



## Father, forgive... by Carol Landis

Forgiveness. Although I've been forgiven much, and clearly told in Matthew 6: 15: "if you do not forgive...your Father will not forgive your sins," it's seldom easy to forgive. Most times I cannot forgive on my own. I need to choose to obey and depend on Jesus for the strength I need to extend mercy. Only the presence and power of His Spirit can enable me to forgive as I've been forgiven.

Recently I found Jesus' example in Luke 23:34 helpful.

"*Father.*" This first word feels like an **intentional decision to focus on His Father.**

"*Forgive.*" In asking His Father to forgive, Jesus establishes **the actions as wrong.** They need forgiveness.

"*For they do not know.*" **Those needing forgiveness are blind.**

"*What they are doing.*" Indicates **no remorse for their actions.** Without repentance, wrong continues.

I've wasted a lot of time, lost joy, and clouded my testimony by not choosing to focus and depend on, my Heavenly Father. Jesus depended on God who describes Himself in Exodus 34:6,7 as, "...compassionate and gracious...slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness...forgiving...yet does not leave the guilty unpunished." Jesus doesn't attempt to build a case against the wrong-doers. Rather, He states the wrong, then models forgiveness. In doing so He exemplifies the Father's love. Unlike Jesus, I may have a responsibility and need to see my role and need for forgiveness, as well. If a situation continues, it's necessary to realize blindness and the absence of remorse leads to continued wrong action. At such times I need the Holy Spirit to protect me against anger and bitterness.

After being buried for 27-hours in the rubble of Tower One, Genelle Guzman-McMillan was the last survivor found in the aftermath of 9/11. In her story, "Angel in the Rubble," she shares her response when asked if she forgave Osama bin Laden and the other terrorists: "Forgiveness is about making peace with yourself in your own heart, and with God, and with the ones you are forgiving. ...God was with me when the towers fell, and He is with me now. And that is all that matters" (pg. 220).

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, when it's hard to forgive, help me focus and depend on You. I want to be like You.*

# March/April 2026



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



# Making Connections

Meet **Ruthie Bower**.



My husband is Dennis, and we will be married 50 years in June. We have three children, Kristen Godshall, Kelly Weaver and husband Matt, Zach and his wife Stephanie. We have been blessed with six wonderful grandchildren: 3 boys and 3 girls ranging in age from 23 to 7. Our children and grandchildren all live locally which allows interactive family time.

I was carried into FMC as an infant, remembering when families sat separately, women and men on opposite sides of the church. Only hymns were sung, no instruments not even a piano. I have witnessed many changes through the years and have always appreciated the sense of community displayed here at Franconia.

My parents are Levi and Arlene Alderfer. I have many great memories growing up a farm girl, although sometimes feeling like work was never done. Looking back, family meal time and farm life in general I will always appreciate.

After retiring a few years ago, I enjoy spending more time with my husband and helping out with the grandchildren as needed. Time spent with friends, trips to Lancaster, Florida, jig saw puzzles, family gatherings, long walks, and cooking with my husband are what gives me enjoyment. Since retirement, we live part time in the Poconos. There, we have enjoyed experiencing nature, quiet time, entertaining friends and family and forming new friendships.

Through some challenging times and good times, I see God's faithfulness in many ways, never knowing where God will take us each day, but I know He is in charge of all. One of my hardest times was losing our infant son Derek who lived a short day and a half. Though difficult, it was a time when my faith grew stronger. The support of family, friends, and church family sustained us during that time.

As I grow older, I realize that each day is a gift. I like to start my day listening to praise and worship songs. One of my favorite hymns is 'Great is Thy Faithfulness'.

A couple of my favorite verses are:

Ephesians 3:20 "Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us."

Romans 15:13 "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."



# Get Involved!



February 20<sup>th</sup> was a wonderful night of fellowship with women who took time out of their schedules to help pack college care packages. It was to remind our students that we are thinking of them and praying for them throughout their school year. Janet Derstine made beautiful blank cards for us to fill in words of encouragement and include verses from the women of FMC. We ended with Charity leading prayer as we held and prayed over the care packages. Refreshments were provided.

*Other Upcoming Activities*

**Sewing Circle**  
Tuesdays, Mar. 10 and Apr. 14  
8 AM – 4 PM

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**  
Tuesdays, Mar. 10 and Apr. 14  
at 7 PM

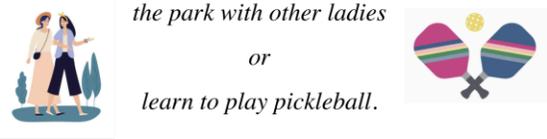
**Game Night**  
Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30  
Upper Fellowship Hall  
Come for a fun night of Dutch Blitz. It's an easy game to learn for all ages.



*Please sign up at the women's ministry table in the foyer or by emailing [franconiawomen@gmail.com](mailto:franconiawomen@gmail.com)*

**Walk in the Park / Pickleball Night**  
Thursday April 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 6:30  
**Meet at the Upper Salford Park**  
(559 Salford Station Rd. Schwenksville, Pa)

*Enjoy a nice walk around the park with other ladies*  
or  
*learn to play pickleball.*



We will have some experienced players to walk us through the rules of the game and how to play.  
*Please sign up at the women's ministry table or by emailing [franconiawomen@gmail.com](mailto:franconiawomen@gmail.com)*



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

Women's Ministry Team: Gail Reinford - leader, Renae Derstine, Charity Veltre, Kristen Weaver, Kim Wieder, and Heidi Yoder  
Editor of The Spice: Tricia Bergey