladies that wanted to learn or who were just learning. Our pattern was a shawl 25 inches

wide and 60 inches long. We cast on 57 stitches, then knitted 3 and purled 3 to the end of the row. The pattern of 3's has significance. Birth, life, death; past, present, future; body, mind, spirit; faith, hope, love; the Trinity (Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer), and the 3 attributes of God: Omnipotence, Omnipresence, Omniscience. These significant facets of three's are among others noted on the www.shawlministry.com website. Some of the new knitters knitted the whole shawl, and did not purl. When we were done with our shawls, we put fringes on the ends. Some of the shawls looked a little different from the others because they had extra stitches added on or a stitch dropped. Our leader Bev said, *"Our lives are not perfect so it's ok if our prayer shawls are not perfect."* Bev had a list of names to make prayer shawls for, and we picked a name and the color yarn we wanted to use and prayed for them as we knitted our prayer shawl. The first shawl I knitted was for Sandy Freed. [I picked her because knew her from working in the church library together.] After all the names were used, we kept on knitting and put those prayer shawls in the church office closet for the care team to distribute.

In 2019 we were down to 1 knitter. Joann Moyer requested we start another class. Kristi Wile, Tiffany Landis and myself started a class which met at Alda Kratz's to knit and crochet prayer shawls.

We are still knitting and crocheting prayer shawls. We meet at **Marilyn Halteman's – 551 Bergey Road, Telford – every Tuesday evening from 7:00-8:30**. She has plenty of parking and a big kitchen table so everyone is invited. There are 4 or 5 regulars, and some come and get yarn and knit at home because Tuesday night does not work into their schedule. **All you need is size 11 or 13 needles or a K crochet hook.** We'd love to have you join us!



Current active knitters/crochets of our prayer shawls are: Barb Moyer, Bronwyn Leister, Debbie Schultz, Kalyn Gouldey, Karen Landis, Kelsy Weaver, Linda Landis, Marilyn Halteman, Tonya Ripka

What's Happening for Women

Ladies BUNCO NIGHT



Make plans now to come and join in the fun!

Thursday March 19th at 6:30 pm

You don't have to bring anything.

No cost involved. You don't even have to know how to play BUNCO. We will teach you! (It's a very easy dice game.) We promise a night of laughter and fun!

Light refreshments will be served.

Please **sign up at the Women's Ministry table in the church foyer. (Or let someone on the Women's Ministry team know you plan to attend.)

Bible Memory Challenge

- Choose a scripture
- Memorize/meditate on it for a month
- Share your experience with other women
- Starts in April
- If interested in participating, contact Carol Landis at franconiawomen@gmail.com

You're Invited

Sat March 21
9:00 to noon



Franconia Mennonite Church ~
Franconiamomsmarket@gmail.com
FREE ADMISSION ~ Bake Sale

Attention Mothers of Preschoolers:

Kathy Wenger's home is open to you on
Thursday, March 26th
6:30-8:30 pm.

Join other women in the same stage of life as you to relax and chat. We always have a good time whenever we gather!

Come and go when it suits you best.

Infants are welcome.

You may contact Kathy by email @

kathywenger@gmail.com or

by text @ 717-519-7180.

Address: 8 Rosy Ridge Court, Telford.

Conference Gathering:

Women of Remarkable Faith

(and the issues they face)

Saturday March 28

9am-3pm

(See bulletin board by library for more details)

Project of the Month:

Yard Goods (3 yds. or more) - (Used for comforters)

Place your donations in the basket outside the library

March

A Taste of What's Happening for Women

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Prayer Shawls 7-8:30pm		Gideon Bible Study 9:15-10:45am		Frolic Food 4:30-6pm Auction 6:30pm
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		Sewing Circle 8am-3pm Prayer Shawls 7-8:30pm		Gideon Bible Study 9:15-10:45am Uninvited Bible Study 7:00-9:00pm		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Prayer Shawls 7-8:30pm		Gideon Study 9:15-10:45am Bunco Night 6:30pm Uninvited Study 7:00-9:00pm		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		Knotting Comforters 8am-3pm Prayer Shawls 7-8:30pm		Gideon Study 9:15-10:45am MOPS 6:30-8:30pm Uninvited Study 7:00-9:00pm		
29	30	31				
		Prayer Shawls 7-8:30pm				

Contact for more information

Women's Ministry email: franconiawomen@gmail.com

Carol Landis 215-723-2981 caroldanlandis@gmail.com

Gail Reinford 267-372-2168 kgreinford@comcast.net

Janet Derstine 215-723-7413 bjderstine@verizon.net

Janet Crawford 215-721-1325 writemejc@gmail.com

Jill Fallon 610-287-3501 bnjfallon@verizon.net

Julie Kratz 717-525-3040 jskratz@gmail.com

Julie Stitt 610-287-7688 sjstitt1@verizon.net