



GRACE AND MERCY: SEEDS PLANTED FOR THE JOURNEY

We, who are in Christ, believers must be on the side of grace, not on the side of judgement. See grace and mercy as seeds planted as we journey in this life. Plant seeds of grace and mercy. Nobody rejects genuine love. Grace and mercy are just that. Remember the world wants to divide people. Jesus Christ wants to unite people to people. Just plant a field of grace and mercy with the seeds you have been given. Grace and mercy are powerful gifts to be used!

Your Sister in Christ,

Diana Freeman

Thank you to all our volunteers and Morris Habitat for Humanity for helping us build stronger communities in Randolph, New Jersey. We participated in the building of 25 units in 3 buildings on Saturday, May 14.



What's Happening Inside

Here's a snapshot of how to get connected and grow in Christ with the women of Christ Church



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A JOURNEY OF CONTENTMENT & TRUST

Natasha Owens

As a 46-year-old single woman remaining content in my singleness has been a challenge through the years. If you were to ask me at the age of 23 to describe my future self, I would have immediately responded, "married with children." I would have never envisioned my future self as having never been married and childless. Yet here I am single, no children, attempting to thrive in a world that puts so much emphasis on marital status.

I wish I could tell you that I did everything right in my singleness by remaining at the Father's feet, living a life of service, and being content every step of the way. But that would be a lie. Instead, I struggled on and off with purity and guarding my heart, mind and five senses against unhealthy thoughts and actions. I was not intentional about what I was watching, listening to and what I was allowing to invade my spirit. At times, I focused more on my desire to be married than I did on God. I made my desire for

marriage such a big thing that I allowed myself to be defined by my singleness instead of remembering that my identity is in Christ.

I even allowed the pressures of both family and friends in and outside of the church to consume me. The lowest points in my Christian walk were all a result of this stigma I had formed concerning my singleness. As I said earlier this journey has not been easy.

I remember praying earnestly for contentment. Contentment is like spiritual antibodies. It recognizes things like bitterness, anger, loneliness, etc. and works to remove them. Contentment was just one part of the solution. The other part was trusting God. I had to come to a place where I yielded to God's future for me and not my own. To me contentment is the evidence of trust.

I cannot be truly content unless I completely trust God. My journey continues. However, today I can say

through a whole lot of prayer, a whole lot of tears crying out to God, I now know that despite how singleness is defined by the world, my singleness does not equal loneliness, my singleness does not equal rejection, my singleness does not equal failure and finally my singleness does not mean my Daddy God has forgotten me.

I now define the word "single" as:

S - Satisfied
I - In
N - Needing
G - God's
L - Love
E - Explicitly

If you are struggling to see past your singleness, the first step you need to take is to pray for a Holy encounter with God. An encounter with God that changes your perspective and teaches you to trust God like never before.

"YOU'RE INVITED" WEEKEND

SEPT 9 & 10

The Women's Ministry has some special events and unique opportunities for fellowship during "You're Invited" Weekend, September 9 & 10.

The weekend festivities will kick-off with our "Cupcakes and Conversations" event on Friday, September 9 at 7:30 PM at our Montclair Campus located at 68 Church Street.

We will tackle hot topics with unfiltered, God-centered conversations about faith and life. The evening will include transformative, challenging and insightful conversations, fellowship and we cannot forget... cupcakes.



Cupcakes
& Conversations

FRIDAY
09
SEPT
2022
7:30 PM

MONTCLAIR CAMPUS

LADIES ONLY GAME DAY

Saturday, Sept 10

ROCKAWAY CAMPUS

The weekend continues with a "Ladies Only Game Day" held at our Rockaway Campus, located at 140 Green Pond Road in Rockaway, New Jersey on Saturday, September 10.

This fun-filled event will include field games like spoon and egg relays, bean toss and giant Connect 4 and fellowship with your sisters in Christ.

Take a "day off" and revive the kid inside of you. Come enjoy a memorable time of fun and fellowship at the Ladies Only Game Day event on Saturday, September 10 from 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM.

[Register for the Ladies Only Game Day.](#)



LET'S GO HIKING

THROUGH KINCAID WOODS

2-8 KINCAID ROAD
BOONTON, NEW JERSEY 07005

2-3 MILE HIKE ALONG A WOODED TRAIL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1 @ 9:00 AM

MEET IN THE PARKING AREA
THE WALK WILL BEGIN PROMPTLY AT 9:05 AM

The wooded trails of Kincaid Woods are a perfect place to enjoy the colorful show as the leaves change color. This wooded trail is a moderately challenging hike near Montville.

Join the Women's Ministry for an Autumn hike through Kincaid woods on Saturday, October 1 at 9:00 am (meet at 8:30 am). Be prepared to walk / hike 2-3 miles.

Use the following address for your GPS:
2-8 Kincaid Road
Boonton, New Jersey 07005

SATURDAY
OCT 1
@ 9:00 AM

THE WALK WILL BEGIN PROMPTLY AT 9:05 AM



UNFILTERED: LET'S TALK CHURCH HURT

Dismissed. Shunned. Discarded. How does one process the pain of church hurt?

Initially, I was shocked by the way these individuals treated me. Then I felt the ramifications of their actions. I'm sure you have experienced some form of hurt or offense. The pain can be magnified when it comes from someone we trusted to handle a situation appropriately.

An important and powerful truth I stood on was not allowing the leader's offense to be attributed to God or His church. Our relationship with God is what will bring healing. I could not fall in the trap of blaming God for someone's wrongful decisions.

HOW I APPROACHED THE OFFENSE:

FORGIVE:

Forgive is an action word meaning to stop feeling angry or resentful toward someone for an offense. In some instances, reconciliation is possible when the offender chooses to acknowledge and show sincere regret for their wrongdoing. Either way, whether the person accepted or denied the behavior, I had to be at a place where I was able to let it go and still wish them well. Ephesians 4:32, Matthew 6:14, Colossians 3:13, to name a few scriptures, instruct us to forgive. I am responsible to release the offense.

PROCESS:

It is important to feel the hurt. It is equally important to choose to not become comfortable or "learn to live" with

the pain. It is vital to feel the hurt and then release it to God. For the majority of my life, I believed in just forgiving and moving on. But there is something in processing the hurt that brings true healing. I had to bring it to God. I brought Him my broken heart and pain. The book of Lamentations is in the Bible for a reason. Jeremiah, Job, David, and so many others crying out to God serve as examples of their humanity and need for God to intervene in their pain and distress.



FRIENDS:

Seeking godly friends who will provide you with sound advice is imperative. I leaned on sisters-in-Christ who prayed with and for me. Proverbs 19 speaks on listening to advice. Confidants can help you sift through and avoid getting stuck in your emotions and thought patterns. Talking it through is different than gossiping. It is not about turning others against people. It is about being vulnerable with friends who will help bring a godly perspective and will encourage you to love in spite of the hurt.

It is important to feel the hurt. It is equally important to choose to not become comfortable or "learn to live" with the pain. It is vital to feel the hurt and then release it to God.

UNFILTERED: LET'S TALK CHURCH HURT

REACH-OUT:

In Matthew 18, scripture tells us to approach those who have sinned against us and to forgive them. My first step toward this encounter was to check my own heart and motives. Many times we come with the wrong motive because we have not forgiven and processed the hurt. Yes, I want to share the hurt they caused but I do not want to approach him/her with a "victim-mentality" or "I am right, You are wrong" mindset. My purpose was to share with them the impact of their actions with the hope that they would be willing to examine their interactions with others. Prayerfully, God will get glory from the maturing and growth occurring in all parties involved.

EMPATHIZE:

Sometimes we do not want to hear about the offenders humanity and their own brokenness, but the reality is, it ... is ... true ... they are human, too. They have a past, perhaps childhood abandonment or other trauma of some sort. Colossians 3:13 speaks on our responsibility to make allowance for each other's faults and to forgive them. No one, has arrived. No one, is perfect. Acknowledging people's humanity and not focusing on their title/position, helps towards giving grace to others.



These steps can be applied to anyone who has hurt you. Our faith walk involves forgiveness of others; if not, Jesus would not have directed to forgive seventy times seven times. Forgiving others ought to be part of our spiritual DNA. Although not easy, with God's help, strength, and wisdom it is achievable. Looking back, I am thankful for this experience because it has taught me so much about myself and about God. I have matured and gleaned godly wisdom through this process. In addition, I have gained a sense of compassion towards others. We need God, and in His infinite wisdom, He has gifted us with one another. We are all in this journey together, let us be good stewards of how we process it.

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KINGDOM SHAPERS

WOMEN OF THE BIBLE



MARY OF BETHANY

The woman who decided to be present, worship, and listen to Jesus. Mary of Bethany was the woman with the alabaster box and a willing heart.

Mary of Bethany and her sister Martha often hosted Jesus and his apostles at the home of their brother Lazarus. Mary was reflective, contrasted with her action-oriented sister. During one of Jesus' visits, Mary sat at his feet listening while Martha was distracted by her many tasks.

More than anything else, she loved to sit quietly and peacefully at Christ's sacred feet and become lost in His unfolding of the truth. She was compassionate and bold in her connectedness with Jesus. She gave all that she had and devoted it all to Jesus. She understood deeply when others were missing all the cues. What an incredible sensitivity and awareness she had!

Are you willing to support Jesus with your talents and treasure like Mary of Bethany? Will you move beyond the crowd and sit at the feet of your Lord and Savior? Will you worship despite the world's scrutiny? Will you be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and seek God with all you have?

Mary of Bethany Biblical reference: Matthew 26:6-13, John 12:1-11

CC WOMEN

Fall Bible Study Groups Coming in September

Are you interested in growing in Christ and learning with other women? Gather with your sisters in Christ for our Fall Book Club offering. Explore transformational, small group, God-centered conversations.

New study groups will be announced in September.

[View Our Fall Book Club Offering & CCWomen Small Groups](#)

Second Sundays CCWomen Pray

Starting in September, CCWomen Gather for prayer the Second Sundays of every month.

[View Second Sunday Prayer Call Details](#)

GATHER



**MY MOUTH IS FILLED
WITH YOUR PRAISE,
DECLARING YOUR
SPLENDOR ALL DAY
LONG.**

PSALM 71:8



WORSHIP PLAYLIST

Lover of My Soul, Dan Bremnes

Dios En Casa, Miel San Marcos

Gravity, Kristene DiMarco

For All My Life, Taya

Positive, Erica Campbell

Reason I Sing, Phil Wickham

These Same Skies, Hillsong Worship

Lion, Elevation Worship

The Healing, Blanca, Dante Bowe

Leaning, Matt Maher, Lizzie Morgan

Fake It, Tauren Wells, Aaron Cole

Brighter Days, Blessing OfFor

This Is The Kingdom, Elevation Worship

Die to Live, Maranda Curtis

Out Here On a Friday, Hillsong Young & Free

Breathe, Maverick City Music

Os Sonhos De Deus, Gabriela Rocha

What I See, Elevation Worship

Joyful, Dante Bowe

Good and Loved, Travis Greene

Most Beautiful, Maverick City Music, TRIBL

Gratitude, Brandon Lake

Human, Kierra Sheard

814, Isla Vista Worship & Mark Barlow

Breathe, Jasmine Guerrero

God's Not Done with You, Tauren Wells

Good, Red Hands