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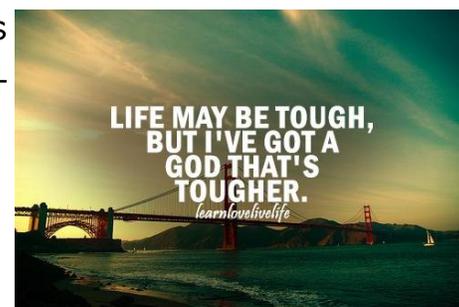
Loving God When Life Gets Difficult

There is a way to draw our hearts to our Heavenly Father. As we do, our Father's love and grace begin to heal our wounds. During this difficult season, when God can seem distant, when it can be difficult to feel His presence, this step-by-step spiritual guidance is helpful. Below is a portion of John Eldredge's book *Get Your Life Back* that I've found helpful. I hope you will too.

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Love God in your suffering. Stay with me now. Your heart is the greatest treasure you have. Without a heart it's impossible to love, or receive love. Without a heart you can't possibly dream, hope, laugh, find courage. Without a heart you will never be happy. Your enemy knows this, knows he can use your suffering to both shut your heart down and turn you against God, if only subtly, in doubtful hurt. Listen to me carefully: You must not let him. You must guard your heart with everything you've got, especially in times of disappointment and pain. Your secret weapon against the enemy's hatred is to love God right then and there, in the midst of the sorrow, whatever it may be.

I recognize that the act of loving God often surfaces other things in our hearts, things that are currently in the way of our loving him. We might feel half-hearted in the act, and then we realize we feel hurt or distant from God, or that he feels distant from us. This is good; this allows us to bring to the surface and put words to things that are blocking the relationship. Naming those things is important. I will at this point either begin to write about it in my journal or simply say to Jesus, *"I feel hurt about ..."* Then I will pray, *"Come into this hurt, this feeling of abandonment, this numbness"* or whatever seems to be thwarting our intimacy. *"I love you here, God. I choose right here, in this, to love you."*



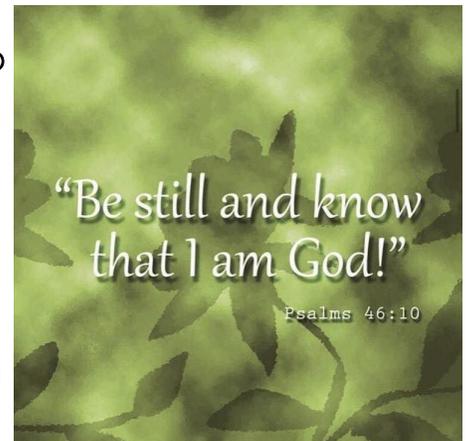
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Try it; you'll see.

When I'm feeling more disappointment than I am overflowing with reasons to love God, I turn to the things I know he has done on my behalf. *"Thank you for creation,"* I'll say, because I love the world he's made, and I can at least start there—the meadows, waterfalls, caribou, dolphins.

*"Thank you for creation."* I continue, *"Thank you for redemption"*—for I know he loves me because of Jesus Christ: "God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners" (Romans 5:8 NLT). *"Thank you for my redemption."* And I will add, *"Thank you for the coming kingdom,"* because it reminds me that my dreams will come true, any day now; goodness is coming to me. So when I'm trying to bring my heart along into the genuine act of loving God, I will pray, *"Thank you for creation; thank you for redemption; thank you for the coming Kingdom."* My soul comes along as I do this, and I remember that I do fact love God, whatever my current heartache may be.

This rescue helps your heart not pull away from the One Person who can heal you; it fortresses your heart against the lies of the enemy that rush in during heartbreak (*God doesn't love you; he's not good; you are alone; life is unfair—all that*). Actively choosing to love God in our pain allows us to receive the very grace the pain cries out for.



## Attention Cruisers!

Lets Get Together  
Sunday, September 19th!

After worship services end at the church, meet around Noonish at Athletic Park (*the large shelter in the NE corner of the park, - that is IF we get there in time!*)



The menu will be... Chicken (prepared by a local vendor)  
Water and/or coffee will also be provided

Members may bring... Salads or vegetables,  
Chips, Relishes, Rolls, Garlic Bread or Desserts.



Hopefully, we will enjoy beautiful fall-like weather, few insects, and a wonderful time to visit! If you wish, bring a lawn chair! Please call 316-772-2336 or let Donna know by Thurs, Sept 16 how many will attend so there will be enough chicken!

# Get Ready for September!

In September we start our Sunday School Groups, Choir, and Lil' Worship Warriors (More about that later!).

It will be a busy month, but it will be SOOO MUCH FUN!!!

**Sunday School Groups:** This year we will have Sunday school for all ages!



**Adults:** They will begin meeting in the Fellowship Hall on **September 5<sup>th</sup>**. Bill Wilson with the help of his wife Karen will be the teachers. They will be using the book: The Present Word.

**Kids:** Children Ages 3 – 5<sup>th</sup> grade start Sunday School on **September 12th**. They will meet downstairs in the pink and green Sunday school room. They will be learning many stories from the Bible. Mighty Messages is the curriculum. Mary McGehee and 1 adult volunteer will be in there each Sunday.

**Middle School/Sr High:** Our older youth will also start Sunday School on **September 12th**. They will meet in Pastor Scott's office. They will be learning about the books of the Bible. Pastor Scott and 1 adult volunteer will be with them each Sunday.

**Lil' Worship Warriors:** *"What is this", you are asking?*



Meet Wally: Wally is the Lil' Worship Warrior mascot! He is going to help the children have worship downstairs in the room which has the slide in it.

Children ages 2 through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will be invited to come downstairs after the Children's Message. They will have some time to do quiet activities, learn a scripture and bible lesson, have some social time and have a music time. This time will be for the younger children to have worship they can understand and will give the parents a chance to hear the sermon and visit after church. Mary McGehee/Tricia Brothers and 1 HS/adult volunteer will be with them each Sunday.

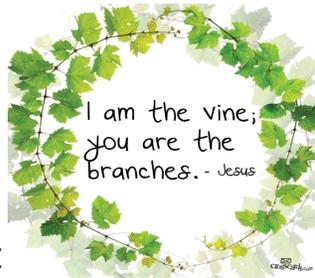
**\*\*I know you have heard this before, but please, Please, PLEASE think about volunteering 1 or 2 Sundays in the next 4 months. Let me know (Mary) which Sundays and which group (kids and Jr/Sr High) you want to help with. Remember you do not need to plan anything and unless asked, you won't have to teach either. You would be assisting and helping.\*\***

**\*\*Just like for Sunday school we would love to have some volunteers to help us with this. We will need 2 adults to lead this and make it a meaningful time for the children of our church. This is not a play time, but a time for the younger children to learn how we need to quietly worship God and His son Jesus. If you think this would be something you think you could help us with, please contact Mary McGehee or Tricia Brothers. Remember 1 -2 Sundays in the next 4 months is all we are asking. Thank you! \*\***

**Faith Builders Sunday:**

On September 19th, we are recognizing those who are helping build faith in our congregation.

We will also give our incoming First Grader his Bible during our Children's Message.



We hope you will join us to learn how, as a church, we can become more connected to each other through the love of Jesus Christ.



**Newsletter Deadline  
Friday, September 24th**





**New Hope Shelter, Inc.**  
Following Christ, Building the Community



**Our next time to serve at  
New Hope Shelter is  
September 22nd, 23rd, and 25th.**

**Please contact  
Rita Allmon at 316-288-3028  
if you would like to help.**



**A view from above at the  
Prairie Bronze Handbell Concert  
held on August 1st.  
Thanks Steve for the picture!**



**Please pray for relief from trials along with  
prayers of thanksgiving for blessings.**

Laura Ice

Bob Wyman

Susan Wyman

Marilyn Sjogren's dear friend

Family of Vicky Schroeder  
(close friend of Ron & Sandy Larson)

Holly Kaiser Toy and family  
(niece of Ron & Sandy Larson)

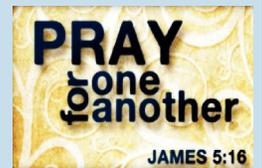
Mike & Sonja Wyman  
(Bob and Sue Wyman's son and daughter-in-law)

Aunt Eulala  
(Julie Griffin's Aunt)

Paul & Rojean DuBois 60th Wedding Anniversary

Gage Stafford  
(Paul & Rojean DuBois' grandson)

If you have a prayer request or  
want to become a member of the  
prayer chain, please contact  
Rojean DuBois at 316-772-8128.



## **SEPTEMBER DEACONS REQUESTS FOR THE SALVATION ARMY FOOD PANTRY**

- **Snacks** • **Cereal** • **Canned vegetables** •
- **Peanut Butter** • **Jelly** • **Hamburger Helper** •
- **Rice** • **Dry Beans** • **Canned Dinners** •

**When you're shopping, please pick up these items for our neighbors in need.**

*The need is great right now.*

**Also, please remember them in prayer.**

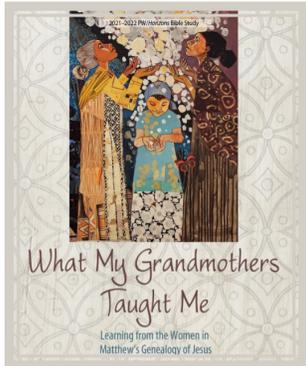
**Thank you!**





# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

**ALL WOMEN of NEWTON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** are invited to **PW Circle on September 8th at 10am!**



Please note: You do NOT have to be a member of the church to join us!

“What My Grandmothers Taught Me” is our 2021–2022 PW/Horizons Bible study! It is written by Merryl Blair.

Here a short introduction to the bible study...

*Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary—Matthew names these women for a reason. How might Jesus have heard the stories of his grandmothers? What might the young Jesus have felt, as he heard about his family? What might the stories of these women have added to his sense of identity, as part of a particular family in a particular time and place? And what can Jesus's grandmothers-of-the-faith teach us? By exploring these stories together, we will have a richer idea of what the good news is.*

**WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU JOIN US!**

**Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team WILL meet on September 2nd at 10am!**

**PW Circle WILL meet September 8th at 10am!**

Note: The start time of each meeting has been changed from 9:15 am to 10:00 am.

## Working for Justice & Peace Calendar September 2021

- 1 Word Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation
- 5 Season of Peace begins
- 6 Labor Day
- 11 International Literacy Day
- 19 Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence begins
- 21 International Day of Peace
- 24 Native American Day

Synod of Mid-America  
Second Saturday Synod Circle  
PW GATHERING  
September 11, 2021  
10:00– 11:00 am  
via Zoom  
for ALL Presbyterian Women

All Women in Southern Kansas: You are invited to join the SSSS (Second Saturday Synod Circle) ZOOM meeting on September 11, 2021. To receive your ZOOM information, please send your email address to Sue Nispel at [snispel@aol.com](mailto:snispel@aol.com). You will then receive back, via e mail, your “invite” the morning of the meeting. Please join so that you may meet our special guest, Kathy Reeves, the new Moderator of National Presbyterian Women. **Hope to see you all there !!!**

## S.C.O.T.S.

(Serving Christ & Others Through Stitches)

**will meet September 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:30am to Noon!**

Our S.C.O.T.S group is still on summer vacation right now but are excited to getting back to meeting in the Fall!  
***We could use a supply of fabric for projects. If you or anyone you know would like to donate some, we would certainly not say no to be gifted with it.***

**We are not an exclusive group and if you have that time slot open, please join us!** We meet monthly and sometimes have 'sewing at home' projects to work on.

For more information, please call Carol Heinel, 316-283-8328.



# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY & FRIENDS!

1 - Paul & Rojean DuBois,  
Joshua & Lisa Weldon,  
Dede Trumble

2 - Peg Wickersham,  
Nathan Darrow

3 - Elise Klierer

6 - Lucille Gallagher,  
Jeraldine (Jerri) Smith

8 - Jackie Anderson Ward

9 - Carolyn Adams,  
Mark McGee

10 - Beverly Hunter

16 - Kay Perkins

21 - Allison Laswell,  
Peter Wild

23 - Greg & Ladonna Schmidt

26 - Ron & Sandy Larson

28 - Steve & Jan Rocker,  
Charlotte Keller

29 - Scott & Sonday McGinnis

30 - Caleb Perkins

*God's Blessings for  
Joyous Celebrations!*

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## CHURCH OFFICERS & EMPLOYEES

### ELDERS

Class of 2021: Rojean DuBois, Mel McAnulty, Nate Regier

Class of 2022: Kay Enz, John Higgs, Pam Trussell

Class of 2023: Susan Brack, Mike Enz, Jeraldine Smith

### DEACONS

Class of 2021: Angela Altum, LaDonna Schmidt, Greg Schmidt, Joan Stretcher, Lenny Wild

Class of 2022: Paula Anderson, Kelli Glann, Bill Humphrey, Jennifer Switzer

Class of 2023: Tricia Brothers, Beth Darrow, Alisa Dinneen, Jerry Krehbiel

### PERMANENT ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD MEMBERS

Class of 2021: Ron Cheyney, Brent Glann

Class of 2022: Keven Hiebert, Larry Trussell

Class of 2023: Mel McAnulty

*Rev. Scott McGinnis, Pastor • Marsha Swander, Treasurer • Rojean DuBois, Clerk of Session  
Tricia Brothers, Admin. Office Mgr. • Mary McGehee, Children & Youth Director • Tony Martinez, Custodian  
Vada Snider, Choir & Bell Director • Helen Wild, Organist & Accompanist • Kelli Glann, Organist*



AND

**JUMP!** on in



**POOL Party**

**KIDS CONNECTION AND JUMP:**

We will be meeting all together at the Allmon's house to swim! It will be on September 12<sup>th</sup> starting at 1:00 PM and ending at 3:00 PM. Parents are asked to drop their kids off and then pick them up at 3:00. It will be a fun time to just relax and have some fun together. I hope all of you can make it. The address is: 420 SE 48<sup>th</sup>, Newton.

Our next meetings will be October 17<sup>th</sup>, with the groups separated and then we will all meet together on October 31<sup>st</sup>. There will be more information to come on the October meetings.

**WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**  
October 3, 2021

October 3<sup>rd</sup> is World Communion Sunday. This is when we join with other Christians around the world in a 24 hour celebration of this special sacrament.



We would like to increase the awareness and meaning of World Communion Sunday by displaying fabric from different countries on the pulpit, lectern and communion table.



If you have fabric that we may use, please talk to Joan Stretcher. (316-283-8252).



Plans are underway for our **150th Anniversary Celebration!**

If you would like to join in on the planning, please contact a member of the Outreach Team or the Memorial Committee!

Thanks!



Vocal and Bell Choirs are starting rehearsals in September!

Please contact Vada Snider at 316-283-5231 if you would like to be part of our musical church family!

**Worship Teams**  
**September 2021—February 2022**  
**By Week & By Area**

**1st Sunday**

Organist     Helen Wild  
 Greeter     Marilyn Sjogren  
 Ushers     Susan Wyman and Carolyn Adams  
 Lay Reader   Rojean DuBois  
 Livestream   Larry Trussell or Steve Tangeman  
 Audio     Steve Tangeman

**2nd Sunday**

Organist     Kelli Glann  
 Greeter     Libby Trussell  
 Ushers     Ron & Carol Cheyney  
 Lay Reader   Mel McAnulty  
 Livestream   Larry Trussell or Steve Tangeman  
 Audio     Greg McGehee

**3rd Sunday**

Organist     Kelli Glann  
 Greeter     Kay Enz  
 Ushers     David, Judy and Jamie Welfelt  
 Lay Reader   Sandy Larson  
 Livestream   Larry Trussell or Steve Tangeman  
 Audio     Jerry Krehbiel

**4th Sunday**

Organist     Helen Wild  
 Greeter     Linda Benniga  
 Ushers     John & Joan Stretcher  
 Lay Reader   John Higgs  
 Livestream   Larry Trussell or Steve Tangeman  
 Audio     Mike Enz

**5th Sunday**

Organist     Helen Wild  
 Greeter     Jeraldine Smith  
 Ushers     Alisa Dinneen and Addie Perkins  
 Lay Reader   Debra Hiebert  
 Livestream   Larry Trussell or Steve Tangeman  
 Audio     Oct: Mike

**Greeter**

1st Sunday   Marilyn Sjogren  
 2nd Sunday   Libby Trussell  
 3rd Sunday   Kay Enz  
 4th Sunday   Linda Benninga  
 5th Sunday   Jeraldine Smith  
 Substitutes   Rojean DuBois and Joan Stretcher

**Ushers**

1st Sunday   Susan Wyman & Carolyn Adams  
 2nd Sunday   Ron & Carol Cheyney  
 3rd Sunday   David, Judy & Jamie Welfelt  
 4th Sunday   John & Joan Stretcher  
 5th Sunday   Alisa Dinneen and Addie Perkins  
 Substitutes   Susie Tangeman and Rita Allmon

**Lay Reader**

1st Sunday   Rojean DuBois  
 2nd Sunday   Mel McAnulty  
 3rd Sunday   Sandy Larson  
 4th Sunday   John Higgs  
 5th Sunday   Debra Hiebert  
 Substitutes   Greg McGehee and Tricia Brothers

**Livestream**

1st Sunday   Larry Trussell or Steve Tangeman  
 2nd Sunday   Larry Trussell or Steve Tangeman  
 3rd Sunday   Larry Trussell or Steve Tangeman  
 4th Sunday   Larry Trussell or Steve Tangeman  
 5th Sunday   Larry Trussell or Steve Tangeman  
 Substitutes   Larry Trussell or Steve Tangeman

**Audio**

1st Sunday   Steve Tangeman  
 2nd Sunday   Greg McGehee  
 3rd Sunday   Jerry Krehbiel  
 4th Sunday   Mike Enz  
 5th Sunday   Oct: Mike