

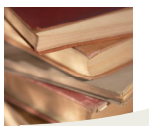


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Springfield United Methodist Church

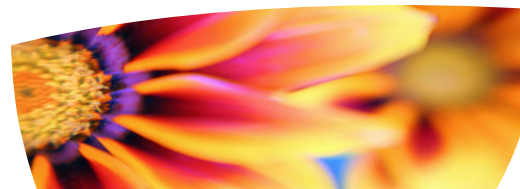
# Women's word



THE WOMEN OF SPRINGFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
SPRINGFIELD, GEORGIA

*And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory; which comes from the Lord. 2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV)*

## Words of Encouragement & Good Hope



Hello beautiful women of SUMC! FAITHLift is coming on June 7<sup>th</sup>! I'm so excited about our upcoming Women's Conference here at SUMC and I pray that every woman in our community who is able to attend – will attend.

Christ calls us to be part of a rich community of believers. While we all live in the world and are not to separate ourselves from non-believers, it is important for us to find opportunities to re-fuel, re-energize, and enjoy ourselves in worship with other sisters in Christ.

My short time in this community has been so very full of rich conversations and opportunities to see Christ in the actions of your lives. This one-day women's conference – at our own church – will be an awesome opportunity for us (no matter which worship

service we normally attend) to gather in one place to stand before God as daughters, wives, mothers, sisters, neighbors, colleagues, and friends. We will stand before our maker in a time of worship, study, and praise. I believe this will be a powerful day and I pray that you will make arrangements to be there. More than that, I ask that you think about who you can invite to come with you. This is as an awesome opportunity for you to grow closer and share in something powerful with the women that you share your life with.

The theme of this one-day conference is "TRUE PRAISE" which is a broader topic than you may realize. Praise is not just about happiness, rejoicing, cool music, and dancing. True praise is about giving back to God; it's about being real before our maker and giving

back in every moment – the good, the bad, and the ugly. I'm so excited to explore this topic with you and I think it's going to reach home for many of us.

I was told that it would be possible for us to have 75 women at this conference. Since my desire is for us to have a God-size vision for our church and the programs we run – my prayer is for 150 women in attendance. This is not about numbers; it's about lives – and trusting God to be the author behind our work. With 150 women, there can be no glory except to God. Please join me in prayer about this day – and don't forget to fill out your own registration form ASAP!

You can pick up extra invitations from the church office or the Narthex in the back of the sanctuary. As usual, if there is ever anything you need – please don't hesitate to call or e-mail me.

In Christ, Katie Webster

*What we need to know, of course, is not just that God exists, not just that beyond the steely brightness of the stars there is a cosmic intelligence...but that there is a God right here in the thick of our day-by-day lives who may not be writing messages about Himself in the stars but in one way or another is trying to get messages through our blindness. -Frederick Buechner*

# Dealing with Unresolved Disappointment

By Glynnis Whitwer (Submitted by Elizabeth Ely)



"'Take away the stone,' He said. 'But Lord,' said Martha, the sister of the dead man, 'by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.'"  
John 11:39 (NIV)

## Devotion:

Mary and Martha's brother, Lazarus, was sick. Really sick. In fact, they were sure he was close to death. So they called for the one man they knew could heal Lazarus. That was their friend Jesus. Messengers found Jesus about a day's journey from the sisters' home in Bethany. But when Jesus got the message about Lazarus, He didn't pack up and leave immediately. In fact, Jesus stayed put ... for two more days. It wasn't that Jesus didn't care. He did. Jesus didn't lose track of the time either. No, the Bible tells us that Jesus intentionally delayed going to help saying "... it is for God's glory, so that God's son may be glorified through it" (John 11:4 NIV). Jesus had a plan, but Mary and Martha didn't know that. All they knew was their brother had died and Jesus didn't come in time.

The sisters were clearly disappointed in Jesus' lack of response. In fact, they both told Him so. Martha chided Jesus first, then Mary fell at Jesus' feet and echoed her sister's words, "Lord if you had been here my brother would not have died." Jesus knew their pain. He felt it too. In fact, the Bible says that Jesus wept with them. Together the group of mourners made their way to the tomb, and when they arrived, Jesus made an unusual request -- that the stone in front of the opening be removed.

The sisters were shocked. Why would Jesus make this request? Didn't He realize how bad the body would smell? Martha even told Jesus so, perhaps to "remind" Him that her brother had been dead for four long days. Mary and Martha were devastated. Not only had their brother died, but they knew Jesus could have changed the outcome of their brother's illness. In their minds, Jesus abandoned them in their time of greatest need. The sisters were grieving the loss of their brother, but I wonder if they were grieving because Jesus hadn't done what they asked. In fact, they were so sad and discouraged, when Jesus made a move to help, they wanted to leave the stone in front of the tomb.

Have you ever been disappointed with God's apparent lack of response? I have. It's disheartening when you know God could immediately change the outcome of your circumstances, but He seems absent. So there you sit, in the pain, grief and fear while God delays. Martha even seems to have given up and accepted her grief and disappointment. She was ready to live with the "fact" that Jesus didn't care enough to heal Lazarus. However that "fact" couldn't have been further from the truth. As the sisters gave in and moved the stone, Jesus showed them just how much He loved them. In a loud voice Jesus called, "Lazarus, come out!" Jaws dropped, hearts pounded, wails turned to screams of joy as a formerly dead man walked out of the tomb ... very much alive. Jesus had never ignored their cry for help. He didn't disregard their pain. He hadn't abandoned them. He had a plan that included a delay.

Sometimes God's plans for us might include a delay. As we wait, may we learn from this story to not give up, to not accept grief as our lot in life and to expect God to turn our mourning into joy. Remember, He's coming right on time.

*Dear Lord, please forgive me for all the times I have given up on You, and believed You have abandoned me to suffer. Help me to trust that You have a plan to bring about my healing, and bring joy back to my life, even though it may not look like what I had asked for.  
In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

## April Memory Verse

*Keep a firm grip  
on your faith and  
on yourself. After  
all, this is a fight  
we're in.*

1 Timothy 1:19 (MSG)

## HARVEST WORKSHOPS

A ONCE A MONTH OPPORTUNITY FOR THE WOMEN OF  
SUMC TO GATHER, FELLOWSHIP, AND LEARN FROM ONE  
ANOTHER!

(NURSERY IS PROVIDED.)

**"BEING A CHRISTIAN IN THE WORKPLACE"  
TUESDAY, MAY 13<sup>TH</sup>**

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THINK ABOUT  
EXERCISING YOUR FAITH IN A PLACE THAT CAN MAKE  
THAT DIFFICULT! WOMEN OF ALL AGES ARE WELCOME  
TO JOIN US FROM 7-9PM IN THE SOCIAL HALL.

**COMING UP: "BASIC BREAD MAKING"**  
TUESDAY, JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup>, 7-9PM IN THE SOCIAL HALL  
CAROLINE & SHEA ZEIGLER

(CHURCH OFFICE: 912.754.6646; KATIE'S E-MAIL: [KTWEBSTER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:KTWEBSTER@GMAIL.COM))

# If life has left a few wrinkles on your faith, perhaps it's time you had a FAITHLift!

A One Day Conference  
of worship, discipleship, sisterhood, & praise!

**Saturday, June 7, 2008**

**9AM – 3:30PM**  
**Springfield United**  
**Methodist Church**

**Psalms 63:4**

*I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands.*

We often live our lives in constant motion, our days filled with busyness and turmoil. We try to keep up with the Joneses, the clock, our calendars, our children, our spouses, significant others, friends, and commitments! Sometimes we wish we could add a few hours to the day – or even stop time so we can finally catch our breath. Jesus calls us to come away, to make time for Him and to know Him in deeper intimacy. He calls us to live lives of praise!

All women are welcome to attend! Please invite your sister, neighbor, colleague, or friend to join you for FAITHLift! (Middle and High School young women are invited to join us as well.) If you need an invitation, you can pick one up from SUMC or contact Katie Webster. There is a \$25 registration fee that includes lunch, a cool tote bag, and some other surprises for the day!

Make this important day of worship a priority in your schedule. Take time for a FAITHLift!



## United Methodist Women @ SUMC

### About UMW:

The UMW is composed of five individual circle groups with women ranging from their 20's to their 80's. They are a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as persons through Jesus Christ. Each circle meets at different dates and times throughout the month. Circles are involved in various projects such as delivering baskets to shut-ins, preparing soldier boxes and sponsoring needy families for Christmas. To get more information about

UMW or to find a circle that fits you, please contact the person listed with the circle that fits into your schedule!

### Grace Circle

Meets 10:30AM on the third Tuesday of the month.  
Contact: Claudine Arnsdorff  
754-9484

### Love Circle

Meets at Noon on the Tuesday after the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month.  
Contact: Cynthia Brogden  
754-1395

### Dorcas Circle

Meets at 3:00 PM on the Tuesday after the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month in the Church Library.  
Contact: Amelia Herrington  
754-3006

### Willing Workers

Meets at 7:30PM on the Tuesday after the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month.  
Contact: Nicole Rahn  
754-7934

### Helping Hands Circle

Meets at 6:00PM on the last Tuesday in the month.  
Contact: Denese Parker  
754-6327

For more information on the worldwide organization of the United Methodist Women, visit <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umw/> or contact SUMC's UMW president, Betty Waller.  
754-6240



# Reader's Corner

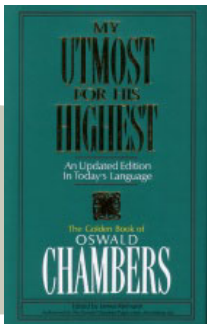
*Every [wo]man who knows how to read has it in her power to magnify herself, to multiply the ways in which she exists, to make her life full, significant, and interesting. – Aldous Huxley*

*My Utmost for His Highest*  
By Oswald Chambers

Oswald Chambers, a Scotsman who converted to Christianity in his teens under the ministry of Charles Spurgeon, has been affecting Christians with his devotional words since *My Utmost for His Highest* was first

published in 1935. This acknowledged classic contains 365 daily readings that take heady doctrine and make it practical, realistic, and intensely personal. With humor and humility, Chambers speaks plainly to the common man struggling with devotion to Christ in daily living. Worldly cares and self-serving desires begin to lose their appeal as Chambers aides the reader in transforming his mind by viewing life through the instruction of God's Word. Richard Halverson, former

chaplain of the United States Senate, attests to this: "no book except the Bible has influenced my walk with Christ at such deep maturing levels." This is Chambers's chief desire, directing the reader to "shut out every other consideration and keep yourself before God for this one thing only--My Utmost for His Highest... determined to be absolutely and entirely for Him and for



From the tiny birds of the air and from the fragile lilies of the field we learn the same truth, which is so important for those who



desire a life of simple faith:  
God takes care of His own.

He knows our needs.

He anticipates our crises...

He stands ready to come to our rescue.

And at just the right moment,

He steps in and proves Himself as our faithful Heavenly Father.

- Charles Swindoll

## UPCOMING WOMEN'S EVENTS:



**We still have a few spots open for anyone who wants to attend "Women of Faith" in Jacksonville May 16-17**

Let Katie know if you are interested in attending and she will send you more information! This is going to be an awesome weekend of sisterhood and praise! Join us!

(Visit [womenoffaith.com](http://womenoffaith.com) for more information.)  
Let Katie know ASAP if you want to attend!

**We are looking for submissions to "Women's Word"!**

*If you have a recipe, an article, a thought, a review, or an idea – please share it!*  
Call or e-mail Katie at any time!  
ktwebster@gmail.com  
or 912.754.9736