



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Women's Ministry

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of my salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit” (Psalm 51:10-12).

I long to be excited about 2022—a new year, a clean calendar, new opportunities, focused intentions, etc. I want to approach this calendar year with a joyful and glad heart, yet I confess that I am only cautiously optimistic if not downright fearful. The past two years have been filled with uncertainty and difficulties, and I am trying not to be tired and weary.

“I lift my eyes to the hills, from where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth” (Psalm 121:1).

Intellectually, I know that my help comes from the Lord. I know that he alone is my helper and that he alone is the joy of my salvation. Why do I wallow in uncertainty and hesitation? Why am I slow to spend time at his feet, praise his name, serve others selflessly, give generously, worship with my whole heart, engage deeply with others? Why am I so shackled to this world?

Over the past two weeks God has gently and graciously shown me that I have forgotten my first love. In Revelation 2, John commends the church at Ephesus for their works, their adherence to doctrine, their endurance and commitment to truth. Yet, he points out that they have abandoned their first love, “But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first” (Revelation 2:4). Most scholars believe that they had lost their love for Christ, and if they had lost their love for Christ, then they had lost their love for one another as well. We cannot love others apart from Christ. We love because he first loved us (1 John 4:19).

These realizations are helping me as I face this new year and consider resolutions. Of course I want to be kinder, exercise more, spend time with friends and family, eat well, be intentional, etc. However, what I really want, what I really long for is a clean heart, a right spirit, the presence of the Lord, a joyful heart that celebrates my salvation, and a willingness to glorify my Father with my heart, soul, mind, and strength.

I have some thoughts on what that looks like for me, but I would love for you to share what that looks like for you. Most of our Sunday School classes have a Ladies Group Me or a Ladies-only email. Over the next few days I will be posting the question: “What does it look like for you to pursue your first love in 2022?” on your Group Me or email groups. I cannot wait to hear how God is creating clean hearts among us, how God is renewing a right spirit within our church family,

how God is drawing each of you into his presence, how God is restoring the joy of our salvation, and how through Him we delight in our first love!

The Covenant pastoral team is excited about studying God's word together this year, worshipping our King together, caring for one another, and engaging in our city to bring the hope of the gospel and further the kingdom of God. Will you consider what that means for you? Will you join us faithfully on Sunday mornings for worship AND Sunday School? Will you pray with the women of Covenant on Monday mornings at 8:15? Will you gather with your sisters to study God's word together through Bible Study? Will you partner with one of our local ministry partners to serve the least of these in our city? Will you join us for our Family Reunion Women's Retreat in February? Will you be a part of our Missions Festival? Will you bring a friend to Sacred Studio? Will you join your church family for dinner on Wednesday nights? Will you find places to use your gifts and talents to serve the body regularly?

As I reread this I realize that I am excited about 2022! Part of that excitement is based on the various opportunities that we have to gather, worship, learn, and serve together, but more than that, I am excited that we have a heavenly Father who loves us with an everlasting love and is willing to create in me a clean heart; who is willing to renew a right spirit within me; who will not cast me away from his presence and not take his Holy Spirit from me. But he will restore to me the joy of my salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit. AMEN!

Happy New Year!

Ingram Link
Director of Women's Ministries

It is not too late! We have extended registration until January 11 for the following events:

[Bible Study registration](#)

[Women's Retreat registration](#)