



Give Careful Thought By Julie Kratz

The repeated phrase, "Give careful thought," stuck out to me as I read the book of Haggai in the Old Testament. After being in exile, some of the Jews had returned to their homes and begun rebuilding their former lives. But when they started to rebuild the temple, they faced opposition and were ordered to stop, so they gave up the project. Years passed and they continued to build their homes and make their lives comfortable once more, but they did not attempt to work on the temple anymore.

Then God sent the prophet Haggai to them. He said, "Give careful thought to your ways" (1:5,7) Is it right that you are living in comfort, spending all your time attending to your own wants and needs, while God's temple is neglected? (1:4) He urged them to consider whether this was pleasing to God, and told them that God wanted them to rebuild his temple so that he would be honored (1:8). Haggai didn't give any room for the argument that they had been ordered to stop building, or that they were facing opposition. He told them they needed to do what was right in God's sight, no matter what people might say or do. They had chosen comfort and security over honoring God, but Haggai pointed out that the land was not producing crops for them because God was not pleased with them. True comfort and security come from honoring God.

The people responded by obeying the voice of the Lord because they feared him (1:12), and God encouraged them to be strong and work their hardest because his Spirit was with them just as it had been so many years earlier when he led them out of Egypt. God also promised that he would bless them (2:19) and grant them peace (2:9).

Again and again Haggai urged the people to carefully consider if the way they were living was pleasing to God. What about us? Are we giving careful thought to our ways? Are there areas in our lives where we are living in comfort and neglecting to honor God? Are there things we know we should do to honor God, but we allow the fear of what others might think or do keep us from them? Do we recognize that striving to do well in the world's eyes does not result in the peace and security we hope for, and that only obedience to Holy God will lead to future blessing?

Together, let's challenge ourselves this month to give careful thought to the way we live and the decisions we make. And as we seek to obediently honor God, let's look forward to him blessing us with his peace!

October 2022



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



Making Connections

My name is **Emilie Presthus**; my husband, Rob, just recently started serving as one of the pastors here at Franconia. I was born and raised in Marseille, France where my parents started serving as missionaries nearly 33 years ago. I grew up as what is called a “third culture kid” – a term used to describe children who spend their formative years in places that are not their parents' homeland. I grew up bi-culturally: at home, life was in English, but everywhere else, life was in French.

France is an extremely secular country. Every year in school, I was the only student in my class to go to church. I got made fun of a lot for my faith by peers and teachers at school – that was hard. It forced me to decide at a very young age, however, what I believed and what I was going to stand up for. My faith grew stronger as a result. It has truly shaped who I am today. My parents and my local church played a vital role in showing me that faith is not just something that happens on Sunday mornings – faith is lived out all day, every day, wherever you are.

I attended college at Pepperdine University, in California. Despite many real challenges (this was the first time I ever lived in the States, I was 9 time zones away from my parents, smart phones weren't a thing yet), I grew so much in my faith and learned a lot about myself. My faith became my own in a new way. I remember saying to myself, “I need to decide who I want to be here... Where should I make friends? Who do I want them to know me as?”



The best thing that happened while at Pepperdine was meeting Rob! We became friends very early on but didn't start dating until junior year. We both moved to Marseille after graduation in 2014 and got married in 2016. We became very involved in the life of the church and I experienced the transition from “kid” to “adult” in the church I had grown up in. Rob and I enjoyed leading the Young Adult and worship ministries together and participating in the life of the church. Ever since we met, doing ministry together has always been something that we have enjoyed and thrive on.

I also enjoy spending time with my friends, singing with my family, and cuddling with my pets. I danced ballet for 12 years and love traveling and learning about new cultures and places. Rob and I also enjoy DIY projects around the house.

~~~ Favorite verse ~~~

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

Ephesians 3:20-21



# Get Involved!

## Ladies' Game Night!

**Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>  
7:00 pm**

Come join us for a fun night of fellowship!

We will be playing Tensies, which is an easy game to learn (no skill required) and lots of fun for everyone! Refreshments will be provided.

Please **SIGN UP** at the Women's Ministry Table or by emailing  
[franconiawomen@gmail.com](mailto:franconiawomen@gmail.com)



Do you enjoy fresh air, exercise, and good conversation? So did Jesus! He often walked and talked with his disciples. Let's share our lives with each other in a similar way! Join us for a



## Walk in the Park

at Franconia Park  
(Allentown Rd entrance)

**Tuesday evening**  
**Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 pm** & **Wednesday morning**  
**Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 am**

All are welcome; walk and talk as long you like!

*Thank you to those who participated in the fundraiser walk last month. We raised nearly \$500 for the Women's Clinic.*



**Ladies' Craft Night**  
**November 9<sup>th</sup>**



## Scrapbook Crop

**Saturday, October 15**  
**8:00 am – 7:00 pm**

Contact Gerry Moore if interested.





# October 2022

| SUN | MON | TUES                            | WED                        | THUR                                  | FRI                         | SAT                          |
|-----|-----|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
|     |     |                                 |                            |                                       |                             | 1                            |
| 2   | 3   | 4<br>Walk in the Park 6:30pm    | 5                          | 6<br>Isaiah Bible Study 9:30am / 7pm  | 7                           | 8                            |
| 9   | 10  | 11<br>Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm | 12                         | 13<br>Isaiah Bible Study 9:30am / 7pm | 14                          | 15<br>Scrapbook Crop 8am-7pm |
| 16  | 17  | 18<br>Sewing Circle 8am-4pm     | 19<br>Walk in the Park 9am | 20<br>Isaiah Bible Study 9:30am / 7pm | 21<br>Ladies Game Night 7pm | 22                           |
| 23  | 24  | 25                              | 26                         | 27<br>Isaiah Bible Study 9:30am / 7pm | 28                          | 29                           |
| 30  | 31  |                                 |                            |                                       |                             |                              |

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