



# Hearts Connected

## ON YOUR MARK, GET READY, GET SET, GO!

The Women's Ministry at Peoples church is taking off in 2021! Despite the changes in our world due to Covid-19 and the challenges facing us we are exploring new ways to stay connected with those whom we cherish. For us it's you! We are excited to introduce new ways to keep our hearts connected as Sisters in the Lord. One of those ways is through our quarterly news letter that will be sent out directly to your home or accessed online . It is our hope that you will feel our love and the love of God as you read and enjoy some of the suggested reads and activities written in these pages.



### OUR VISION:

"To connect the hearts of all women to Jesus and each other."

### OUR MISSION:

To use media, mentoring, groups and events to encourage, disciple and support each other as sisters in God's family.

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Linda Diller

Women's Ministry Leader

## THE THREE QUESTIONS

I watched a comedy presentation by Michael Jr. (12/27/20 – The Good Room on YouTube) that challenged me about walking in my purpose. He shared three methods that are used to develop his comedy that parallel how people “do” life. The first was “Improv” – just trying to do what comes along to see if it works, or not. The second was working with a Premise – an idea about yourself or others that needs to be tested out, and let go of if it doesn't fly. The best jokes, however, start with the Punch Line first. This he referenced with Isaiah 46:10, and I'll start with part of verse 9: “I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning...I will do all My pleasure and purpose.”

*“I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning...I will do all My pleasure and purpose.”*

### LET'S TRY IT!

What is the problem ?

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Who are the people involved?

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What do I give or contribute?

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If you want to deliver what you have been designed to do, you need to connect with the ONE who gave you your gift in the first place- this was the punch line Michael Jr was working with. I think we all have that heart search for our purpose, but we need each other to see it, to test it and to walk it out. The three questions which move us toward our purpose are: **What is the problem? Who are the people? What do I give?**

Michael Jr was challenging his audience that they each have something to deliver in this year. As women of faith our challenge has been keeping connection and exercising courage to try new things. We are reaching out to you for input. We know we are better together, and that God has assignments for us to do. Romans 8:19 states “creation waits eagerly for God's sons (and daughters) to be revealed.” Yes, our world needs us to shine brightly, each in our space, but strengthened by our confidence in the ONE who knows the end game.

Linda Diller



## DO YOU SEE WHAT HE SEES?

In our fast paced lives as women, we start to take on numerous life roles like Wife, employee, daughter, mother, boss and caregiver. It's so easy to start to weigh our self-worth based on other peoples expectations of us or our accomplishments in these roles. Disappointments in these areas can start to diminish our confidence based on mistakes, shortcomings or shame from our past. But how would it feel to see ourselves how God sees us? Imagine the freedom and confidence this way of thinking would cultivate. Here are some practical steps to realign our thoughts to what our Abba Father says about us.

### 1. Mute negative self talk!

How many times do you get a compliment or an urge to make a gutsy move and that voice in your head immediately minimize it with negativity directed at yourself. "I can't do it", "I just got lucky", "I'm surprised I could figure it out". Practice this when you catch yourself saying these things. Instead of absorbing the negative thought as fact, take a moment and correct that statement with God's truth. **Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me". (NKJ) 2 Cor 2:14 "But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us spreads and makes evident everywhere the sweet fragrance of the knowledge of Him."** (AMP)

### 2. Remember who shapes your identity.

Our identities are not solely shaped on a familial role, job or position. It is anchored in freedom giving mercy and our position as God's daughters. Our inheritance is forgiveness, not shame; an intimate relationship with Jesus, not rejection; and unconditional love. None of this is based on how well we perform in our roles or what we have accomplished, it is all through God's Grace. **Jeremiah 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you a part; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."**

### 3. Embrace the beauty around you, you too are one of God's beautiful creations.

In times filled with so much uncertainty, one thing is certain. God is for you, He loves you and He is with you. God's love is all around us. It's in the people who love us, Kindness from a stranger, and even in every day nature. Ever purchased a new car and suddenly you start to see that car everywhere? It isn't that those cars have increased in occurrence, it's that you've just started to notice them more. This week as a challenge, be intentional about seeking beauty in your every day life and in the things around you. Where there is none, create some with your presence. Show patience to someone having a bad day, offer to help them out or pray. Let nature remind you of God's abundance and provision. Begin each day with a sincere compliment to yourself. Don't miss out on the beauty because you aren't looking.

### 4. Don't take your eyes off of Him.

When we're happy or joyful or worshiping it is so easy to see and hear from God. We experience His presence so fully because our focus is on him. When unexpected things happen like trauma or tragedy, our focus often shifts to worry or finding immediate resolution to the challenge. Then we become like Peter, trying to walk on the water through the storm in our own strength. God is still there, but we start to lose our footing because our focus has shifted to fear or the storm itself instead of looking to God.

Dear Father,

Thank you for Mercy that is new each day. Sometimes it's hard for me to feel or see your presence in certain areas of my life, but I know you are there. Help me to look for you even when times are hard. Help me to trust you more and believe that you are with me every moment of my life in Jesus name, Amen.

Deuteronomy 31:6 *"Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid of them! The Lord your God will go ahead of you. He will neither feel you nor forsake you."* (NLT)



Elizabeth Garmon

Women's Ministry Team

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Bloom With Zoom

Learn a new recipe, have a virtual girls night out all while being encouraged in the Lord through our Bloom with Zoom pop-up times.

### Marco Polo Fun!

Join our Marco Polo video fun chat.

Where you can laugh and give quick encouraging thoughts to your sister in Christ!

### Women's Worship Night

### Issue 2 In May

## KEEP YOUR HEAD IN A GOOD BOOK!

Hi I'm Jane Elliott. My husband Tony and I have been at Peoples for over 36 years. We raised our sons there- Sam and John- who are now married to lovely women-and we have a granddaughter-Anderson who is 3. Sam and Brittini and Andi live in Indianapolis so we get to go there often. John and Beth are outside of DC and we hope to get there this spring!

We've been blessed we have all stayed healthy during the last year-even Tony's 88 year old parents! But I'll be honest it's been a strange year! I miss hugging people and being at church-but so blessed to be able to watch at home.

What has kept me going this year are; God's grace, Zoom meetings , outdoor activities and books. I have always loved to read. I grew up with a library within walking distance.



Jane Elliott

Women's Ministry Team

We have many bibles in our home and this year I've downloaded two new bible apps.

*Bible in One Year*- by Nicky and Pippa Gumbel The commentaries are wonderful. Although like Pastor Chris it's going to take me two years.

*The Blue Letter Bible*-I was introduced to this app while doing the Bible study *Saying Yes in the Darkness* by Theresa Swanstrom Anderson This app goes so deep into God's word with commentaries and so many other additional tools. And in the Bible study she guides you through using it. I love it! This is the study we are doing on Wednesday nights.



What I'm reading now:

*Call the Midwife* by Jennifer Worth. This is the book the series is based on. I've read it before but since I'm re-watching the series on Netflix I thought I'd read it again. I love the show, and strongly recommend it- but be aware-the birth scenes are very realistic! It follows midwives during the late 1950s in the east end of London. They work from a convent of Anglican nuns, who are just lovely!

*About your Father and other Celebrities I have Known* by Peggy Rowe Mike Rowe- from Dirty Jobs and the Facebook series-*Returning the Favor*. This book is delightful! She talks a lot about Mike growing up and it's hysterical! Her husband is the most thrifty person I've ever seen and also very lovable!

Favorite book of all time:

*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. Since reading this in high school I've reread it many times. It's as timely now as it was when it was written in 1960. Dealing with racial injustice through the eyes of a child it is wonderful, as is the movie. And that can't be said very often!

Ladies I hope you can keep your minds active and your hearts full! Happy Valentines Day!

**Have you read a good book lately?**

**Like us on Facebook @Peoples Church Women's Ministry**

## ***EXTRAVAGANT!***

Ok here it is, I'm just going to be transparent. I love extravagant things! Pray for me before you judge me... but it's true. I was a little girl who moved from the homes of one family member to another till the age of 6. I am all too familiar and comfortable with hand me downs. I still love a good thrift find to this day. It wasn't until I met the love of my life and was married that I discovered that having a few blingy things or fancy things was nice and o.k. to enjoy without guilt. For me it started with that diamond ring my fiancé now husband of almost 28 years placed on my finger in a vow to marry me. It wasn't until some years after being married I learned to appreciate simplicity; and understand that it doesn't mean poor or that I am undeserving of new and extravagant things. I came to know who Jesus was at the age of 7 through an aunt who was a new believer in Christ. She took me in as her own and raised me to love Jesus. And I still love Jesus to this day. I have found Jesus to be a loving father, protector and friend whose love is the most extravagant thing I have ever encountered; and I can't believe it's unconditionally mine!



Camille White

Women's Ministry Team

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*“I have found Jesus to be a loving father, protector and friend whose love is the most extravagant thing I have ever encountered.”*

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It's extravagant because it was costly. It's extravagant because it was personal. It's an extravagant love because it is ancient! And it's all yours! All of it. He withholds nothing and it doesn't matter who you are and where life has taken you; the love of Jesus is unconditionally yours for the taking!

Jesus Sacrifice on the cross was an extravagant display of His love for us. Some women Love extravagant things and it's o.k. but don't judge a thing or person by it's outward appearance. The God of the whole universe stepped down from his glorious throne and put on a simple robe of flesh to save all of mankind from sin, eternity in hell and separation from God. Hallelujah! If that's not extravagant I don't know what is. He didn't stop there! He continues to show his love in extravagant ways in our day to day lives. I'm sure all of us can flood the airways and media pages with all the Lord has done for you! And believe me His love poured out on us is not a waste even if we feel it is. Don't just believe me believe His word! “But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.” Romans 5:8

### ***Extravagant!***

“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God.” 1John3:1a

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness of peril, or sword? For I am persuaded that neither death nor life nor powers nor things present nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:35, 38-39

## LOOK FOR OUR NEW SURVEY COMING VIA EMAIL SOON

**So that we may better serve you, here is a preview of a few things we'd like to know.**

What is your hardest challenge currently?

What is your biggest need as a woman?

What are your strengths/giftings?

What topics of faith would you like to study?

Are you willing to meet in person for conversation/ events?

What life stage are you in? teen-20s/ 30s / 40s/ 50+

What activities would you like to participate in?

Would you like to mentor/be mentored one on one?

How are you staying connected with women of faith?

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

