



## Should I buy it? By Katie Brubaker

"[Recently] I have felt very confronted by my own wealth" (see the story of the rich young ruler in Luke 18:18-30) "and how easy it is to spend money on stuff I don't need. I asked myself how I could make practical changes in my daily living. I decided I wanted to create a system that decreased my own consumption, but also redirected the money that I spend to those who need it. So, I made a flow chart." 😊 ([Pictured on page 3](#))

How did Katie come up with this chart? She says, "I was thinking a lot about how much I have in comparison to most of the world. The response to that can be to just feel overwhelmed and paralyzed by guilt, or it can be to say, *Ok, that's the situation - now how can I be a good steward of what I have?* So I created this chart to help myself do that. It's a pretty subjective system in that you can kind of make it give you different answers based on how you think about things. That was intentional. I wanted it to be something that forced me to think about what I'm purchasing and what good those purchases are doing for me and for others. Money is such a huge component of our lives, so how do we really honor God with our spending?"

"There are three main questions I wanted the chart to address. The first is, how can I serve others with my spending? It starts with the question, "Can I thrift it or buy it fair trade?" because if I can purchase things from those places, my money doesn't just purchase a product for me, it also directly benefits people in need. In starting there, every time I make a purchase, I acknowledge those in the world who have less, and I create the opportunity to give to those in need.

"Secondly, I wanted to ask how can I address waste, excess, and over consumption? I asked myself the following questions: Do I need it? Will I use it regularly? Will I use it up? Do I have enough of this thing already? Is what I have good enough?"

"The last thing is a little harder to pin down, but I wanted to make sure I created space in the system for thinking about what value purchasing something adds to my life. For example, maybe I don't need to go to a coffee shop and spend more money on coffee when I have some at my house that I know is fair trade and won't come in a single use plastic cup. But I wanted to acknowledge that there is real value in going out to coffee. That's why you will see the question, *Does it support someone or something who needs it?* Because maybe that 'something' is your marriage or your family. So, in moderation, sometimes we make purchases because they are joy giving or relationship building.

"When I filter my purchases through this system, sometimes I end up spending less because I buy something second hand or I decide I don't need it at all. Other times, I spend more because ethical items are more expensive. It's not about spending less; it's about spending with intention."

May 2021 |





# Making Connections

My name is **Kara Detweiler**, and I have been attending Franconia Mennonite Church since 2004 with my husband Anthony Detweiler, who grew up at Franconia. My parents are Mark and Carolyn Derstine, and I have a sister, Trina Landis, who also attends Franconia with her family.

I grew up attending Blooming Glen Mennonite Church where my dad was the pastor for many years and was baptized there at age 16. Growing up as a pastor's kid was a great experience for me. We were always involved in church life and had a great church community. I also had incredible godly grandparents, Harold and Myrtle Mininger, who encouraged me in my faith and were models of serving others and following Christ's example.

I went to Penn View Christian School and Christopher Dock High School. My favorite teacher, Mr. Derstine, encouraged me in one of my passions which is music. At CD I was involved in choir, orchestra, and band. Through music, mainly choir, I found I was able to express my faith in ways that I cannot with words. In high school, I started working at Landis' Supermarket in Telford, where I met Anthony who also worked there. We started dating at 16 and have been together ever since! Anthony and I both attended Messiah College where I majored in nursing. My time at Messiah was a great experience in meeting people from other walks of faith. We graduated from Messiah in 2004 and were married in July.

In September 2004 I started as a pediatric nurse at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in the surgery/trauma unit. My coworkers and patients were so different from people I usually surrounded myself with, and it was a big adjustment. It certainly opened my eyes up to the world and also helped to strengthen my faith through different experiences. Our son, Chase, was born July 10, 2010, at which time I stopped working to be a full time Mom. Being his Mom makes me smile every day! In 2018, I went back to work and am now the Nurse Manager at Penridge Pediatric Associates.



When Anthony and I were married, we discussed where to attend church. At the time, Blooming Glen didn't have a very active post-high group like Franconia did, and we felt more connection to Franconia. This was a great decision. We have felt such love and friendship from Franconia and have found a home here for us and for Chase. I have been able to use my musical gifts being a part of worship teams, choirs, and serving on the Worship Ministry Team. Recently we have been putting our time into being youth sponsors with the Sr. High, where we are finishing up our 4th and last year with a trip to Alaska. Being a youth sponsor has been such an incredible experience for our family, it is hard to put into words.

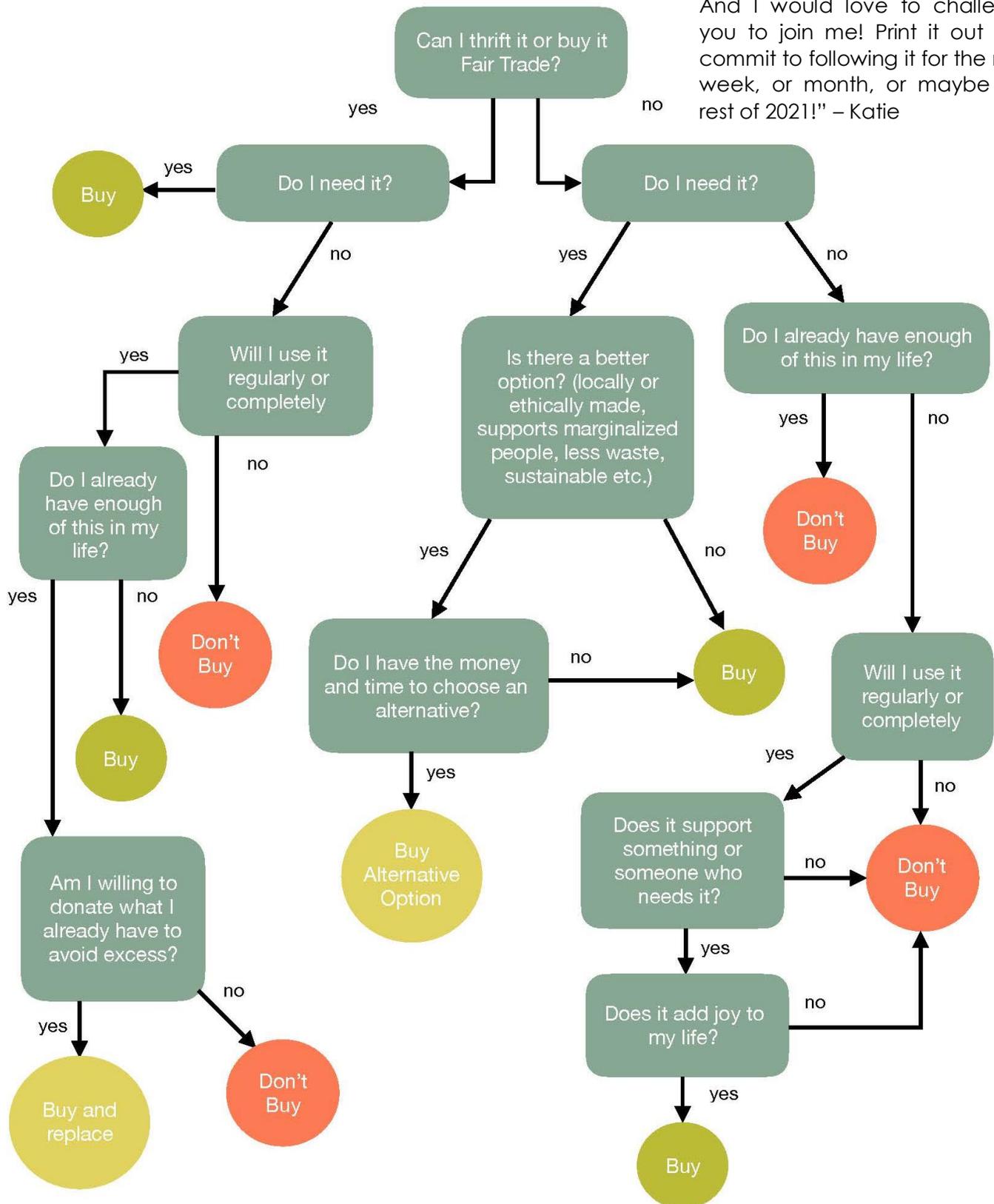
One of my favorite verses is Philippians 4:4-7, *"Rejoice in the Lord always, I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all! The Lord is near! Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."*



(Continued from page 1)  
Chart created by Katie Brubaker

"Sometimes we feel convicted but don't know where to start. I wanted this to be a useful tool for creating practical change in my life without feeling overwhelmed. And I would love to challenge you to join me! Print it out and commit to following it for the next week, or month, or maybe the rest of 2021!" – Katie

## SHOULD I BUY IT ?





# What's Happening for Women

Join us for fellowship, fresh air, and exercise!

## Walk in the Park Tuesday, May 11 & 25 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!



## Let's take a Stroller Stroll!

Friday, May 14  
10:00 am  
Forest Meadow Park



Save the Date: **Comforter Blitz July 13-14**

## Ladies' Tea pictures



*A BIG thank you  
from Keystone  
Opportunity Center  
for the items donated  
at the Ladies' Tea!  
We collected over 135  
lbs. of products.*



# May 2021

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3 Battle Plan for Prayer study 7pm	4 Sewing Circle 8am-4pm	5 Mommy & Me playdate 11am	6	7	8
9	10 Battle Plan for Prayer study 7pm	11 Sewing Circle 8am-4pm Walk in the Park 6:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm	12 Sewing Circle 8am-4pm	13	14 Stroller Stroll 10am	15
16	17 Battle Plan for Prayer study 7pm	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 Battle Plan for Prayer study 7pm	25 Sewing Circle 8am-4pm Walk in the Park 6:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## CONTACT US: [franconiawomen@gmail.com](mailto:franconiawomen@gmail.com)

Carol Landis | 215-723-2981 | [caroldanlandis@gmail.com](mailto:caroldanlandis@gmail.com)

Gail Reinford | 267-372-2168 | [kgreinford@comcast.net](mailto:kgreinford@comcast.net)

Janet Derstine | 215-723-7413 | [bjderstine2@gmail.com](mailto:bjderstine2@gmail.com)

Jill Fallon | 610-287-3501 | [bnjfallon@verizon.net](mailto:bnjfallon@verizon.net)

Julie Kratz | 717-525-3040 | [jskratz@gmail.com](mailto:jskratz@gmail.com)

Julie Stitt | 610-287-7688 | [sjstitt1@verizon.net](mailto:sjstitt1@verizon.net)



**THE SPICE**