

Women's Ministry of Faith Report for 2022

January 25, 2023

The Women's Ministry of Faith (WMF) includes all women who attend Faith Presbyterian Church. We are following Paul's injunction in 1 Thessalonians 5:11, "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing." Our mission statement therefore is, *To provide opportunities for women to grow spiritually, develop friendships, encourage one another, and become equipped to fulfill their God-given design in whatever context He calls them.*



The Women's Ministry is thankful for the deacons and others who fixed up and provided the Fellowship House (across the alley) for our use. We began using it in September 2022 for Sunday School class, morning Bible Study, Mothers' Encouragement Group, and baby/bridal showers.

The Women's Ministry of Faith has a Facebook Group to aid in communication among each other. If you want to follow us, go to Women's Ministry of Faith Pres Tacoma and request membership.

In January, we held a webinar with a panel of women discussing racial reconciliation in the church with 49 women attending. In February, 21 women and girls met in DeSoto Hall for a fun game of Bunco. In March, we held a panel discussion on the issue of mental illness and in April our topic was abuse in marriage, using a video series discussion with Darby Strickland, produced by Focus on the Family. In May, 70 women attended our Spring Tea and had a lovely opportunity to get to know some of the newer women in the church. To end our calendar year in June, we had a potluck to thank all the women who have so faithfully served as committee chairwomen over the past year.

The Tuesday morning women's Bible study, consisting of 15-20 women, used Nancy Guthrie's book and teaching videos *The Promised One: Seeing Jesus in Genesis* in January through May. Then in September, a study of the book of Job began, which will continue through the spring of 2023. Most women attend in person, but we also have a Zoom option.

A Tuesday evening women's Bible study meets biweekly and studied Hebrews in the winter/spring and 1 Peter this fall using study guides written by Jen Wilkin.

A small group of women meets three times a week on Zoom for prayer. This group prays "around the world" for the persecuted church, our country, state, and city, our church, and one another. It has been a great encouragement to spiritually walk with one another week by week.

The women's Sunday School class began reading through *The Chronicles of Narnia* early in the year. We are on *The Silver Chair* and use Michael Ward's book *The Narnia Code* to inform our study of Lewis's work.

In September, we had our Kick-off Dinner and Meeting. We shared delicious potluck options and heard about all the plans for Women's Ministry for 2022-2023. Pastor Nicoletti gave an address based on our theme, "Be Strong in the Lord" from Ephesians 6:10, 14a.

Our retreat this year took place October 14-16, in LaConner, WA, with 41 women participating. Three women gave their testimonies and the women enjoyed their time together that included meals, crafts, prayer with one another, and exploring the beauty and fun of LaConner.

In November, our subject was caring for children who struggle with mental illness. The panel of moms who shared their stories with us was well received by the approximately 30 women who attended.

In December, we decided to try something different and instead of our annual Christmas Brunch, we rented the Blue Mouse Theatre and showed the movie Elf. About 45 women and girls enjoyed a fun time together.

The Mother's Encouragement Group (MEG) has been a real joy and blessing this year. We have had new mothers joining in with many of those who have attended in the past. We have very much enjoyed meeting in the beautiful and easily accessible Fellowship House this year! This year we are reading through a book called *Parenting the Wholehearted Child* by Jeannie Cunnion and discussions are lead on a rotating basis by Sandra Chiou, Hilary Kvale, and Lauren Miller. It is an excellent book, reminding us consistently to know and walk in God's abundant grace and to seek for that to overflow and influence our love and instruction of our children. In addition to stimulating discussion from the book, we have an extended time of sharing and prayer for one another. There is a sweet bond and community of encouragement and help among these precious ladies who are seeking to raise their children in the Lord. We give thanks for each of these moms and their children, for the beautiful space to meet in, for the child-care workers who love on the children while we are meeting, and for the encouragement and help from the church making it all possible.

Over 40 women participated in Friendship Circles, meeting in small groups for book studies, encouragement, and activities. Baby and bridal showers were held in DeSoto Hall or the women's ministry room or the Fellowship House.

Through 'Take Them A Meal Ministry', close to 50 meals were delivered in 2022 to those in our midst who are celebrating new babies, grieving the loss of a loved one, and/or in need of comfort, rest, and healing. That means women stepped forward 50 times to cook and deliver a meal, and families were blessed with 50 hot reminders that the church body operates like a family. In 2023, if you know of someone who needs a meal, please email Jane Lewellen at jlwellen6655@gmail.com.

Other ways Women's Ministry of Faith cares for our church family is through providing receptions for funerals, taking care of special needs for our sisters, staffing the nursery for church services, keeping the kitchen cleaned and organized, providing coffee after the morning services, and many other acts of service.

We want all of our sisters here at Faith to know they are not alone. There are many ways to serve and be served. We are thankful for each one of you who has continued to reach out to encourage one another. We hope all the women of the church will get involved with Women's Ministry of Faith as we grow in grace and the knowledge of the Lord together in 2023. (2 Peter 3:18)

Respectfully Submitted,

Women's Ministry Administrative Team
Dawn Darby, Director
Khalia Bentson
Tina LeFebvre
Jane Lewellen