

BLESSED ARE YOU... Women



Check-In

Check in. Hows your Advent season going? How are you preparing your heart for Christmas?

Scriptures

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord. **-Luke 1:39-45**

Quotes

To heck with sugar and spice. Courage, sacrifice, determination, commitment, toughness, heart, talent, guts. That's what little girls are made of. **-Bethany Hamilton**

Prayers

Spend some time sharing prayer requests with each other. As the small group leader, we ask that you do two things:

1. write them down
2. ask someone to pray

Discussion Questions

- Women play significant roles in the story of Jesus. Why do you think their contributions were so vital to God's plan, and what does this teach us about the role of women in the Church today?
- Reflect on the influential women in your faith journey. How have they modeled leadership, kindness, or courage in ways that have shaped your spiritual life?
- How can we, as individuals or as a church, better celebrate and support women in leadership today? What specific steps can you take to encourage the gifts and callings of the women in your life?

Did You Know?

In 1771, going against popular opinion and, many believed, the Bible, John Wesley licensed the first woman to preach in the Methodist movement. Her name was **Sarah Crosby**.

Sarah Crosby was originally a class leader and lay preacher. She began her ministry by leading small group meetings and teaching Scripture to women, but as the groups grew, she found herself addressing mixed gatherings of men and women. In one such meeting, she spoke to over 200 people. Recognizing her natural gifts for leadership and preaching, Wesley authorized her to "preach and expound" in certain contexts, a groundbreaking move at the time.

Over time, Wesley went on to license a number of other women as Methodist preachers. However, after Wesley's death in 1791, the Church began to restrict women's roles. By 1803, the Methodist Church officially **unlicensed women to preach**, and it was not until 1956 that women were granted **full clergy rights** in the denomination.

See you Sunday for our Christmas Eve Gathering!

December 22

Christmas Treats at 3:30

Worship at 4 PM

Bring a blanket, coat, hat, gloves, or men's socks for the warmth drive!