



Sing His Praise Aloud by Tricia Bergey

After three days of singing for an extended period of time, I pondered whether I had my fill of singing yet. I had not! A small group from our church attended the Sing!23 Getty Music Worship Conference. On one of the days several songs and teaching complimented my recent intercessory prayers for others. I took notes in my Conference booklet so that I could revisit them. Scripture, songs, and prayer are all forms of worship of our Lord. I found peace and joy in the variety of songs during that time.

The songs contained the gospel message, taking us from the world's perfect creation by our Creator, to the pain of a sin-filled world, to the sacrificial death of the perfect Lamb of God, to the hope in our resurrected Redeemer of having life beyond death. We sang in acapella the hymn of our Lord God Almighty being holy and sang of God being worthy of all blessing, and honor, and praise. We sang of waiting on the Lord taken from Psalm 130 and sang an unfamiliar song to me about God's grace in our lives. When we sang "Crown Him with many crowns", verse two caught my attention that I did not recall from the many times I've sung that hymn. It says "Crown Him the Son of Man, Who every grief hath known, That wrings the human breast, And takes and bears them for His own, That all in Him may rest."

We acknowledged the importance of songs of lament for us individually and corporately. I finished reading the book of Jeremiah, so now I began Lamentations. The first words are, "How deserted lies the city, once so full of people! Bitterly she (Jerusalem) weeps at night, tears are upon her cheeks." This reminded me of my prayers for Christians in places of war. My prayer has been that God will continue being their focus of worship. Verses at the end of Lamentations state that we have hope because of the Lord's great love. The Lord came near with the message of "do not fear" when the author called on the Lord from the depths of the pit.

*"I will praise You, O Lord, among the nations; I will sing of You among the peoples."
Psalm 57:9*

Pass on the praises of our Lord to the next generation. That is not only a task for parents; we can all do this as we interact with people younger than us. The week following the Sing Conference, I noticed in my Bible reading the many verses which speak of singing our praises to the Lord.

I will close with one of them as my prayer for you, Psalm 51:14-15:

"Open our tongues that we will sing of Your righteousness. O Lord, open our lips, and our mouths will declare Your praise."

November 2023 |





Making Connections

Meet the Women's Ministry Team:

Janet Derstine: I came on the committee as the representative from sewing circle. I love getting together with other women and learning to know them better, whether it's working with the other committee members or at events that we put together. I would love to see women of our church, who haven't attended our events, to come and be a part of these times of fun and fellowship. It will be a blessing to you and to those with whom you connect, as we encourage each other through good and bad times.



Sydney Leaman: I have only been on the Women's Ministry team for a couple months now and I was thrilled to join the team. I decided to join because I wanted new ways to connect with women of all ages and to be more connected with the church. Something that excites me with Women's Ministry is seeing women of all ages gather and laugh together. I love any opportunity to fellowship and am looking forward to upcoming events!

Gail Reinford: I joined the women's ministry a while ago, in wanting to be a part of connecting with women of all ages. It has been a blessing over the years to see the ministry evolve and change. The newsletter is a wonderful part of keeping us connected and informed, while learning more about the women of our church. The women who have come and gone to serve & share their passions for women has been an inspiration to me. It's always a challenge to meet the needs of all ages. Our desire as a team is to see women of our church, who haven't attended our events much or ever, to come and be a part of these times of fellowship, service and fun! I am always blessed getting to know others and pray that all those who attend come away refreshed and blessed as well.

Heidi Yoder: I joined the women's ministry team this spring with a passion to serve the women in our church. I have enjoyed working with the team to create events with the hopes that they foster relationships and bring encouragement to each one attending. I'm looking forward to this next year and the possibilities it holds.

Julie Stitt: I have been really blessed to be a part of Women's Ministry for the past four years. Watching how God brings together people with different giftings, strengths, and passions to be His servants never ceases to amaze me! I love being a part of this ministry that seeks to provide activities and Bible studies to facilitate meaningful relationships among women and draw them closer to Jesus. My prayer is that every woman in the church would feel love and encouragement as we live life together and share each other's joys and sorrows. And I'm hopeful that God will guide us as a team to meet those needs. I'm looking forward to seeing where God will lead us in 2024!

Charity Veltre: I just recently joined the women's ministry team a few months ago. I joined the team because of my love of planning events and organizing ways for the women of our congregation to connect. It has been a blessing to get to know women of all ages as we meet together. I'm looking forward to the year to come and all the excitement and passion our team has for the women of Franconia!



Get Involved!

Upcoming activities

Esther Bible study

Thursdays 9:30-10:30am

Sept. 28th - Nov. 16th

Sewing Circle

Tuesday, Nov. 14th

8:00am - 4:00pm

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesday, Nov. 14th

7:00pm

Scrapbook Crop

Saturday, Nov. 4th

(Contact Gerry Moore if interested in attending)

Mom's Night Out

Friday, Nov. 17th



Fun, Fellowship, & Fondue

Moms with infants through high school, are you in need of a night out?

Mark your calendar now for

*Friday, November 17th
7:00 pm*

Lower Fellowship Hall

*Please **SIGN UP** at the Women's Ministry Table, by emailing Bronwen at*

4kids@franconiamennonite.org

*or scanning the QR code **by**
Sunday, November 12th*



CONTACT US: franconiawomen@gmail.com

Women's Ministry Co-Chairs: Gail Reinford & Sydney Leaman
Team Members: Janet Derstine, Julie Stitt, Charity Veltre, & Heidi Yoder