



Knowing the Joy by Carol Landis

A conference-wide leadership retreat at Spruce Lake Retreat Center was my introduction to the high ropes course. While there were group activities to help us recognize and develop leadership qualities, the high ropes course felt more personal.

I have many fond (and fun!) memories of that weekend Dan and I spent with Franconia's young adults, however it's the lesson from the high ropes that still surfaces decades later. Harnessed to a safety belt, we were asked to walk across a 40-foot cable, suspended possibly 10-12 feet above the ground, by grasping a string of vertical ropes. These were attached to a higher rope, and placed 5-6 feet apart across that 40-foot span. The young woman before me stood long at the beginning spot explicitly stating her fear, and that she just couldn't do it. Then slowly, continuing to voice her fears, she inched then stopped, inched then stopped, all across 40-foot span to the very end. When it was my turn, I followed the instructions, and walked, well *no, ran* across. My turn on the high ropes, was, and remains a blur. One of our group compared me to a squirrel. I laughed, but did note the comment. Although I did not recognize it, fear controlled me too.

It took years to connect those actions with my response to fear, or even uncomfortableness. Unlike the woman before me, all I learned about dealing with these emotions, was that I block and plow through. I did not realize the ramifications of blocking. Nor did I realize that bad coping mechanisms become entrenched, robbing one of joy.

Blocking emotion is not how Jesus addressed His great fear of being crucified (Matt. 26:36-44). Neither did it paralyze Him. Jesus showed us the way to walk through fear with God. He stated his feelings to his disciples (v.38), then honestly asked His Father to remove the final climatic ending of His purpose on earth (our Savior prayed the same prayer three times!), yet he surrendered to The Father's plan (v.39, 42, 44).

While it may not have been "pretty," I still recall my fellow high-ropes participant's extreme joy at the finish. As Alana encouraged us last month, let's allow God's light to guide us (Micah 7:8). Let's follow our Savior's lead. Then we can emerge from fear's grip knowing the joy of walking through life with Him.

"Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:2b). That's why we can celebrate Resurrection Sunday!

April 2021





Making Connections

Hi, my name is Helen Eastburn. I am new to Franconia Mennonite Church, serving as the Director of Worship and Music since November of 2020. I am honored to be able to share a little bit about myself and look forward to getting to know many of you better in the future.

I grew up in Harrisonburg, Virginia with my loving parents and an older brother and sister. We attended Weavers Mennonite Church in Harrisonburg, where I was baptized and came to know God as my personal Lord and Savior. I attended Eastern Mennonite High School for middle and high school. During my growing up years, I enjoyed music, crafting, being outdoors, and spending time with my family. My entire family was very involved in our church, playing on worship teams, serving as Sunday school teachers and in the nursery, and my dad was even my youth pastor for a couple of years. I always enjoyed being involved and grew to love and appreciate music of various styles as a beautiful form of worshiping our God.

After graduating high school in 2009 I attended Messiah College to study Vocal Performance. One of the highlights from college was participating in a summer music ministry team called New Light for two different summers. It was a small music ensemble of 6 or 7 people that traveled around the east coast all summer performing concerts and leading worship at youth camps, revivals, nursing homes, and churches. After completing my first summer of New Light, I realized more than ever before that I had a strong desire to be in music ministry as opposed to music performance. I decided I'd rather be involved in leading music for the glory of God, rather than performing for my own glory. So I followed God's call and changed my major to Church Music.

Another highlight of my college days was meeting my husband, Jon. He was also a music major, and we often stood next to each other in choir. We were good friends for several years, but by the time he was about to graduate, we realized we were more than that. After I graduated in 2013, we got married in July. Two days later we moved to the Dominican Republic where we taught music at a Christian school there for a little over 2 years. We loved our time there, bonding as newlyweds, learning a new culture and finding our way! We returned to PA in 2015 to be closer to family and have been in this area ever since.

In 2016 we welcomed our first daughter, Selah into the world, and I became "full time mommy." In 2018, our second daughter Norah was born. We feel so blessed to have been given the gift of these two precious little ones. Sometimes the days seem long, but the years are flying by!

I am humbled that the Lord has brought me to Franconia Mennonite Church to serve here. I truly believe the Lord is at work here and I am just blessed to be a witness to it.

One of my favorite verses is from Psalm 66:13, "Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell you what He has done for my soul." The Lord has truly done so much for me and my family, and I am continually blown away by His provision, His perfect timing, and His constant grace toward me and His people.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God." Colossians 3:16





What's Happening for Women

New Bible Study Opportunity:

"The Battle Plan for Prayer"

by Stephen & Alex Kendrick (connected with the movie "The WarRoom")

8 week study - video series with optional workbook

Facilitators - Doris Diener and Reenie Hoover

Starting: Monday, April 12, @ 7:00 pm

Sign up at Women's Ministry table in foyer or contact Doris (lddiener@gmail.com or 941-224-2814) or Reenie (grhoover5@gmail.com or 215-808-1703)

Mommy & Me Playdate
Join us for fun and games in the UFH!
Thursday, April 8, 11:00am
RSVP at
4kids@franconiamennonite.org

Want to fellowship with other ladies while getting some fresh air and exercise?
Come join us for a

Walk in the Park

**Tuesday, April 13 & 27
6:30pm**

at Franconia Park
(meet near the Pavilion
at the Allentown Rd. entrance)

Walk for however long you want.
You are welcome to invite your daughters and friends.
No signups necessary.

We hope to see you there!



Looking for a special outing and time of refreshment?

Ladies' Tea

*April 24th
9:00-11:00 am*

In the Upper Fellowship Hall

*A brunch will be served
(following Covid guidelines)
Suggested donation: \$10*



Stay tuned for more program details!

Sign up at the Women's Ministry table in the foyer

April 2021

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
					Good Friday Service 7pm	
Easter He is Risen! Sunrise Service 6:30am Easter Service 10:15am	4	5	6	7	8	9
			Wed. Night Bible Study 7pm	Mommy & Me Playdate 11am		10
11	12	Sewing Circle 8am-4pm Walk in the Park 6:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm	13	Sewing Circle 8am-4pm Wed. Night Bible Study 7pm	14	15
16	17					
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
			Wed. Night Bible Study 7pm			Ladies' Tea 9-11am 
25	26	27	28	29	30	
		Walk in the Park 6:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm	Wed. Night Bible Study 7pm			

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