



A God-Infused Love by Carol Landis

Recently I leafed through a book I inherited from my Mininger grandparents, entitled *Coals of Fire*. Highlighting a Romans 12:20 kind of love, this book is a compilation of true stories, many dating back to the Revolutionary War and World War One. One story, "Pastor John," stood out to me.

Pastor John Franz was forcibly taken from a school business meeting with the intent to hang him. As the situation unfolded, he noticed the sheriff and district attorney were a part of this group, and he reminded them that he was an American citizen. At this they took him to jail to await trial. The accusations against him were his refusal to buy war bonds and his German heritage. In addition to conscientiously objecting to participate in war.

While the persecution this pastor endured for his faith is hard to fathom, it was the conclusion that felt a challenge to apply to my life today. Years after this incident, a car stopped while he was cutting grain. When the driver asked Mr. Franz if he remembered him, he said: "Why yes I do. How could I forget you? You were one of the twelve men who tried to hang me!" The driver admitted he was, then said: "'I have come to ask a hard thing of you. Will you forgive me for the great wrong I did to you and your family?' Suddenly the fields seemed very quiet. John remembered: ...a rope, a lonely tree, bleak walls of a prison cell, a court room. Could he forgive? John reached out his hand with a smile. "I forgive you from my heart," he said.

During this season of celebrating love, let's be mindful to love as God loved us. And continues to love us. Sometimes it is hard. A difficult co-worker, boss, disgruntled or careless employee. Harsh or unkind words or actions, intentionally or unintentionally, from a friend, family member or spouse. At these times we need to depend on our Father and ask for His help and His love. *Humanly, we don't have the capacity to forgive and love unconditionally, but when we allow God's perfect love to flow through us, we are infused with His love.* Mr. Franz's honest response seems a lesson. Yes, it hurt; I remember. Yet as one loved and forgiven by God, I can do no less.

"Dear friends, let us love one another; for love is from God."

(1 John 4:7a, NIV)

[*"Coals of Fire,"* by Elizabeth Hershberger Bauman]

February 2021



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



Making Connections

Meet Our Brides...



Mattea Ruth and **Jordan Alderfer**. Mattea and I met each other back in high school through mutual friends. We became close friends after high school, and started dating in August, 2017. In 2019, I graduated from Elizabethtown College and Mattea graduated from Kutztown University. I am currently working as an analyst for an insurance consulting company, and Mattea is an elementary school art teacher. In September, 2020, I proposed and the wedding planning started. We are getting married this summer and are looking forward to what God has planned for our future together.



Jenna Landis and **John (JC) Wenger**.

JC and I met while serving on summer staff at Camp Hebron in Halifax, Pa. During the summer of 2019, JC served as the camp nurse while I was the Day Camp Director. We became good friends throughout the summer and continued to deepen our relationship after the conclusion of the summer. Though dating has had its challenges through a shut down and social distancing, we have been able to find ways to connect and get to know one another more. We got engaged this past August while touring Hershey gardens with some close friends we share. JC is a nurse at Lancaster General Hospital and I am teaching 3rd grade this year at Dock Academy. We are planning to get married this June at the Historic Stonebrook Farm in Perkasie and look forward to the ways God will continue to guide and lead us in our future together.





What's Happening for Women

Come join us for a night of fun!



When: Thursday, February 25
7-9pm

Where: Upper Fellowship Hall

What: A fun time playing Bingo with other women (no money, for fun only)

*Bottled water and prepackaged snacks will be provided

Please **Sign Up** at the Women's Ministry Table in the foyer, or by emailing franconiawomen@gmail.com

(Masks must be worn when arriving, but may be removed when seated, socially distanced)

- **Sewing Circle:** Feb. 9&10 (contact Janet Derstine 215-723-7413)
- **Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Feb. 9&23 (contact Linda Landis 215-799-0190)
- **Walks in the Park** will be starting up again in March!



Bethany Birches Camp is in need of premade food for their winter programs because of the lack of kitchen volunteers due to the pandemic. Check the midweek email for the sign up link and bring to the church office for transport to Bethany Birches camp by February 10th.

Attention Mothers of Preschoolers:

Do your kiddos have a lot of extra energy?

Come join friends for a morning of fun!

Tuesday, February 9, 11-12:00a.m.

In the Upper Fellowship

Bring your riding toys & Bikes

Story time & Craft will also be part of the fun 😊



Bible Study opportunity

"Free of Me"

By Sharon Hodde Miller

Our culture emphasizes becoming the best "me" I can be, but being "me-centered" negatively impacts our friendships, family, self-image, and even our faith. This study invites us into a bigger, Jesus-centered vision and equips us to focus on God and others rather than ourselves.

**This is a 6-session virtual RightNow Media study. You can participate from the comfort of your home! Each week a link will be emailed to you, which will allow you to join the discussion group and watch the video together.

Start date: February 16th

Time: 8:15-9:15pm

Facilitator: Julie Kratz

Sign up or questions: email franconiawomen@gmail.com

February 2021

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT		
	1	2	3	4	5	6		
7	8	Sewing Circle 8am-4pm Mommy & Me 11am-12pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm	Sewing Circle 8am-4pm BBC food deadline	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
Valentine's Day		Free of Me Bible Study 8:15pm						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27		
		Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm Free of Me Study 8:15pm		 7-9pm				
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CONTACT US: franconiawomen@gmail.com

Carol Landis | 215-723-2981 | caroldanlandis@gmail.com
 Gail Reinford | 267-372-2168 | kgreinfeld@comcast.net
 Janet Derstine | 215-723-7413 | bjderstine2@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



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