

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

fayetteville

April 2020

Weekend services are temporarily suspended and moved online.
For the latest news and updates [click HERE](#).
For pastoral care and encouragement
available daily 9:00am - 9:00pm call (479) 878-2980.

A message from Margo Bodishbaugh

Women's Ministry Shepherding Leader

Dear Women of Fellowship Fayetteville,

We live in uncertain times, but believers do not have an uncertain future. We know our eternal future is with The Father. So my questions for you in this strange time are: How can we love and care for others that are around us and who might be less certain of their future, AND, how can we care for and encourage our Christian friends, acquaintances, and neighbors at this unusual time in our history?

*"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."*

[Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV](#)

As His Children we confess, we pray, we listen to the Holy Spirit, we take action, and then we give God ALL the glory.

I want to encourage you to think outside the box and then share your thoughts and ideas with the rest of us (*see details below). Recently, my daughter and I went out for a drive to get out of the house, and I officially became a "Sunday Driver" (for those of you who don't know the origin of that term, you may want to Google it). We drove down Maple Street enjoying the tulips, however, the person behind us didn't appreciate our speed, or lack thereof, and let us know his frustration through honking and hand gestures (not the bad kind). We waved and smiled. Then, I got to explain to Macy what the term Sunday Driver meant.

As a result of the encounter, we slowed down our pace. We enjoyed the beauty God had provided us through spring flowers. He is the same... yesterday, today and tomorrow. I long for the day when we will get to gather as a group of Jesus Followers again!

Ladies, now it's your turn . . .

Do you have a brief story you'd like to share with us, along with photos, that we can either include in next month's eNews or on our social media pages? A story of how God has spoken to you through these especially challenging times of having to stay close to

home or in quarantine? A story of how your family has been able to experience God through this? Or maybe just photos of meaningful moments with your children and loved ones who are home with you during this time? We'd love to hear from you and encourage others with your reflections and pictures. **Submit your stories and photos by email to fayettevillewomen@fellowshipnwa.org by Monday, April 20.** Then watch for your submission in next month's eNewsletter, or on our [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#) page.

Embracing the Pause

by Elise McCarthy



Take a moment to pause and notice what's happening around you right now. Places, people, roles, and schedules in which we have found consistency over time are now looking very different.

For many of us, we have become accustomed to busy and full schedules that include a lot of people, a lot of noise, and a good amount of consistency. Now, we find ourselves in a time where many of those things are limited or even non-existent in our daily routines. But

in what seems like a world of constant bad news, there is something very beautiful happening around the world. Stillness.

Though many still have demanding roles, and some even more in this time (we see you moms and medical workers), we can all acknowledge there is less busyness happening around us and fewer things demanding our presence. For many of us, this stillness can be scary. In stillness, we come face-to-face with our real selves. In stillness, we bring light to the dark places in our hearts, the lies that we have held on to, and the things we have put our hope and purpose in.

But when we pause and invite the Lord into this stillness, He can speak in mighty ways and convict our hearts to change. In stillness, the Lord can move us to release the things we have placed before Him. In stillness, we can find true rest and contentment in Him.

Many times through Scripture we see God speaking and guiding us when we take a posture of stillness:

- God leading the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt - *"The Lord will fight for you, you only need to be still."* - [Exodus 14:14 NIV](#)
- God rebuking Israel of idolatry - *"The Lord is in his holy temple, let all the earth be silent before Him."* - [Habakkuk 2:20 NIV](#)
- God commanding His authority among all peoples - *"Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."* - [Psalm 46:10 NIV](#)
- God giving direction for Israel - *"This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says 'In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quiet and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.'"* - [Isaiah 30:15 NIV](#)

For so many of us, the roles that we have found consistency in on a daily basis, are now looking much more different than we ever could have imagined. Moms becoming homeschool teachers, marketplace professionals trying to keep up with the demand of daily work at home, medical professionals taking on new roles to keep up with an overwhelming demand of healthcare needs, and students trying to push through class in an online setting.

It's in this season, we are coming face to face with *where* our consistency and purpose come from. When our daily rhythms are disrupted, we begin to peel back the hidden

layers of false security and stability in our lives and see that we have been allowing other idols to come into spaces that only God should have reign over.

Think about it -- as the weather warms up, our normal rhythm is that schedules fill up, but now we find ourselves in a time when we are being told to slow down, and we aren't allowed to join in those schedule filling activities. So what are we left with? Our families, our thoughts and the Lord.

When we choose to see this slowness as a blessing, we can take "what the enemy intends for evil, the Lord can use for good" and find what the Lord may be wanting to speak to each of us in this very odd time in history.

Reflect and Respond

When we still our hearts before God, we can find the only sustaining source of comfort and rest that each of us is so desiring right now. A helpful tool that can guide us in being still with God is the ACTS prayer model:

- **Adoration** - Take a deep breath and acknowledge God's greatness and sovereignty over everything right now. Give Him praise for His attributes that He has revealed to us through His Word.
- **Confession** - Pause and think through the last 24 hours. Replay your day and note where you see impure thoughts, motivations, and actions that didn't bring God glory. Confess your sinful heart to the Lord.
- **Thanksgiving** - Open your eyes and look around your environment. Thank God for where you are and what we are blessed to steward. The evidence of others in your home is something to be thankful for!
- **Supplication** - Open your palms upward and share your personal requests and the requests of those you love with the Lord.

We each have the opportunity to lean into this time of stillness and reflect that same stillness in our own hearts. When we do, we just may begin to see how the Lord is working in this time and how He is inviting each of us to work alongside Him "for such a time as this". [Esther 4:14 NIV](#)

Embracing the Pause was written by Elise McCarthy

Elise is on staff with Fellowship Fayetteville Community Ministries serving college and young adult women. She is married to Kyle, who serves as Fayetteville Media Resourcing Director. She and Kyle love spending sunny weekends hiking and camping around the Natural State.

She enjoys a good cup of coffee, laughing at animal videos, traveling internationally, and seeing young women grow to know and live more intimately with the Lord.

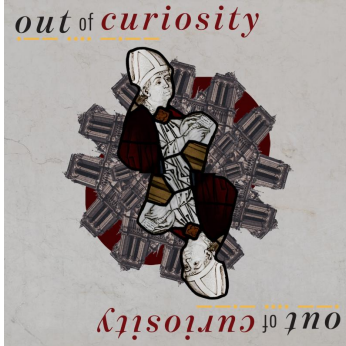


**If you are interested in serving with college or young adult women... leading, hosting small groups in your home, or discipling... please contact Elise at elmccarthy@fellowshipnwa.org.*

*Past issues: Fayetteville Women's Devotional
eNewsletter*

Resources while at home . . .

Wondering about how to fill those gaps you're experiencing right now while lack of social interaction or even quarantine may be your daily norm? Here are some great resources to pull from:



Are you curious about the Bible? Do you have questions about faith and Christianity but aren't sure who to ask? Then check out Fellowship's podcast called *Out of Curiosity: Biblical Clarity for Modern Questions*.

Additional Fellowship Fayetteville podcasts, videos, at-home resources, family devotionals, playlists, and resources for Easter and the current church-wide study *Clarity* can be found [HERE](#).

RightNow Media -

RightNow Media's mission is to work with the global church to inspire people to love others before self and Christ above all. RightNow, often referred to as the Netflix of Christian Bible Studies, offers a streaming library of Bible Study videos for individuals and groups of all ages, as well as children's shows, family devotionals, and Easter studies.

Choose from a wide range of contributors including Francis Chan, Jennie Allen, Kyle Idleman, Henry Cloud, Dr. Tony Evans, Ann Voskamp, Max Lucado and Kay Arthur.



Other Fellowship Fayetteville Resources

Church at Home Family Resources

Includes FayetteKids and Student Ministries

Church-wide Classes and Events

Panorama of the Bible Online Class

This online, fully live, interventional class runs April 6 through June 29. Signup your entire small group or join as an individual. Registration is open through May 1.

Care and Counseling

Celebrate Recovery

Questions? Contact us at fayettevillewomen@fellowshipnwa.org



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