CROSSWINDS WOMEN'S MINISTRY



WELCOME TO OUR NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

November 2026

Well, ladies, we made it to November!

Pumpkins are everywhere, sweaters are officially back, and the grocery store has been playing Christmas music since roughly August. This month, our theme is "Renewal and Reflection," which is a lovely way of saying: it's okay to slow down. Even the trees are showing us how it's done. They drop everything they don't need and look fabulous doing it. Meanwhile, the rest of us are still holding onto three junk drawers and a casserole dish that belongs to someone named Barbara.

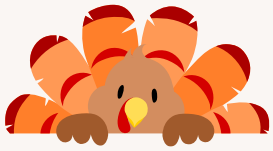
Let's take this month to look back and count our blessings: the answered prayers, the happy surprises, and yes, even the times God gently said, "Not that one, honey." And let's welcome some renewal, whether that's a fresh start in your quiet time, a call to an old friend, or finally admitting you don't need to chair one more committee. Your Savior rested, and so can you.

So pour yourself something warm, put on your fuzziest socks, and get comfy. Remember, "Be still, and know that I am God" does not require a spotless kitchen. Come as you are, laundry mountain and all. We promise not to look at your car, either.

We can't wait to laugh, pray, and gather with you this month. And yes, there will be snacks. There are always snacks. Some of us come for the Scripture and stay for the cream cheese pinwheels, and God loves us anyway!

Blessings and big hugs,

Women's Ministry Leadership Team





Ronaele's Corner

Director of Women's Ministry



"Many Gifts, One Body, All Working Together"
1 Corinthians 12:1–31

Hi Ladies,

I'm super excited about our Women's Ministry Leadership Pathway series! We have 20 beautiful women attending, being equipped to serve as bold, godly women who live our purpose and lead God's way.

This past month, we covered our "Gifting and Calling." I came away with these questions: Do you know your calling, your purpose in life? What has God ordained for you to do that combines your life experiences, your gifts, your passion, your talents, and your desires to have a Kingdom impact?

It's been fun to see our women move toward purposeful evaluation of their lives. There are a couple of verses that challenge us:

1 Corinthians 9:24 — "Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win."
Colossians 3:23-24 — "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."

Each of us has been given gifts ***(1 Cor. 12)*** and called to serve the Lord with them. We all have our own individual race to run, combining our gifts with our experiences, desires, and talents to fulfill a calling. Our lives need to be solidly grounded in God's Word so that we live in truth.

CrossWinds is where God has placed you in this season of your life (or wherever you are). Let's stand boldly, first and foremost, for the Lord Jesus Christ as the One who saves! Then let's serve boldly in what we have been equipped and called to do, making a Kingdom impact in our church, our community, and our world.

If you're not sure what it means to serve in your gifts, or you want to talk about how God has been stirring your heart to serve in your calling, please text me at 951-452-3461, and let's sit over a cup of coffee and explore all the different aspects of how God has wired you to run your race, accomplishing what He has prepared for you to do.

It's a journey, not a sprint! Keep moving forward, and He will make the adjustments along the way.

Serving Him Together for Kingdom Purpose!

Ronaele





Get to Know Our Leadership Team
Koleen Medina



I was born and raised in Southern California. I met my husband on a blind date, and after nine months of dating, we got engaged and married just five months later! We've now been married for 36 years. We have three wonderful children: Casey, our oldest, and twins Christian and Corinn. Our family has grown to include two wonderful daughters-in-law, a son-in-law, and five wonderful grandchildren. God has blessed us tremendously!

My journey to CrossWinds began when we moved to Moreno Valley in September 2001. We were invited to the church's Awana program and started coming on Thursday nights. Then, in the summer of 2003, we discovered VBS, and since it was free, we started attending that too! I served in Awana from 2003 to 2019 and have been involved with VBS since 2004, though these days I help only when needed. Our children attended youth group and went on several church mission trips. Even though we were involved at CrossWinds, we weren't members or attending Sunday services until May 2017, when God called us to leave Calvary Chapel Moreno Valley, where we had attended and served since 1998. So, you could say I've been around a long time!

If you asked my friends and family to describe me in three words, they would say determined, kind, and tenacious. They actually came up with quite a few more, but I was only allowed to pick three! As for what I enjoy doing in my free time—free time???? What is that? I love writing, reading, spending time with my children and grandbabies, and doing crafts and Cricut projects whenever I get the chance. And here's something most people at church probably don't know about me: I can touch my nose with my tongue! Not exactly a spiritual gift, but it's a talent nonetheless!

When I think about who has had the greatest influence on my walk with Christ, besides my husband, my sounding board and rock, I have to say my dear friend Cindy Boone. I've known Cindy and her family for 26 years. I remember being a baby Christian and saying something I thought was completely normal, and Cindy would say, "Are you sure you are a Christian?" Then she would gently guide me through Scripture. I looked up to her as a godly wife, mother, and friend. She and her husband have walked alongside our family through some of our most joyous and difficult times, even showing up at the hospital when my grandparents were passing away. Cindy showed me what it truly means to "Love your Neighbor."

We still have lunch once or twice a week, talk about life, and she gives me godly advice. Don't get me wrong, she'll also tell me when I'm totally doing the wrong thing—lovingly, of course!

I never wanted to move to Moreno Valley, but God moved us here, close to Cindy, and her presence in my life has made a huge difference in who I once was and who I have become. I count it all joy that God placed this wonderful sister and friend in my life.

Lately, God has been teaching me that I am who He made me to be. I don't have to live up to anyone else's impression of who I should be. I may be loud, too talkative, seem bossy, or occasionally say words that don't sound very "Christian," but God knows my heart, my childhood, and my struggles, and He loves me anyway. I'm not a finished product this side of heaven! I've been reflecting on Psalm 139:14, 1 Samuel 16:7, and Philippians 1:6, but especially Galatians 1:10: "Obviously, I'm not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant." (NLT)

My involvement in Women's Ministry began when friends kept inviting me to fun ladies' events at their churches. I thought, why aren't we doing more of this at CrossWinds? I love planning events, so I shared a few ideas and was invited to join the Women's Ministry Leadership Team as the Events Planner. God had already given me experience through 12 years of teaching Children's Ministry at Calvary Chapel Moreno Valley and serving on the Board of Directors for the Southern California Mothers of Twins Club, where I helped organize conventions and workshops for hundreds of women.

What I enjoy most about connecting with other women is the fellowship, laughter, and learning from one another. Every lady brings something unique, and I love hearing their stories and discovering our shared experiences. Sometimes that means offering encouragement, sometimes listening, and sometimes simply laughing together.

As I look ahead, my hope and prayer is that the women of CrossWinds become a community where ladies feel comfortable going to one another. Regardless of age or stage of life, I want women to feel safe enough to let their "walls" come down and learn how important it is to support one another. Looking back on my own life, I see how God brought different women into it. Some stayed briefly, while others have stayed a long time. Each one helped teach me something about being a wife, mother, homeschool mom, and friend. But most importantly, these women taught me how to become a better follower of Christ. That's what I want for the women of CrossWinds, too. I want us to build genuine friendships, encourage one another, and grow together in our walks with Christ.

Love in Action

DEVELOPING MINISTRIES

Contact Ronaele Wolf (951) 452-3461

Introducing a New MISSION Opportunity in Our Community!

CrossWinds Women's Ministry has been approved by the Elders, for a partnership of support with Life Choice Pregnancy Center. This is a local group that supports women and their families who choose life! We are just getting started and will talk more about it as we go along but, here's how you can get involved:

1. Pray for this ministry as they protect life and support women and their families.
2. Volunteer to organize and work in the supply room.
3. Volunteer to become a Life Choice Advocate. See the link for more information.
4. Pray about being the CrossWinds, Women's Ministry Leader for this ministry. Our partnership needs someone to lead promotions, recruiting, and support. See Ronaele for a Leader Application.

Check out the Christmas Luncheon article to see what we are doing for our first project with them.

Our hope is that this is just the start of some great mission work here in Moreno Valley.







Help Us Bless Families This Thanksgiving!

Our Youth Group and Brotherhood Pantry are collecting turkeys for Thanksgiving food boxes through November 15!

You can help bless a family this Thanksgiving by donating a turkey! Drop off your donation at church on Sundays through November 15 or at the church office during the week.

Do you know someone who could use a Thanksgiving Food Box, or do you need one yourself? We would love to help! To request a box for yourself or nominate someone in need, please text:
Trenton Benishek at (951) 400-3329.

We'll deliver boxes on Nov. 22.

Let's come together and help make Thanksgiving a little brighter for families in our community!



WHAT'S COMING UP?

- Mamas+Grace - Nov. 14
- Ladies' Christmas Luncheon - Dec. 5
- Christmas Open House - Dec. 13
- Candlelight Service - Dec. 24
- Ladies' Paint Night - March 6
- Renewed One Day Conference - May 1

✨ Follow us on Instagram and stay connected with Women's Ministry!

Instagram

Explore our website for the latest news and upcoming events.

Women's Ministry

Women's Prayer

NEED PRAYER?
WE'RE HERE FOR YOU.

November is a time of reflection and renewal. As the days grow shorter and the air turns crisp, we're invited to slow down and take a look at what God has been doing in our lives. Maybe it's a prayer that was answered in a surprising way, a burden we're ready to lay down, or a fresh start we've been quietly longing for. Whatever you're carrying this season, you don't have to carry it alone. (And no, you don't have to have it all figured out before you ask. None of us do!)

Our prayer team is available for prayer before church in the foyer and after church in front of the sanctuary. Whether you have a big request, a small one, or simply need someone to stand beside you, they would be honored to pray with you. Stop by, say hello, and let us lift you up together. After all, the best way to start or finish a Sunday is with a little extra grace.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."
(Philippians 4:6, ESV)

Recipe

3 - Ingredient Crockpot Pork Chops

4 Bone-in Pork Chops
1 Packet Onion Soup Mix
1 Can Cream of Chicken

Put Pork Chops in the crockpot.
Pour onion soup mix over Chops
Add can of Soup; spread evenly over Chops
Cover and cook on low for 6-7 hours or on high for 3-4 hours.
Serve with mashed potatoes or rice.

yummy

Helpful Hint



LAUGHING PLACE

My best friend and I have an agreement: If one of us starts acting crazy, the other one has to step in and be the voice of reason.

Unfortunately, neither of us has ever shown up for that job.

My husband asked, "Why do you and your best friend laugh so much when you're together?"
I said, "Because we know things about each other that would make excellent blackmail material!"

besties



RENEWED HEARTS AT CHRISTMAS

Ladies' Christmas Luncheon

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."
Psalm 51:10

Christmas is almost here, and we would love for YOU to join us for our Ladies' Christmas Luncheon! Come enjoy an afternoon of delicious food, laughter, Christmas cheer, and time spent with friends, old and new.



Saturday, December 5th | Noon – 2:00 PM
CrossWinds Church
29263 Ironwood Ave. | Moreno Valley
Donation Only



Put on your favorite holiday attire, grab a friend or family member, and come spend the afternoon with us! Don't have someone to bring? Come anyway! There's a seat waiting for you! We'll have beautifully decorated tables, plenty of time to visit, and a special Christmas Gospel message to remind us what this season is really all about.

Giving Back This Christmas!

This year, we're supporting Life Choice Pregnancy Center in Moreno Valley by collecting items for the mothers and families they serve. You'll find their list of needed items in this newsletter. And here's something fun! For every item you bring, you'll receive one raffle ticket for a chance to win one of two special prizes. So, the more items you bring, the more chances you have to win!

Sign Up Today!

Registration is open, and seating is limited! Click the link below and complete the registration form to save your seat. You can also sign up at cwcmv.org. Be sure to invite a friend or family member to register, too!

We hope to see you there! It's going to be a wonderful afternoon together!



Christmas Luncheon

"May your heart be renewed by the hope, peace, and joy of Christmas."



LIFE CHOICE

PREGNANCY CENTER

Needs List

FOR BABIES

- [ ] Diapers; Newborn to size 6
- [ ] Neutral colored newborn sleepers, gowns, undershirts, onesies
- [ ] Crib sheets, Quilts & blankets (handmade is great!)
- [ ] New or like-new 0-2T clothing for boys & girls
- [ ] Receiving blankets
- [ ] Hooded Towels & washcloths
- [ ] Bottles, sippy cups, baby spoons & pacifiers
- [ ] Formula (all brands & unopened)
- [ ] Baby food (not expired)
- [ ] Baby personal care items – Shampoo, baby wash, wipes, soaps, lotion & ointment
- [ ] New Stuffed Animals
- [ ] Medium to Large size baby gift bags (girls/boys/neutral)

OFFICE NEEDS

- [ ] Forever Stamps
- [ ] 8.5 X 11 paper
- [ ] Gift Cards (Wal-Mart, Target, Dollar Store)
- [ ] Blank Thank you cards

CHILDRENFURNITURE

- [ ] Cribs & Crib mattresses
- [ ] Bassinets
- [ ] Car Seats In GOOD condition
- [ ] Highchairs
- [ ] Bathtubs
- [ ] Strollers
- [ ] Swings
- [ ] Walkers/Saucers

FOR THE MOM'S/DAD'S

- [ ] Maternity clothes
- [ ] Bibles (Non-denominational, NLT translation preferred)
- [ ] Personal travel sized items & misc Items for our client gift tub (soap, body wash, lotion, cologne, body spray, jewelry, razors, & shaving cream)

thank-you

PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL DONATIONS ARE:

IN GOOD CONDITION, NO MISSING PARTS, VISIBLE DAMAGE, OR STAINS!

partnerwithlifechoice.org



Inspirational Message

Mary Magdalene

A life changed by Jesus - He Called Her by Name.

"Jesus said to her, 'Mary.' She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, 'Rabboni!' (which means 'Teacher')." John 20:16

Jesus steps into our lives. Luke 8:2 tells us that Jesus delivered Mary from seven demons. We don't know all the details of what her life looked like before she met Jesus, but we do know that after encountering Him, her life was changed. Mary went from a life of bondage to a life of faithfully following Jesus.

Mary didn't simply receive her healing and walk away. She stayed close to Jesus. She followed Him, supported His ministry, and remained near Him during some of the most difficult moments. She was at the cross (John 19:25), and after Jesus died, she was one of the first to go to the tomb (John 20:1). Even in her grief, when she didn't understand what was happening, she remained faithful.

At the empty tomb, Mary stood weeping when Jesus appeared to her. At first, she didn't recognize Him. Then Jesus simply said her name—"Mary." (John 20:16). In that moment, everything changed. Her grief turned to joy, and Jesus chose Mary to carry the incredible news: "I have seen the Lord!" (John 20:18).

Mary's story reminds us that Jesus knows our whole story—our victories, our mistakes, our disappointments, and our broken places—and He still calls us by name. Our past does not define who we are in Christ. Whatever season you are walking through, stay close to Jesus. He knows your name, He knows your story, and He is not finished with you yet.

Like Mary, our lives can be a testimony of what happens when we encounter Jesus. We may not have all the answers or have everything figured out, but we can faithfully share what we do know—Jesus changes lives, restores hope, and gives us a new beginning.

Prayer

Lord, thank You for knowing us completely and loving us completely. Thank You for seeing beyond our past and reminding us that our identity is found in You. Help us stay close to You, especially in the seasons when we don't understand what You are doing. When we are discouraged, give us hope; when we are afraid, strengthen our faith; and when we are carrying hurt from the past, help us place it in Your hands and trust You with what comes next.

May our lives reflect the change You have made in us. Give us hearts that faithfully follow You and eyes that recognize Your presence in our everyday lives. Like Mary, give us the courage to share what You have done and to live with the confidence that You know our name, You know our story, and You are not finished with us yet. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Calling All Christmas Dessert Makers!

Our Christmas Luncheon is coming up, and we'd love your help making it a little sweeter! We're inviting the ladies of our church to donate a favorite dessert to share. Cookies, cakes, bars—really, anything with sugar and chocolate! (Because what's Christmas without a little extra sugar?) Whether it's homemade or from your favorite bakery, every dessert is appreciated!

Would you consider bringing a sweet treat to share? If so, please text Koleen at (951) 230-1550. Thank you for helping make our Christmas Luncheon extra special!

Reflection

by Koleen Medina

“Sometimes You Just Need to Ask Her to Lunch”

I was listening to a podcast the other day about being a “godly woman.” To be totally transparent, at 58, after 36 years of marriage, raising three kids, and now having grandchildren, I am STILL trying to figure that one out! But anyway, the speaker started talking about how women can be terrible at making friends. I thought, I don't necessarily find making friends hard—I find keeping them much harder! We all want someone to laugh with, cry with, pray with, and sometimes tell us what we don't want to hear. But are we willing to be that kind of friend to someone else?

Then the conversation turned to marriage and the idea that marriage is also a friendship. In Genesis 2:18, God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.” God created Eve to be Adam's companion, partner, and friend. Marriage should be a friendship. Your spouse should be someone you can laugh with, confide in, and walk through the good, bad, and sometimes downright ugly parts of life with. But let's face it, marriage isn't always easy. We said “I do,” but some days we may be thinking, “I don't…at least not today!” Maybe we need to ask ourselves, “Am I being the kind of friend I want someone else to be?” And that question applies to our friendships with other women, too.

Proverbs 18:24a (NKJV) says, “A man who has friends must himself be friendly.” Ladies, we can't stand in the back of the room like the second-string quarterback, hoping the coach will eventually put us in the game! Sometimes we need to be the one to walk across the room and say, “Hey, would you like to go to lunch?” Stop taking everything so personally and take a chance on someone. Look around the church. Find a lady with a great laugh, a little gray hair, and a beautiful smile. Ask her to lunch! You might be surprised by what you learn.

And ladies, if you see a woman whose age starts with a 5, 6, 7, or even an 8—she's lived some life! She has stories, made mistakes, learned lessons the hard way, stretched a grocery budget, survived difficult seasons, celebrated victories, and learned a thing or two about trusting God. Does she have all the answers? Absolutely not! But she has experiences worth listening to. She's a woman worth getting to know.

Today, many younger women whose ages begin with a 1, 2, 3, or 4 turn to TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, Pinterest, podcasts, and influencers for advice. We listen to people we've never met tell us how to meal plan, budget, parent, strengthen our marriages, or survive motherhood. Yet someone sitting just a few rows away at church may have lived through the very season we're trying to figure out. And the best part? Her advice probably won't cost us anything but a cup of coffee or lunch!

Titus 2:4–5 shows older women teaching and encouraging younger women. But here's the thing: that relationship takes both women. Older women need to understand their wisdom and experiences still matter, and younger women need to be willing to reach out and listen. We don't always need another “how-to” video, influencer, post, or book. Sometimes what we need is sitting right beside us on Sunday morning.

So, to the college student, the woman looking for Mr. Wonderful, the newlywed, the woman walking through infertility, the exhausted mom, or the woman who just needs someone to listen, pray with her, and say, “It's okay, Momma. This season won't last forever”—look around. Women in our church have been where you are, and I bet many would love to share what they've learned.

So ladies, here's my challenge: Stop waiting for someone else to make the first move! Younger ladies, don't overlook the older women sitting around you. Older ladies, don't assume the younger women don't want to hear your stories. Friendship shouldn't have an age limit, and we have so much to learn from one another. Walk across the room, introduce yourself, and ask someone to lunch. You may think you're reaching out because someone else needs a friend, only to discover you needed that friendship just as much as she did.

Now, who's ready for lunch?



Women's Ministry Pop-Up Gathering

That Saturday night was a wonderful time of filling our souls with sweet fellowship, laughter, fun projects, and making new friends! 34 ladies spent two hours together, learned new skills, and took home amazing goodies.

A big thank you to Taylor, Koleen, Rhonda, Sue, Brenda, and Stella for hosting each room!

Now it's YOUR turn! Do you have a fun idea, a favorite craft, or a skill you would love to share? We would love for you to host our next PoP-Up Gathering! You can host in your home, at the church, or even at a restaurant. You don't have to be an expert, just willing to share something you enjoy! We'll help you get started. These gatherings are all about building friendships, learning something new, and growing our community of women here at CrossWinds.

So, who's ready to host the next PoP-Up? Talk to one of our Women's Ministry Leaders. We'd love to hear your ideas! Watch for future activities; maybe there will be one in the month of December























