

# JUST+WOMEN

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As your Disciples Women Cabinet, we strongly encourage you to support *Just Women* – it's a resource we don't want to lose!

1. *Just Women* is a vital resource that can be used in many areas of our church life. You can depend on the Disciple principles that are presented because the entire magazine is written BY Disciples Women.
2. A subscription supports a Disciple-written publication that is relevant to our Disciples Women AND many other areas of our church.
3. Each of the four issue-packed magazines are well worth the \$19 subscription price or \$36 for a two-year subscription. One issue (Winter) is an 8-lesson Bible study curriculum, the other three issues (Spring, Summer, Fall) address Disciples Women related issues and also include some study materials.

## **Highlights of EVERY *Just Women* magazine include:**

- Theme articles inspired by scripture;
- Devotions, meditations and prayers;
- Leaders guide is incorporated into the Study issue
- Leader guides for non-Study issues (Summer, Fall and Winter) are available as a free download on [discipleswomen.org](http://discipleswomen.org)
- Stand-alone Bible studies written by Disciples women scholars;
- Information and/or discussion from Woman-to-Woman Worldwide trips;
- Service project ideas
- Reflections on healthy living, stewardship and Disciples history;

## **Many Ways to use *Just Women* magazine**

- Bible Study for DW/CWF meetings
- Can be used to lead a Sunday School class (adult, youth or children)
- Use it for Wednesday night Bible Study and missions
- For churches that don't have a DW/CWF group, it's still a valuable resource that can be used for personal learning, growth and meditation
- Adapt for children's sermon or a children's program
- So much more than a Bible Study – articles, information, meditations, conversations, all of which can be used in any group in your congregation

## ***Just Women* magazine has gone digital!**

Don't want a paper copy to carry around with you – or would you like the option of being able to read it on your iPad™, Kindle™ or laptop? – order a digital copy today at [discipleswomen.org](http://discipleswomen.org).

Summer standard subscription deadline is June 1<sup>st</sup>. Issues containing the annual Bible Study are available as a download from [www.discipleswomen.org](http://www.discipleswomen.org).

## **2017 THEME ~ JUSTICE AND FREEDOM FOR ALL**

### **WINTER BIBLE STUDY – FREEDOM: PROMISE AND STRUGGLE**

The theme of freedom weaves through the scriptures from the creation story in Genesis; to the Exodus accounts of freedom for the Israelites; to Jesus' ministry of freedom for those on the margins; to the early church and its message of freedom in Christ. This eight-session Bible study is intended to offer insights on the promise and struggle for freedom from biblical to contemporary times.

Writers and topics for the 2017 Bible study include the following:

- **Marti J. Steussy** – God creates humans, placing them in a garden to “freely eat of every tree” except for the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (*Gen 2:15-3:19*); a psalm of praise for God, whose promises reach out to those on the margins (*Psalms 146*).
- **Dr. Cynthia Hale** – Jesus cures a boy of epilepsy and rebukes the disciples for their little faith (*Matt 17:14-20/21*); freedom and discipleship – “the truth will make you free” (*John 8:31-38*).
- **Dr. Katy Valentine** – What do Paul’s letters have to say about slavery? (*1 Cor 7:21-24*); in a letter to Philemon, Paul pleads for him to accept the slave Onesimus as a beloved brother (Philemon).

### **SPRING – WOMEN BREAKING FREE**

In this issue, you’ll get an update on the achievements of both lay and ordained women in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Learn more about women in the church as Dr. Sharon Watkins, the first woman to head a mainline Protestant denomination, concludes her term in 2017 as DOC General Minister and President. Get updates about issues women face around the globe, including those caught up in human trafficking. Find out more about how women have influenced our church’s history and continue to shape it today. This issue will also begin a series of stories from the Woman-to-Woman Worldwide journey to South Africa and Ghana.

### **SUMMER – RACE AND REALITY: A JUSTICE CHECK**

Events of the last decade have brought race into public conversation in the last decade. Read about the Disciples Reconciliation Ministry, how pastors and lay leaders are working for change, and the ways that institutional racism collides with the “message of reconciliation that has been entrusted to us” (*2 Cor 5:19*). Also featured will be stories about the Woman-to-Woman Worldwide 2016 journey to South Africa and Ghana.

### **FALL – THE AGE OF MASS INCARCERATION**

The U.S. has the highest prison population (more than two million) and the second highest incarceration rate (698 per 100,000 population in 2013) in the world (Wikipedia); moreover, African Americans make up a disproportionate share of this population. Yet these statistics oversimplify a complex problem that is riddled with injustice. In this issue of Just Women, readers will discover how the church is following its call to “proclaim release to the captives”

(Luke 4:18b) in the midst of this “prison-industrial complex.” Learn about prison chaplaincy, ministries for children whose parents are incarcerated, and the reality of life after prison. The issue will feature concluding stories from the Woman-to-Woman Worldwide 2016 journey to South Africa and Ghana. *(A four-session study guide will be available as a free download.)*

## **2018 THEME ~ PURPOSE AND CALL**

### **WINTER BIBLE STUDY – CALLED FOR A PURPOSE**

Stories of call abound in the Bible, offering readers encouragement and promise that God rarely calls the equipped, but rather, God equips the called. This eight-session Bible study will explore Old Testament and New Testament stories of women and men called according to God’s purposes. Advance orders for the 2018 Bible study issue will be taken in the fall of 2017.

### **SPRING – SEXUALITY: IT’S COMPLICATED**

This issue will explore the topic of sexuality as part of our human identity and the many ways it intersects with our spirituality. Also featured will be reports about the Woman-to-Woman Worldwide 2017 journey to India. *(A four session study guide will be available as a free download.)*

### **SUMMER – CALLED TO BE WOMEN OF JUSTICE**

In this issue, Just Women will report on ways that Disciples Women are women of justice as they live out call and purpose across the U.S. and Canada and around the globe. Reports will continue from the Woman-to-Woman Worldwide 2017 journey to India. *(A four-session study guide will be available as a free download.)*

### **FALL – WHAT ABOUT THE CHILDREN?**

From the early years of the Christian Women’s Board of Missions in the 1800s, to the modern ministries of present-day churches, children have been a central concern of Disciples Women. Learn more about some of these ministries that have shaped the church. Reports will conclude from the Woman-to-Woman Worldwide 2017 journey to India. *(A four-session study guide will be available as a free download.)*

## ***2019 THEME ~ THE CHURCH***

### **WINTER BIBLE STUDY – THE CHURCH: MISSION POSSIBLE**

Although the gospels mention the word “church” only a few times, beginning in the Acts of the Apostles, the New Testament is filled with repeated stories of the first century church, along with instructions on what it means to be the church. This study will highlight some of the most important lessons of the early church and challenge us to apply those lessons today.

### **SPRING – THE CHURCH: FAITH FOR NEW GENERATIONS**

It’s not difficult to see the change in demographics in many churches, and with the change, the question is repeated again and again: “Where are all the young people?” This issue will explore the complex answers to that question and celebrate the new ways younger generations are redefining and living out their faith. Also featured will be reports about the Woman-to-Woman Worldwide 2018 journey to Cuba.

### **SUMMER – THE CHURCH: CELEBRATING “HERSTORY”**

Women have shaped the church from its beginning, and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is no exception to that “herstory.” This issue will feature stories of women who are living out their faith and gathering around the Table in remarkably diverse ways. Reports will continue from the Woman-to-Woman Worldwide 2018 journey to Cuba.

### **FALL – THE CHURCH: WHAT’S NEXT IS NOW**

In our rapidly changing culture, what does church look like? In this issue, readers will encounter creative ways of being church that are helping Christians reimagine what God is calling them to be and do. Church is more than a building, as these congregations are demonstrating. Reports will conclude from the Woman-to-Woman Worldwide 2018 journey to Cuba.