

Ministry of Women

PEOPLES CHURCH OF SARNIA-LAMBTON

WINTER 2017-18



BABY NEWS

NEW ARRIVALS

Everett Levi
Born September 19
To Eric & Jenn

Jack Lawrence
Born October 22
To Brad & Jessica

Maddox Theo
Born October 27
To Jamie & Amanda

Logan David
Born November 2
To David & Rachel

Scarlett Rose
Born November 6
To Mark & Janice

EXPECTING

Kate Buurma
(November)

Sheri Nliba
(February)

Baby Shower information will be posted in the Sunday bulletin for first-time babies, so watch for details there.



What's In a Word?

"Behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11)



Joy was the theme of the devotional/introduction to Philippians that Mike and I had just read to our kids the other day – reminding them that our happiness can't be based on our feelings and the fleeting things of the world, but is something that needs to be rooted deeper – in comes 'Joy.'

Joy is one of those words that seem synonymous with the Christmas season. Joy decor is fashioning the shelves of the stores already; rustic wooden signs, and sequins-spattered throw pillows bearing the word catch my eye. And although I do see 'Happy' decor from time to time, it's usually not at Christmas. Curious...perhaps, even though the culture is in the pursuit of happiness, there is an understanding that the word 'Joy' is set apart somehow.

The book of Philippians is known as Paul's 'Joy letter,' but I find it so intriguing that the first chapter is titled *Joy in Suffering!* You just know it has been orchestrated that way for us!

Think of Joy as being an active role to partake in—just as it is with love, self-control, patience, gentleness, thankfulness, etc. (Galatians 5:22). They are the Fruits of the Spirit that don't come particularly easy for most of us. Happiness, however, is more of an inactive emotion we get when things go well for us.

Consider going through Philippians as we near Christmas. Glean from Paul's example and his circumstances. Glean from those among us who are shining examples of carrying on in 'joy' among heartache and difficulty. Following is an excerpt from the devotional/introduction to Philippians that we shared with our children:

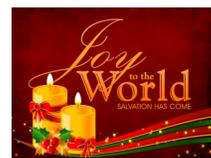
The Word happiness evokes visions of unwrapping gifts on Christmas morning, strolling hand in hand with the one you love, being surprised on your birthday, responding with unbridled laughter to a comedian, or vacationing in an exotic locale. Everyone wants to be happy; we make chasing this elusive ideal a lifelong pursuit: spending money, collecting things, and searching for new experiences. But if happiness depends on our circumstances, what happens when the toys rust, loved ones die, health deteriorates, money is stolen, and the party's over? Often happiness flees and despair sets in. In contrast to happiness stands joy. Running deeper and stronger, joy is the quiet, confident assurance of God's love and work in our lives – that He will be there no matter what! Happiness depends on happenings, but joy depends on Christ.

- *Life Application Study Bible (NIV)*

May we desire to cultivate Joy in our lives all year round! Merry Christmas!

"Rejoice in the Lord, always, I will say it again, rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4)

In Christ,
Lisa Land



**Promised Grace for Rebel Hearts:
Deuteronomy's Call to Find Life
in the God of Grace**

TGC
THE GOSPEL COALITION

*listen
and
live*

PROMISED GRACE FOR REBEL HEARTS
Deuteronomy's Call to Find Life in the God of Grace

Speakers include:

Don Carson
John & Noël Piper
Jen Wilkin
Nancy Guthrie
Blair Linne
Gloria Furman
...and many more

We're Going to a Conference!

Peoples Church Ministry of Women invites you to join us for The Gospel Coalition's 2018 Women's Conference. This conference is billed as "a conference for women but not all about women." Speakers include Don Carson, John Piper and many more. The best way to get a flavour for this conference is to check out the website (and register). The theme of the conference is *Listen and Live: Promised Grace for Rebel Hearts*, and this theme is based on the book of Deuteronomy. The conference will address topics "that show in practical ways how God's grace shapes every aspect of life in this fallen and needy world." The conference takes place June 14-16, which may seem like a long way off, but it does book quickly. We recommend that you commit soon.

A handout with hotel and meal information, a tentative itinerary, transportation and

other pertinent information was placed in mailboxes and at the Welcome Centre on November 5. Please read through that information and book today! Once you have registered online for the conference, please see Helena in the office to pay for your hotel and meals. Better yet: hint to your husband that this would make a great Christmas gift. Helena and Tiffany may be able to gift wrap something for under the tree. You can act surprised and delighted, and your husband will think that he's gotten you the best gift ever!



We'd love to fill a bus for this event. This is a great way to get to know other women at our church. Join the fun, learn more about our God of grace, and grow in Him through this experience.

You can find out more about the conference itself at the following web address:

<http://2018.thegospelcoalition.org>

Mentoring

We've been hearing from our gals that schedules are full to overload; we know this to be true from our own schedules! We sometimes go through seasons such as this, and because we've been there, we understand.

If you find January pulling you toward change or new growth, and if mentoring is where you're being drawn, please contact Anne Ottaway or Deb Bydeley. One-on-one mentoring is still being offered, but if you're a little shy for one on one, you can call the office to have your name put on the list for our new pilot program whereby you would be mentored in a small group setting of three or four women.

Any of your questions can be answered by contacting either Anne (519-845-0525 Email: a_ottaway@hotmail.com) or Deb (519-541-1552 Email: jbydeley@cogeco.ca).

We wish you a wonderful, blessed, and peaceful Christmas season.

Anne + Deb



My [daughter], if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.
Proverbs 2:1-5 (ESV)

Bible Study DVD

The DVD by Jen Wilkin that was shown at our Fall Bible Study Kick-off is available from the office for any who would like to borrow it along with the handouts from that session.

In January, we are planning to have four Bible studies for you to choose from: two on Tuesday mornings from 9:15-11:00 a.m. beginning January 9th, one on Monday evenings beginning January 8th, and one on Tuesday evenings, also beginning January 9th. We are greatly privileged to have so many women able and willing to teach the Bible and we encourage you to seek the Lord for which study He might direct you to participate in. Read on for the details below and sign up so the teachers can plan accordingly.

Adorned: Living out the Beauty of the Gospel Together

This study, written by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth looks at Titus 2 and its powerful vision for women. The C.A.F.E. welcomes you to **Come And Find Encouragement** as we study Titus 2 in the New Year. Woman to woman. Older to younger. Day to day. Life to life. Side by side. This is God's beautiful plan. Won't you come? Anna Jamieson will lead this study. The cost of the book will be \$14.

Precept: Philippians – How to Have Joy

How do I live the Christian life joyfully regardless of people or circumstances? What is the purpose of suffering and the Christian perspective on death? Do I have "the mind of Christ"? Discover true, deep-down joy in your life that the world cannot take away. Emily Anjema will lead this study on Tuesday mornings and Trudy Stamos will lead on Monday evenings. The cost of the study materials will be \$20.

A Study on God's Grace

Why do we need grace? As we study the Word of God and look at Romans chapters 1 and 3, we see what man looks like apart from grace. It is not a pretty sight. But then we can go to Ephesians 2 and see the miracle that God does with grace, as He intervenes in man's hopeless estate. What exactly does He do? As we study this winter, we will look into exactly what God has done for us. Join Pat Freeman Tuesday evenings as she leads this study, and dig into grace! There is no cost for materials for this study.

Infertility, Pregnancy, and Post-Partum Complications Support

Walking through infertility, miscarriage, pregnancy and postpartum complications is never easy, but it's harder when you feel alone. An increasing number of you fit these categories and the Ministry of Women desires to be an encouragement and support for you.

Coping with infertility and pregnancy related issues can be such a private and silent struggle. It can be difficult to articulate the many emotions and needs that arise during these times in life, but sharing them with women who have walked a similar path can be a tremendous encouragement. This can also be a time of spiritual struggle, despair and questioning God's plan for your life and your family.

We want to meet you wherever you are in your journey. Our involvement will only be at your request and completely confidential. There are three women

from our congregation who have been preparing to minister in this capacity under the umbrella of the Ministry of Women. No information will be shared beyond the three women currently involved in this particular ministry except upon your request. Your circumstances are all different, and we want to show you the appropriate care to suit your unique needs and wishes.

We long for you to be women who love and seek the Lord in everything; to rest in God's amazing faithfulness and the hope in His sovereign plan for you.

If you'd like to connect with one of us, contact Kim Minielly at 519-466-0789 (home phone) or email minielly4@gmail.com. If you see me on Sunday come chat with me if that's easier.

Recipe Section

Spicy and Sweet Cranberry and Jalapeño Dip/Salsa

- 1 12-oz package *fresh, uncooked* cranberries, diced (Edit: Don't use a food processor to chop these. It is slightly time consuming, but the cranberries will liquefy if they are not hand-chopped.)
- 1/4 cup green onion, chopped
- 2 fresh jalapeño peppers, seeded and diced
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 Tbsp. lime juice
- Dash of salt
- 2 8-oz packages cream cheese, softened and whipped

1. In a medium-sized bowl, add chopped cranberries, green onion, and jalapeno.
2. Pour sugar, lime juice and salt over cranberry mixture and stir gently until blended.
3. Cover with plastic wrap and place in refrigerator for at least one hour. If you prefer less tart cranberries, keep in the refrigerator overnight.
4. Take cranberry mixture out of the refrigerator and stir all ingredients together. Strain out the liquid using a colander with small holes.
5. Spread cream cheese mixture over bottom of a pie plate or 9×9 dish.
6. Pour cranberry mixture atop cream cheese and keep in refrigerator until ready to serve.
7. Serve with Ritz crackers and enjoy!

Serves 20

NOTE: Leave out the cream cheese if serving as a salsa and serve with Tostitos or cinnamon crisps.

Feta Spinach Stuffed French Bread

Author: Kevin | Keviniscooking.com

- 8 oz. cream cheese, room temperature
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 package Lipton onion soup mix (See Note 1)
- 1/2 tsp fresh cracked black pepper
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese, separated
- 1 cup feta cheese
- 10 oz. package frozen chopped spinach, thawed
- 24 slices of sliced salami rounds chopped (See Note 2)
- 2 loaves French bread or 4 baguettes



1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Thaw frozen spinach and drain in a sieve, pressing to extract excess water. Place spinach in a bowl and set aside.
2. Slice the top off the loaves of bread horizontally and scoop out the interior bread leaving a wonderful crust container. Save inside bread pieces for another use.
3. In a mixing bowl add the cream cheese, mayonnaise, sour cream, onion soup mix, and black pepper. Mix to blend and add 1 cup mozzarella and the feta cheese and mix. Next add the spinach and salami. Stir to combine.
4. Divide the filling between loaves of bread and top with remaining 1 cup mozzarella cheese. Bake for 20-24 minutes until top is golden and bubbling. Allow to cool slightly before slicing.

NOTES

1. Feta cheese is a little on the salty side, so if that is a possible issue for you I would use half of the onion soup mix, or just 2 teaspoons dried onions.
2. I used a 15 oz. package of Gallo Italian Dry Salami slices and chopped them. It was 24 slices total for the recipe.



*I do not turn aside
from your rules,
for you have taught me.
How sweet are your words
to my taste, sweeter than
honey to my mouth!
Through your precepts
I get understanding;
therefore I hate
every false way.*

Psalms 119:102-104
(ESV)