



Gratitude Beyond Circumstances by Jaselyn Ramos

For those of us who follow Christ, gratitude is more than simply recognizing the good things in our lives. It is a way of acknowledging God's hand in every season. Often, when we think about gratitude, we list the obvious...God, family, work, children, and friends. These are wonderful gifts, but what if our gratitude extended beyond the expected? What if we recognize God's hand even in the circumstances we would never have chosen?

This year, my gratitude was put to the test. Or perhaps a better way to say it is that I was given countless opportunities to choose gratitude. I believe that is the key word...CHOOSE. Gratitude is a choice. At least for me, it does not come naturally. I often see the challenges before I see the blessings. Yet as I intentionally chose gratitude and sought God in the midst of difficult circumstances, something began to change. I experienced a deeper peace. I could see God using trials to strengthen my faith and create opportunities to share His goodness. Gratitude did not remove the hardship, but it transformed the way I walked through it. Paul says it well. In Philippians 4:11-12, he says, "I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances... whether living in plenty or in want." Contentment was not based on Paul's situation but on the One who sustained him through it.

So often, we believe we will be grateful when life unfolds the way we hoped. Yet Scripture calls us to something deeper. First Thessalonians 5:18 reminds us, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Notice that it does not say to give thanks for all circumstances, but in all circumstances.

No matter what we are facing today. Whether one of joy, uncertainty, or transition...I encourage you to choose gratitude. Look for God's faithfulness in the ordinary moments: caring for your family, serving others, managing a busy schedule or perhaps a slower season than you desire, or adjusting to a new stage of life. If we pause long enough to look, we will find evidence of His goodness woven throughout our days.

If we think about it, gratitude is an act of worship to God. It's a way to praise Him and take the focus from us and our circumstances and direct our focus to Him. After all, we have been gifted the greatest gifts of all...the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, the presence of the Holy Spirit who guides us, and the promise of eternal life that awaits us. These truths alone are enough to fill our hearts with joy and thankfulness every day.

When we choose gratitude, our perspective changes. In some ways it protects against discouragement, hurt, or frustration and directs us toward contentment, joy, and peace. It helps us see life through the lens of Christ rather than through the lens of this world. Otherwise, we may miss the many ways God is working and providing for us each day.

Prayer: May we recognize God's faithfulness more clearly in both the extraordinary and the ordinary moments of life. And may our stories become a source of encouragement to others. May we choose thankfulness and bring glory to God daily. In Jesus' name, Amen.

July/August 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 **Ruthann Nyce.**



I grew up in a rather conservative farming family and have always attended Franconia. My grandparents on both sides worshipped here. If there was a service, our family was there! An early memory of growing up at Franconia was sitting with my mother on the women's side of church. Men & women sat on separate sides then. Another early memory was sitting on long benches in Sunday School class with no table in front of us. What a blessing that our family continues to worship here.

One of the most difficult times in my life was when we waited 8 years for our first child. We found out I was pregnant at the same time my mother was dying of cancer at age 56. What joy when Charity was born, followed by Jordan 2 years later.

While our children were young, I had an in-home craft & sewing business. Then came 15 years of working in the office at Fiber-Line.

Retirement allows me to spend more time with God. I have come to value my quiet time each morning, and it

has become an important way to start my day....my mug of coffee in hand, my Bible and devotional books. Prayer is my lifeline. I want to hear God when he speaks to me. I ask him to orchestrate my day and he does! I love to see how he puts things together. My phone continues to be a quiet time distraction. I am still learning to silence it or keep it in another room.

As a high schooler, my favorite subjects were Art and Home Ec. Those interests haven't changed over the years. I still love doing arts & crafts with my grandchildren.

I enjoy repurposing clothing, home decor or furniture and putting scrap quilts together. I enjoy photography and creating yearly photo books and having a good book to read. I like a clean house but do not necessarily like to clean. I appreciate organization. I love pottery, trees, plants & perennials and cutting a bouquet to bring inside.

After 50 plus years, Jerry & I enjoy being together in retirement. We like spending time on our patio, working in the gardens, and feeding birds in the back yard. We enjoy walking or bike riding in local parks, day trips to Lancaster County, and any time spent with our family. A travel highlight for us was when we journeyed to Israel with a group from church. The Bible came alive after actually being in those places where Jesus lived.

When I face hard times in life, I know I have my Heavenly Father to carry me through. He is my strength when I am weak.

A favorite verse.... Psalm 105:4 "Look to the Lord and His strength. Seek His face always."

May 1st - Watercolor Night



June 11th - Pickleball

UPCOMING...
Pickleball/Walk at the Park
in September





Get Involved!



September Event:
Feed My Starving
Children at Berean Bible
Church in Pottstown.
More information will be
provided regarding the
date/time Franconia will
participate in this event.

Volunteers from 2025. If you have any questions about
this event, contact someone who attended last year.



Other Upcoming Activities
Sewing Circle
Tuesdays, Jul. 14 and Aug. 11
8 AM – 4 PM
Prayer Shawl Ministry
Tuesdays, Jul. 14 and Aug. 11
at 7 PM



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