



What Matters Most by Carol Landis

"...be strong in the Lord, and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God...and after you have done everything, to stand" (Eph. 6:10,13b)

Recently a new truth, from the familiar "Armor of God" passage, connected with an experience of watching a grandson's game. This soccer game was competitive; one they needed to win. They had practiced; were mentally prepared for what they needed to do; put on the outside "armor": uniform, shin pads; outfitted the goalie, full water bottles. Their feet were fit with the readiness of correct footwear, and using their knowledge of the game, they played skillfully. They played hard. They harmoniously worked together as a team; communicated with each other as they played; encouraged each other; stepped up to cover for another when needed. They played well. But in the end, they lost. From this grandmother's perspective, the opposing team didn't show good sportsmanship; didn't play respectfully or fairly, and some issues were left unaddressed by the officials. [As correspondence after the game with league leaders seemed to confirm.] It was disappointing. It was wrong. It hurt. But they won where it counted. They didn't lower their sportsmanship standards; they encouraged each other to keep their cool; they continued to play well in spite of what felt unfair calls. They stood strong. Later, as we discussed the game, including the feelings and emotions that accompany such a game, I affirmed and praised him for his role and how he played in the midst. And, told him a win wasn't what mattered most in the end.

Reminds me of my Heavenly Father. He asks us to prepare by putting on the full "armor," and to be aware of the protection each provides. He asks us to confidently engage, with our confidence in Him, so we can remain strong. To strive for the win. Not every battle will end in a win; not every battle requires a win, but in every battle, what He wants from each of us, is to be able to stand in the end, and strongly, and clearly, testify of His faithfulness.

Father, help us prepare and engage in battle, so after we have done everything, we will be able to stand and testify of Your faithfulness. Amen.

September 2024 |



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



Making Connections

Meet **Stephanie Helfrich**.

Hi! My name is Stephanie Helfrich, and my husband is Mike Helfrich. We have been blessed with 3 children, Brayden (13), Brooklyn (11), and Conner (9) who keep us very busy! They are active in sports all year long and keep us running from place to place, and sometimes we have to call in the grandparents since we're outnumbered! My parents are Chris and Judy Francis, perhaps you might have known my mom's parents, Paul and Betty Musselman. Mike's parents are John and Arlene Helfrich, and his grandparents are Durrell and Mary Hange. I grew up at Zion Mennonite Church, where we attended once we were married until we decided we needed a change during COVID. Mike grew up at Line Lexington Mennonite, where his parents still attend.

I graduated from Souderton Area High School, Abington Memorial Hospital Dixon School of Nursing for my Diploma in Nursing, and finally, got my Bachelor's of Science in Nursing at Immaculata University. I have spent my entire career in the operating room-the only place I had a desire to work! I grew up thinking I would become a teacher with a minor in special education, and had to have orthopedic surgery in high school that changed my entire life's direction. I looked around the operating room and thought it seemed to be a pretty cool place to work...and luckily I was right! I went to nursing school not actually knowing if I would like it, with the sole purpose of only working in the operating room. Looking back, it seems a bit foolish, but it all seems to have worked out! I currently work at Grand View Surgery Center at Harleysville, in the Harleysville Outpatient Center and have been there for about 6 ½ years now.

I grew up going to church my entire life, going to Spruce Lake and Men-O-Lan overnight camps every summer. I was baptized at 15 years old, but can truly say that the greatest challenge in my life, which led to the most spiritual growth in my life was when we struggled with infertility. I am a person of action, waiting does not come easily. I am a person that is independent, and having to rely on others to help me get through the toughest time of my life was not easy. Not once did I doubt God's love for me, but desperately hoped his plans for me were the same plans I had desired for as long as I could remember...to become a mother. Through infertility treatments we had our first 2 children, and then, completely by surprise, along came our Conner!



I am my happiest and most at home, at Spruce Lake. I have gone there every summer for 38 years straight for Family Week 1 in August. My other hobbies, besides watching my children live out their passions in sports, would be reading, camp fires, sitting by a creek, spending time with family (extended family included, my Musselman family brings me such joy and completeness), and trying to keep Mike on his toes!

My favorite Bible verse is Proverbs 3:5-6, 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not on your own understandings. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will direct thy path.' I memorized it at camp Men-O-Lan one summer and it really resonated with me.



Get Involved!



Women's Bible Studies

Explore what it looks like to live generously in all aspects of life because of all we've been given in Christ.

- Video study - No homework
- Facilitated by Julie Kratz
- Thursday evenings
Oct 10th - Nov 21st
- 7:00-8:00 PM
- No cost
- Please sign up by **Oct. 6th** at the Women's Ministry table in the foyer or by emailing jskratz@gmail.com



Ann Voskamp

Our inheritance through Christ is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. In *1 Peter*, a man of faith and flaws and eyewitness to the life of Christ challenges us to look beyond our current circumstances to a future inheritance. He shares his concerns on big picture issues for the early church, describes believers' true identity in Christ, and ultimately helps readers discover what it means to experience the Living Hope they have in Christ.

- Video study
- Facilitated by Helen Eastburn
- Thursday mornings
Sept 19th - Nov 21st
- 9:30-11:00 AM
- Childcare will be provided
- Books: \$10
- Please sign up by **Sept. 8th** at the Women's Ministry table in the foyer or by emailing heastburn@franconiamennonite.org



Jen Wilkin

Other Upcoming Activities

Sewing Circle

Tuesday, Sept. 10

8 AM – 4 PM

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesday, Sept. 10 at 7 PM



CONTACT US: franconiawomen@gmail.com

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