

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WOMEN'S

M I N I S T R Y



"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."
Philippians 1:3-6

Ladies, thank you! Every day I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve the Lord, Covenant, and in particular the women of our church body. When I see you in church, in Sunday School, singing in the choir, serving in the kitchen or the nursery, leading a youth small group, teaching our Covenant children, studying God's word, being involved in the community or even walking or having lunch with a friend, I am thankful for you.

We are in the midst of a busy season filled with great opportunities, and I pray that you are each finding something that you can be involved in that will increase your knowledge and love for Jesus. I pray that God will use your time in the word, in worship and in prayer to transform you—"that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6).

Our ongoing opportunities in addition to **worship, Sunday School, and Wednesday night activities** include **Bible Studies and prayer** time. Please plan to make these a part of the fabric of your life if you are not already involved. In my mind I see a big puzzle with about 450 pieces. You are one of those pieces. In order to have a complete puzzle, a complete picture, we need all the pieces of the puzzle. All the gifts, talents, strengths, and personalities of our women are needed to complete our church body. You are a part of Covenant because God has brought you to our family, and we want our puzzle to be connected and fit together.

We started out this year with the **Women's Retreat** in Auburn with Abby Hutto. She looked at four portions of the gospel of John and truly brought the stories and the truths alive in a fresh way. In May I would encourage any of you who are interested to join me on Wednesday nights: May 2, 9, 16 and 23 to consider her teaching. We simply plan to listen before we come and then review the small group questions that we looked at on the retreat. This is for anyone, whether you went to the retreat and want to look at the material again or if you didn't go but heard about how great it was. You will be able to register for this study in April, and I will send you additional information.

Then came **Missions On Purpose**, our 2018 Missions Festival. Many thanks to Phyllis Hamm and the tireless work of our Missions Committee and Communications team for all they did to give us an incredible time to learn about and hear from missionaries that we support. As we move

forward we want to continue to lean into missions not only through Faith Promise giving but with boots on the ground!

Our spring event this year is called **“Come to the Table.”** We are inviting all women from Covenant, every piece in our puzzle, to come on Tuesday night, April 24, to the sanctuary. You will be asked to donate items to Restoration Academy (snacks), the Lovelady Center (toiletries), or Hope Help (children’s books). We will worship together led by talented ladies of our church body. We will then hear from Covenant women who are involved in local ministry with our missions partner. I don’t want to give away all of the fun but come learn what Ginny Johnston and Connie Edwards are doing in our city to share the love of Christ and demonstrate gospel hospitality. We will then break into smaller groups and enjoy dinner in homes around the table.

In February we hosted the first ever Created for a Purpose for women, called **Sacred Studio**. One hundred and fifty women from at least five different states and countless churches gathered here to worship, connect, learn, and create. It was amazing! We will offer that again next February. We will need Covenant women to help plan, facilitate, set up, host, serve, etc. Please let me know if you are interested in serving with Sacred Studio.

Holy Week and Easter are nearing. I hope that you have been encouraged and challenged by the Lenten Prayer Journal that our Prayer and Communications Team assembled for us. I have so enjoyed digging into, meditating on, and praying through the passages. The printed prayers and the artwork that was selected has been a beautiful compliment to the meditations. I am thankful that we as a body have been gifted with beautiful resources that are rich in content. Put your sign in your yard, invite your neighbors, your friends, and your family! The Sunrise Service and Pancake Breakfast is a great tradition for those who are hesitant or resistant to “church.”

We also have a **Journey Towards Purpose** retreat in April that will be led by Anna Nash of Beacon People. You may wonder why so many retreat opportunities? Ladies Winter Retreat? Sacred Studio? Journey to Purpose? Hopefully with several options to chose from one will not only work with your calendar but also with your interest! A little more about Journey Towards Purpose:

Do you feel as if your light is barely flickering or has been blown out all together with the demands of this world? How do you rekindle the flame that the Creator originally placed in your heart? It seems that many of us feel we have busier lives than ever and less purpose than ever. Although we don’t often live as if we believe it, we are all part of a bigger story. Come hear more about God’s bigger story and the role you play. Let’s look at what God says about your life and investigate some amazing things about how He uniquely created you. During our time together, God willing, you will begin to see an entirely new picture of how to live intentionally with greater purpose. We become change-makers when we believe that we were put on this earth by a passionate Creator who designed us to be a light shining in a world that needs hope. *Your richest days just might be ahead of you!*

Friday, April 13, 6-9pm and Saturday, April 14, 8am-3pm

The format includes 4 sessions, alone time for processing, breakout group time for discussion, and an activity to go with each session.

It doesn't end there! **Celebration Stories** on May 8 at 11:00 am is an opportunity to gather and celebrate how the study of the word of God transformed the people of God this year. This brunch event is open to all women, even if you have not been in a Covenant study this year. We will eat and celebrate with stories of what we have learned and how God has worked. The food and stories will be flowing so please join us as you are able.

This summer we will have **Summer Salad Suppers** again on Tuesday nights. We hope that you will make that a part of your routine this summer. Gathering for food and hearing from our sisters in Christ is one of my favorite parts of the summer.

Melody and Tray Lovvorn, our missions partners with Undone/Redone Ministries, will be teaching one of the Sunday School options in June from their curriculum "**My Secure Family.**" Also, Julie Sparkman has been working on a new series and will be joining us this fall at Covenant on Wednesday nights!

Jesus exhorts the disciples in John 4:35, "Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for the harvest." May we engage with others, always showing them the way to Christ, our Lord and Savior—the Way, The Truth and the Life!

Again,
I thank my God in all my remembrance of you!

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