



A great light by Tricia Bergey

If you were to tell me that on a cold, January day you wrapped yourself in a big blanket to get warm, I could picture that and relate. I also enjoy doing that and have done so several times this winter as we are in the middle of a home improvement project that has compromised our heating system! When I read Psalm 104:2 that says "He (God) wraps Himself in light as with a garment", I try to imagine what that looks like. I know God created light on the first day of creation, recorded in Genesis 1.

Revelation 21 speaks of how in heaven the Lord Himself will be our light and His servants will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun. Therefore, I know the light of God is extremely bright. What would it look like to see the radiance of God where light is wrapped around Him like the blanket we wrap around ourselves?

The Lord and His angels have appeared as light to people in the Bible several times. In December, we read in the account of Jesus' birth how the glory of the Lord shone around the angel who appeared to the shepherds. Jesus appeared to Saul while he was on his way to Damascus with his intent to take Christian men and women and put them in prison in Jerusalem. Jesus appeared as a light from heaven that flashed around him as recorded in Acts 9:3. Saul's response was to fall to the ground.

Isaiah 60:19-20 connects with the Lord as our Light. It says "The sun will no more be your light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you, for the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. Your sun will never set again, and your moon will wane no more; the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your days of sorrow will end." These verses from Isaiah who was a prophet, placed in the Bible between Genesis and Revelation which teach of the Lord as our light, help make the story complete in my mind of who the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are. It is beautiful that Isaiah includes his statement that our days of sorrow will end. That will come at the right time in God's plan. Those are the words of the voice from heaven that John heard and wrote about in Revelation...that God will be with believers in Christ, living with us, and He will wipe every tear from the eyes of those who believe in Him.

This time of year, I miss the early sunrise and late sunset, so I am dependent on other forms of light. I appreciate the soft, warm light from the string lights set up for Christmas in our home, and I like leaving them up in the dark months of winter...lingering in the beauty of their light in the early mornings and evenings that are dark.

In this month of the new year, as you admire and rely on lights, may you also think of Jesus who said "I am the Light of the World". Wrap yourself in a blanket on a January day, and speak to God of how much you love His light that wants to go before you every day, shining light on the tasks of your day and your attitudes as you go about doing them.

January 2025 |



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



Making Connections

Meet **Janis Derstine**.

While searching the "Franconia Culinary" for Pecan Dream Christmas Cookies I noticed my name was listed as Mrs. Earl Derstine (Janis) . The recipe I had submitted was Earl's Favorite & Very Easy Carrot Cake.

Before the sun rises the "morning person" is stirring. HE awakens me with coffee and the Bible notification of the verse of the day. We continue with shared devotions; our souls speak louder during this sacred time when the nighttime gives way to daylight and we are in communion with God and each other.

My early years: What I want to remember I forget and what I want to forget I remember.

My family: Our ancestors live in the spiritual realm and I appreciate their guidance and wisdom. Their strengths, talents and character may be mine as well? Our children, their spouses and grandchildren live in Telford and in Winnipeg, Manitoba. My constitution may be theirs as well? What frames THEIR motivation, trials, strengths, and character? Heidi and James DeFehr and their adult children attend North Kildonan Mennonite. Kara and Zach Derstine and their children are seen regularly at FMC.

Life experiences: I overthink the "human condition " aka "birth order, learning, emotion, aspiration or lack thereof, morality, conflict, death, personality traits and mortality". Somewhere in my notes I've written "though the human condition connects us to each other and the universal story we are telling together - I continue to discover a deeper story in myself and Christian friends who are trusting God and discerning His will as we stand strong in our faith during times of testing."

My time: A commitment to Wellness as I am in "Senior PRESERVATION Mode" requiring an exercise routine, yoga practice, mindfulness, meditation - including simple and therapeutic Japanese forest bathing (stepping outdoors, leaving the phone behind, listening to the sounds of nature, whispering the name of Jesus).

Current Refrigerator contents: Almond milk, cottage cheese, yogurt, grapes, lentil Bolognese, black bean quinoa salad. Current Freezer contents: Biscotti, Scones, muffins and chocolate chip cookies from Ardmore Farmers Market.

Interests: Design and Art including beauty and serenity in negative space aka empty space and white space. I enjoy creativity in style and fashion. Music soothes me. Reading inspires me. Gardening, cooking, and housekeeping are a necessity. I watch weather!



Confession: I would like to be less intense, more lighthearted and easy going, but it is not to be and so it is that I recognize and accept that each of us is uniquely created by our Heavenly Father who makes no mistakes. Ladies, please do not wait until advanced years to embrace who you are.

The sun has set hours ago the "night person" is still stirring, he sets out mugs and prepares for morning coffee. It is again a sacred time as I recount the deeds of the day reflecting on positive and negative in the quiet comforting shelter of God's presence.

I do not count sheep but repeat scripture verses representing the alphabet A - Z. Letter P — "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you: not as the world giveth, give I unto thee. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

Instead of a New Year's resolution, some of us carefully select one word. "The word is less of a goal and more of a way of being."
I'm still in the decision-making process; Healthy, Honest, Present, Be. What will be your one word ?



Get Involved!

Women's Winter Social

Join us for fellowship, food and crafts in the Upper Fellowship Hall
Saturday, January 25th @ 9 am

“Nations will come to Your light, and kings to the brightness of Your dawn.”
Isaiah 60:3

Other Upcoming Activities

Sewing Circle
Tuesday, Jan. 14
8 AM – 4 PM

Prayer Shawl Ministry
Tuesday, Jan. 14 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,