



April 2025 Newsletter

Women's Ministry at Valley Baptist Church

***Jesus said to her (Martha), "I am the resurrection and the life.
Whoever believes in Me, though he may die, yet shall he live and everyone
who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"
She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God,
who is coming into the world." John 11:25-27 (ESV)***

Preparation... Resurrection Sunday is Coming...(Prepare: v. to make ready for a specific purpose)

As a young girl, I remember my dear mom kicking into high gear at this time of year for an activity called "Spring Cleaning". Windows and doors were opened (WI weather permitting) to let in the fresh air to not only feel it but also to smell it. As I got older, each year more help was expected from me. When the cleaning was done, mom would rearrange the living room furniture; She said it was good to get a new perspective in her home! She was readying her home for the upcoming Spring holiday, Easter aka Resurrection Sunday, not only for her family, but also for guests.

Another fond memory of preparation was shopping at a downtown department store for a new Easter outfit which usually included a hat, white gloves, and white patent leather. The evening before Easter Sunday was an early bedtime in order to get up for the 6:00 AM Sunrise Church Service. We would greet one another with "He is risen... He is risen, indeed"! As the sun rose, sunbeams would shine through the stained glass windows as we were singing beautiful hymns... what a fond memory!

Now please know, I do not go about preparing my own home to the degree I was taught! However, I do try to do my best to take the time to prepare my heart to remember what this time of year represents with the culmination of the Resurrection Sunday celebration. I seek times to be quiet before Him, to diligently be in His Word, and then to reflect on who our Savior and Lord truly is and what He has done in my life thus far. Each year as I read in the Gospels, I am in awe at all that took place in that final week of His life. (Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 22, and John 12)

I encourage you to make ready for the wonderful gift of Resurrection Sunday. What might be some preparations for you to do personally or as a family? (I have included a few ideas on the next page that I have used in the past.) May He continue to show you ways to focus on what His Resurrection truly means.

Because of HIM,
Sue Shepard

WOMEN'S SPRING BIBLE STUDIES

Join us this Spring as we study the Book of Jonah together for five weeks on Wednesday evenings and/or Thursday mornings, using the Bible as our text.

These studies are for both the beginner as well as the seasoned woman in Bible study. All are welcome.

Wednesdays 6:00-7:30pm April 2nd-30th Facilitated by Erin Long and Beth Dunning and also Thursday mornings 9-11am facilitated by Paula Weber April 3 - May 1.

Connected Team at a Glance

Paula Weber &
Erin Long,
Co-Coordinator

Beth Dunning
Katie Land
Sue Shepard

Newsletter:
Sherri Jansen

Bible Study Facilitator Informational Meeting

Saturday, April 26th, 9-10:30am

It is our hearts' desire to raise up more women's Bible study facilitators! To this end, we are planning an informational meeting for women who have a sense that God may be calling you to join us in this ministry.

You will learn:

- How the Holy Spirit equips you for ministry
- How you will be trained and supported using our side-by-side ministry philosophy
- What the requirements are to be a facilitator
- What you would be committing to should you decide to move forward
- How to choose a Bible study

Going to the meeting does not commit you - it is simply a starting place to learn more!

Contact Paula Weber or Erin Long for more information.

Please register here:
valleyconnex.org/womens-ministry

Jelly Bean Prayer (Author Unknown)

Red is for the blood He gave,
Green is for the grass He made.
Yellow is for the sun so bright,
Orange is for the edge of night.
Black is for the sins that were made,
White is for the grace He gave.
Purple is for the hour of sorrow,
Pink is for the new tomorrow.
A bag full of jelly beans, colorful and sweet,
is a prayer... is a promise, is an Easter treat!

Tips & Resources for Resurrection Sunday

Bake Resurrection Cookies

(Bake these on Sat. night before Resurrection Sunday)

"Easter Cookies: A Memorable Way to Teach Kids the Resurrection" by Sandy Coughlin
crosswalk.com

Spiritual Reading

Incomparable: 50 Days with Jesus by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth
reviveourhearts.com

The Incomparable Christ by J.S. Sanders
christianbook.com

