

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WOMEN'S
M I N I S T R Y



Ladies,

We are in the last month of a year that has been filled with chaos, anxiety, frustration, and unmet expectations. We have been stretched and challenged in many different areas. We all have a list of circumstances, situations, or relationships that did not develop like we thought they would this year. Many of our best laid plans, goals, and resolutions either imploded, blew up, disappeared, or slipped away. We had to be flexible, to hold things loosely, to let go of things that we had worked hard to accomplish. Most of us are really tired. I count myself in that group. Zoom Bible Studies, cancelled events, women's fellowship that simply did not happen, a tree falling on our house requiring extensive renovations (that six months later are still on-going), work, and school changes for family members are all on my list. We had to seek God, to pray without ceasing, to meditate on his Word, and to worship in ways that were unique and different.

We hope that the turning of the calendar, the end of 2020 and the beginning of 2021, will truly be a new beginning. Yet, God's Word does not equate a new year with a new beginning. We cannot put our hope in the blank pages of a brand new shiny calendar. We cannot put out hope in the government, or the makers of vaccines, or anyone or anything else for security and rest.

Our new beginnings are found in Christ alone, each and every day. Right now it may feel like Groundhog Day, but God's love, mercies, and faithfulness are new every morning.

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
(Lamentations 3:22-23)

I recently started a book that I would like to invite you to read with me during the month of December. It is called *Gentle and Lowly, The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers*, by Dane Ortlund.

Here is a review of the book: <https://au.thegospelcoalition.org/book-review/review-gentle-and-lowly-by-dane-ortlund/>

Here is a link to a 14-day devotional that highlights portions of the book. Each podcast is between three and four minutes long.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93sgwDfTVdQ&list=PLRIff6sHi0pdB63vEIwuHsUegD_oqQE2q

Join me in meditating on the heart of our Savior this Advent season. Jesus tells us in Matthew 11:29, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart and you will find rest for your souls." If you are interested in discussing this book, the heart of Jesus, the rest and hope that only He can provide, during the month of December, email me at ilink@covpres.com. I will set up a discussion group for those interested at a time that is convenient.

Finally, contemplate these words that Sandra McCracken sang with us at Feast not Famine:

*I will build my house
Whether storm or drought
On the rock that does not move
I will set my hope
In your love, O Lord
And your faithfulness will prove
You are steadfast, steadfast
By the word you spoke
All the starry host
Are called out by name each night
In your watchful care
I will rest secure
As you lead us with your light
You are steadfast, steadfast
I will not trust in the strength of kings
On your promise I will stand
I will shout for joy, I will raise my voice
Hallelujah to the Lamb!
You are steadfast, steadfast
In the moment...*

He is steadfast—Praise the Lord!

Ingram