

CONNECTED

Women's Ministry

"Side by Side, Together for the Gospel"

"Change in the Midst of Our Lives"

By Paula Weber

As we wait for spring weather to show up (for real!) I wait with excitement for new life to burst forth! It is more than waiting, I watch for it!

Generally speaking, I do not like change, at least most of the time! I think that may be true for a lot of us. Some change is good, like the changing of seasons, going from winter to spring - I love that! When tiny buds emerge on the scene, it's like hope just showed up!! Some change is delightful, like watching the grandkids grow and change. Or improving a habit. Other changes can feel like a disruption, like a change in routine, or things I want to stay the same but don't. Change can bring some tension.

There is only one place I can find the stability in the midst of life. I take great comfort in the fact that the Lord does not change.

Hebrews 13:8 says; **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.** His character remains consistent!

James 1:17 says; **Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.** His goodness never wavers!

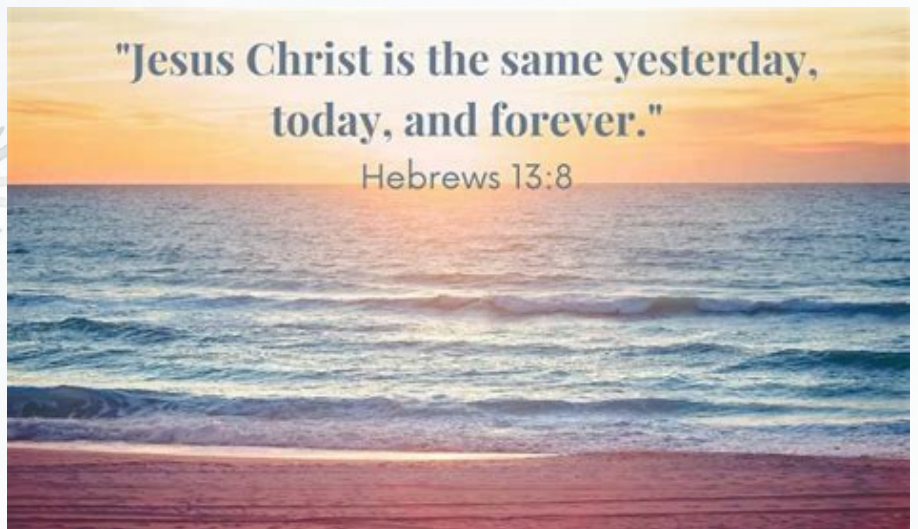
And His mercy is constant; **"For I the LORD do not change."** Malachi 3:6

So, if things change around me, I can cling to my Savior who is good and steadfast, and hold on to the hope that we have in Jesus!

"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."
Lamentations 3:22-23

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday,
today, and forever."

Hebrews 13:8



**Gather & Grow Speaker ~
Lea Ann Turner**

Ladies, you are invited to join us on
Saturday, April 18th from 9am-3pm
for our new annual spring event:



Come and enjoy a refreshing day of
Scripture, worship, prayer, and fellowship
as we step away from the busyness of life
for just a bit!

Our theme for this year's Gather and Grow
event is

Gathered by Grace, Planted in Purpose.

The cost of the event is \$35 and includes
morning refreshments, lunch, and snacks.

Please do not let the cost of the event
prevent you from attending.

Invite your mom, sister, daughter, friend,
and neighbor! Open to all ladies (middle
school and older.)

Watch your email for registration
information coming soon!

Lea Ann has been on a God-written adventure since giving her life to Christ at the age of 9 (and she does love adventure!). She sensed a call to be a pastor's wife all the way back in 8th grade—6 years before she ever met the man she would marry! God brought their paths together her freshman year of college, and 35 years later, they're still walking out that calling, watching God work in new ways.

Lea Ann is the proud and praying mom of three adult children (because nothing deepens your prayer life like adult children) and has recently gained a wonderful daughter-in-law. Whether at home, at church, or in her work as an educator, Lea Ann has a deep passion for teaching, learning, and helping others grow. Her heart is to make God's Word come alive through fun and engaging interaction so that everyone can experience it in a meaningful way. She can't wait to dig into Scripture with you and discover together what God has for us!



Praying the Scriptures

by Beth Dunning

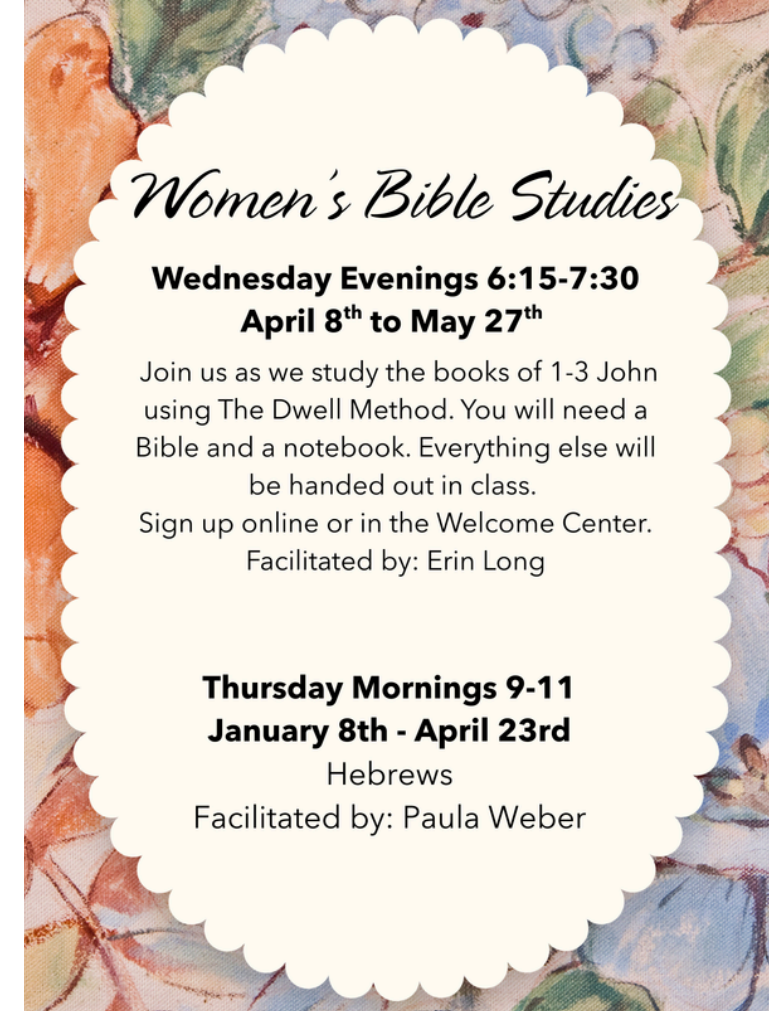
I love this very familiar passage of Scripture in Luke 2:46 when Jesus stayed in Jerusalem after the Passover and sat with the teachers “listening to them and asking questions.” As I read and reread the text, my reading became a prayer:

Lord, how I realize that I need to be a better listener. So often, when I read your Word, I read too fast and fail to listen to what You want to say to me. Lord, I want “*to be quick to listen and slow to speak.*” *James 1:19.* Lord, help me to be like young Samuel, who responded to God’s call by saying, “*Speak, for your servant is listening.*” 1 Samuel 3:10.

Appreciate Your Pastor’s Wife

by Sue Shepard

Several years back there was significant encouragement to use the month of March as Pastors’ Wives Appreciation Month. I love this idea! I would ask you to please take some time to encourage your Pastor’s Wife this month (or whenever the Lord leads you this year) through faithful prayer, notes of encouragement and thankfulness (via text, email, snail mail), verbal affirmations when you see her, and maybe even an act of service for her and



Women's Bible Studies

Wednesday Evenings 6:15-7:30
April 8th to May 27th

Join us as we study the books of 1-3 John using The Dwell Method. You will need a Bible and a notebook. Everything else will be handed out in class.

Sign up online or in the Welcome Center.

Facilitated by: Erin Long

Thursday Mornings 9-11
January 8th - April 23rd

Hebrews

Facilitated by: Paula Weber

her family. Many spoken and unspoken expectations are placed upon this lady as she supports her husband and the “calling” upon his life which often includes “sharing her husband” as he tends the sheep at the church with his time and energy. She contributes to the life of the church in many seen and unseen ways. Support her with a genuine friendship and understanding, not always critiquing and/or complaining or even discussing church issues every time you see her. Also, is there a Pastor’s Wife from your past that impacted your faith walk along the way? Don’t hesitate to share a meaningful story of gratitude with them!

Serving you in love,
the Connected Women's Ministry Team

Paula Weber - Coordinator, Beth Dunning, Sue Shepard
Newsletter: Sherri Jansen and Erin Long

Valley Baptist's Connected Women's Ministry Team is devoted to helping women live out the Gospel through their God-given design and purpose. Our passion is to see women grow in knowing and living out the Word of God through biblical study, prayer, special events, mentoring, and serving others in the love of Christ.