



The Gathering
WOMEN BY DESIGN

WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWS

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4Q | 2018

THE LORD IS ALWAYS PRESENT

The cool breezes of fall are blowing away the heat of summer. Seasons, always changing by God's design, surround us in nature and in our lives. Having completed an eight-month season of surgery and chemo, I am thankful for the lessons learned in that hot, difficult season. God was so very faithful and taught these lessons not just for this season but for the seasons ahead.

Many people choose a word for the year. As this journey began with the calendar change to 2018, I tried to choose my word. But as is often the case, a wait was involved before that word became clear. The word that best summarizes this season is PRESENT.

First lesson—The Lord is always present!

One of the earliest verses of scripture I memorized was Deuteronomy 31:8—"The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you. He will never leave you or forsake you. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged." I have always acknowledged and believed these words were true, but when the going gets tough your roots grow deeply as God demonstrates that He is PRESENT! He affirms, encourages, loves, gives rest and refreshment in so many ways.



CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

See page 4 for more information

LADIES' RETREAT

**Friday and Saturday
October 12-13**

LADIES' CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Friday, November 30, 7pm, NR

BOOK CLUB

**Thursday, October 25
Thursday, November 15**

PROJECT LINUS

**Tuesday, October 16
Tuesday, November 20**

SEWING DAYS AT PH

**Tuesday, October 2
Tuesday, November 6**

SOLE SISTERS

Saturday, October 20

Check The Gathering app, bulletin and Facebook for more details.

To receive up-to-date information from Women by Design, contact teresa@gatheringkc.com with your current contact info. Like us on Facebook at "The Gathering Women by Design."

THE LORD IS ALWAYS PRESENT (CONTINUED)

Sometimes He spoke through His Word, giving hidden treasures so that I would know He is the Lord who summons me by name (Isaiah 45:3). The gospel became a precious and firm foundation because no matter what happened, I knew I was safe in His care. Because of Jesus...Peace!

Once he assured me through a magazine which named my oncologist as one of the best in Kansas City.

And He assured me of His presence through compassionate, skilled nurses. Rest!

Many days, cards/texts/calls of encouragement and prayer arrived. What a reassurance to know that I didn't have to be strong enough on my own. If I was too sick or tired, others were praying and bringing me before the Lord. Gifts of food strengthened us for the journey. Rides were provided to treatments. Lifted up and carried!

A beautiful sunrise or sunset, a cool breeze on a summer morning, colorful birds visiting our feeders, green grass and flowers reminded me of our wonderful creator who has everything under control. So often my "to do" list distracts from noticing God's grandeur. Beauty!

The Lord is provider and a very real help in time of trouble.

Second Lesson---Be present!

"This is the day the Lord has made, I will rejoice and be glad in it!" Psalm 118:24

God taught me the value of each new day and the need to be present in the moments of each day and with the people encountered. When cancer strikes and chemo becomes the new normal, each day is unpredictable. Life moves at a much slower pace, and suddenly I saw things I normally rushed right past. I had time to look into the eyes of another and to notice their unique characteristics. I had time to listen and sometimes just sit and enjoy. I had permission to say "no" to an overloaded schedule. I experienced the value of investing limited time and resources in relationships with people and with God.

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name." Psalm 100:4. God graciously opened my eyes to see His goodness and kindness even on the hard days. Want to be present with God? Praise Him for who He is: faithful, wise, compassionate, strong, loving and so much more. Thank Him for what He's done: salvation, His Word available to us, encouragement, patience, etc. One day I was having a pity party because something I enjoyed doing on my good weekends was coming to an end. God clearly reprimanded me, "Why don't you be glad for the times you had to enjoy instead of throwing a tantrum because it's over?" I was humbled and thankful for His correction, and it surely changed my focus to the PRESENT.

I also learned how worry removes us from the present. My treatments were every other Tuesday, and worry began to take over on the Saturday before as I focused on what was coming. Matthew 6:34 spoke this truth: "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." The Holy Spirit showed me that I was missing God's blessings today because I was worrying about Tuesday. When my mind would start to wander, His truth would bring me back to the PRESENT.

As this summer season comes to a close and fall and the holiday season are near, I don't want to forget these lessons. I want to slow down and live each day fully present with the Lord and the people around me. I want to be more than do. I want to simplify, yet celebrate. I want to cast my cares and worries on the Lord. I want to be full of praise and thanksgiving. I want to love well, listen and learn. I want the joy of the Lord to be my strength and my song. Will you join me in making this your best Thanksgiving and Christmas ever by slowing down to live fully present with a heart of thanksgiving and praise?

☺ Beth



Retired Lady Ramblings

Happy Fall Y'all!

This is what I call the beginning of "The Candy Season."

So, it's October and, of course, the store aisles are full of Halloween candy. Pay Day, Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, Almond Joy, Milky Way,

caramels; even candy corn (which I refuse to eat, but love for decorating). The candy companies don't want us to stop with Halloween. Oh no, now we have autumn-colored candy (M&Ms) and autumn-colored candy wrappers (Hershey's Kisses) to take us all the way through pumpkin-flavored Thanksgiving!

And then, lo-and-behold, it's Christmas-time! Get out the red and green M&Ms and the candy canes and the red and white striped Hershey's Kisses; not to mention the Christmas-theme wrapped chocolate-covered marshmallow tin soldiers. And just when you've made it through after-Christmas sales and are ready for your New Year's resolutions and purging the house of all that's sweet, you're digging deep into the back of the kitchen pantry and what do you find but snack size Snickers left over from Halloween!

Then all too soon when you just stop by the store for some Weight Watchers frozen dinners, there are chocolate-covered Cherry Cordials and red hots and Cherry Mash and Russell Stover's everything! Once all the red and pink foil wrappers disappear, you think you're home free, but no, wait! Are those marshmallow Peeps and chocolate Easter bunnies and foil-covered pastel chocolate eggs lining the shelves? And when Easter is gone - what comes soon after? It's summer! Time to go camping and make S'mores! Did you know that you can substitute graham crackers and chocolate bars with Keebler Fudge Stripe cookies? (Don't tell Nabisco and Hershey's I said that.)

And now you know what's coming next. The 4th of July. In addition to S'mores, we have to get Twizzlers and red, white, and blue M&Ms. (Actually, I think there's a different M&M for every day of the year now.) And just like that, summer is over, the kids are going back to school and...

Happy Fall Y'all! This is what I call the beginning of "The Candy Season..."

■ A common myth is that the Baby Ruth candy bar was named after the great slugger Babe Ruth. But, according to Curtiss Candy Company, the bar was actually named after President Grover Cleveland's daughter, Ruth.

■ Gumdrops are a chewy and sugary gelatin-style treat invented in 1801. They were featured on the board game Candyland. Every year people use them to decorate their gingerbread houses.

■ Did you know the candy coating on M&Ms was invented at Midwest Research Institute here in KC?

■ PayDay had one of the most unique marketing campaigns in 1989 when each bar came with an individually wrapped nickel.

■ PEZ's name takes three letters from the German word for peppermint: Pfefferminz. The original PEZ was first marketed as an alternative to smoking.



■ Starburst's one of the youngest candies on the market, coming here in the '70s. Each Starburst has 4.4% of your daily Vitamin C; 450 calories of Starburst get you 100% of your daily Vitamin C needs.

■ Milk Duds, along with Junior Mints are one of the most popular movie candies on the market. However, they got their name because the original creators considered them a bust—or a Dud!

■ Snickers is the best selling candy bar in the entire world with over 15-million bars produced each day.

■ Mars made one of the biggest blunders in candy marketing. M&Ms were originally asked to be included in the movie "E.T. the Extra Terrestrial." They declined, and Hershey stepped in with their popular hard-shell peanut butter candy, Reese's Pieces. Estimates say Reese's sales increased over 300% once the movie was released.

WOMEN BY DESIGN MINISTRIES

The purpose of Women by Design is to complement the mission of Noland Road Baptist Church, to magnify the Lord, and to disciple women toward spiritual maturity, equipping them to be disciple-makers. Through Bible study, mutual encouragement and service to others, we seek to glorify our Savior, Jesus Christ, and live godly, transformed lives.

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.” Luke 10:27



BOOK CLUB

Upcoming books:

- **October 25**
Looking Into You by Chris Fabry
- **November 15**
The Christmas Angel Project by Melody Carlson
- **No Book Club in December.**

We meet each month at 7pm in West Wing on Noland campus, unless a special occasion changes the time or location; any changes will be in the bulletin.

Books can be obtained in the church library at the Noland campus. For more information contact Carolyn Cordell at 816-806-7059.

PROJECT LINUS

Project Linus makes quilts for children. We meet the **third Tuesday of each month** from 10am to noon. There's a job for anyone of any skill level (or none at all), whether it be cutting out fabric, piecing together, sewing, etc. It is helpful to bring your own scissors, but not required. For more information, contact Charlene Bledsoe at cmbledsoe@sbcglobal.net. We meet at the Noland campus.

SEWING DAY AT PLAZA

Come sew with us the first Tuesday of each month, 10am to 2pm at the Plaza Heights Campus. Enter at Gym/Elevator doors and take the elevator to lower level. Call Vickie Stanley at 816-786-8794 or Cheryl Taylor at 816-797-2575 for additional information.

SOLE SISTERS

Who are we? Sole Sisters are the single women of the Gathering Baptist Church. We are women of all ages, income, heritage, etc., with the common bond of being single (whether never married, divorced or widowed) and loving the Lord. Our goal is to provide fellowship opportunities, prayer for each other, and a shoulder to lean on when necessary.

Sole Sisters will be going to Carolyn's Country Cousins Pumpkin Patch in Liberty on Saturday, October 20. We will meet at the Noland Road campus (park by the West Wing) at 10:00 am (leaving by 10:10) and carpool to the Pumpkin patch. Admission is \$10.95 and if you choose to purchase a pumpkin, they start at \$4. After we spend time at the patch, we will then determine a place in Liberty to eat lunch. We will return around 2 pm. Please contact Brenda Ahring at 816-716-5813 if you have questions.



Are you a Facebook user?

Did you know that Women by Design has a FB page?

It's listed as The Gathering: Women by Design. Please like our page and share your favorite posts with your friends. It's a great way to let them know what is happening with the women of The Gathering Baptist Church. It's also a nice way for you to keep up with everything that's going on for ladies at both campuses!



26 New Things to Try During the Holidays

- 1 Bake an apple pie from scratch
- 2 Get a fall-scented candle
- 3 Send a thank you note to a pastor
- 4 Take pictures of fall leaves
- 5 Make pumpkin pancakes
- 6 Visit a farmers' market
- 7 Memorize a new scripture verse
- 8 Take a child to story time at the library
- 9 Have a movie marathon with a friend
- 10 Try a new soup recipe
- 11 Enjoy a scenic fall drive
- 12 Send a care package to a soldier
- 13 Bake cookies for your neighbors
- 14 Drive around and look at Christmas lights
- 15 Have a snowball fight with a friend (or grandchild)
- 16 Plan for next year's garden or flower bed
- 17 Host a gift wrapping party
- 18 Make a list of people who need prayer and then pray
- 19 Stay in your pajamas all day and read an entire book
- 20 Bundle up and take a stroll outside with a steamy beverage
- 21 Go to a craft store and discover a new hobby
- 22 Sign up for an exercise or dance class
- 23 Organize your old photos and get them digitized
- 24 Sing at the top of your lungs (when no one else is around)
- 25 Start researching your genealogy
- 26 Find someone else who wants to do this list and do it together!

Showing Others the Love of Jesus

How can you focus on showing the love of Jesus to others during the holiday season?

Spend time with others. Take the time to really have quality time with your family and to others who might be lonely or needing a friend during the holidays. For many, holidays can be a difficult time.

Volunteer. Serve those less fortunate than yourself. Spend an afternoon with senior citizens, serve a meal to the homeless, or play some games with families dealing with cancer.

Make some homemade treats. Prepare some treats to give someone who may need a little pick-me-up.

Donate. Donate some canned goods or toys to a local food or toy drive.

Forgive. Show forgiveness toward someone. Remember what Jesus has done for you.

Show Jesus' love. Wherever you go and whatever you do, let the love of Jesus show through you. Smile when you feel like saying unkind words. Say thank you and show your gratitude to others. Be kind and love others.