



December 2024 Women's Ministry at Valley Baptist Church

Some years, I start planning for Christmas a full year in advance. I make a list of things I need to replenish, like wrapping paper and stamps, as I put away my decorations. I take pictures of my sons over the summer so that I can have my cards printed before Thanksgiving. Some years, I'm frantically wrapping and baking on December 23rd and 24th, wishing I had just one more week to prepare. But most years end up being a combination of those two. Christmas can certainly be chaotic. But this year as December approached, God reminded me of the lyrics to a beloved hymn.

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant

O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem

What a lovely reminder that preparing my home is not nearly as important as preparing my heart. Am I joyful and triumphant this Christmas season? Or am I worrying about my budget and my baking? Has my heart wandered far from Bethlehem? Have I forgotten the words spoken by an angel to shepherds watching their flock *"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord"* (Luke 2:10-11, ESV). Christmas will still be Christmas if my cards aren't mailed and my cookies aren't baked. But without our Savior, there is no Christmas. There is no joy. There is no hope.

So this year, let's carve out some time to celebrate Jesus first. Let's go to church. Let's sing hymns. Let's read the Word of God. After all, it is there that we are taught, *"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace"* (Isaiah 9:6, ESV). And then, even if our trees are crooked, our cookies are burnt and our gifts aren't wrapped, with triumphant joy, we can sing:

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,

Jesus, to thee be all glory given.

Katie Land

**Mark Your Calendars:
Connected Events**



Christmas Joy

Monday, Dec 9, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Bible Studies

Wednesday, January 8, 6:00-7:30 pm

Thursday, January 9, 9:00-11:00 am

**Connected Team
at a Glance**

Jean Kielisch,
Coordinator

Beth Dunning
Katie Land
Erin Long
Sue Shepard
Paula Weber

Newsletter:
Sherri Darby

January Bible Studies

Ladies, Bible study will resume in January! Plan to join us on Wednesday evenings beginning January 8. Or Thursday mornings beginning January 9.

Watch your email and the website for more information and to sign up.



**2025 Women's Retreat
April 4-6, 2025**

The Lodge at Leathem Smith
Sturgeon Bay

Valley Baptist Church's
CONNECTED WOMEN'S MINISTRY
invites you to an
evening of

Christmas
JOY

Monday, December 9th
6:30-8:00 pm
in the Welcome Center

We will enjoy fellowship, worship, teaching,
and prayer as we prepare our hearts for
Christmas and celebrate Jesus' birth together.

Light refreshments provided.
Bring your Bible and a friend!

RSVP appreciated at
<https://valleyconnex.org/womens-ministry/>