



DWM Spring 2023 Retreat Summary

The theme of the DWM Spring Retreat was “Recharge.” Our scripture was Matthew 5:13-17, Jesus calling us to be Salt & Light to the world.

On Friday evening, Teresa Spear joined us for “An Offering of Salt.” For centuries, salt has played an important role in human relationships to each other and the Divine. We explored how being salt of the earth applies to our spirituality while balancing our busy lives. We shared a covenant of salt, did several crafts, and made homemade ice cream using rock salt!

On Saturday, Margi Colerick and Robin Colerick-Shinkle helped us explore the theme of God's Light and how both seen and unseen inner light can recharge and refresh our spirits. We explored light from various sources including God's Word, the Arts, Nature and even lighthouses. We had a 5-foot lighthouse in the room illuminating on our Light sessions. We discussed how we receive and share God's Light, and we decorated wooden crosses with lights inside. This mother-daughter duo is truly gifted storytellers!

We had a blessing of our service projects:

- We gathered several boxes of used household products in support of Pleasant View Christian Church’s Angel Tree project.
- We gathered a trunk full of new products for the Northland Shephard Center Plate of Hope Pantry which provides food and other essentials to seniors. We collected toilet paper, laundry soap, hygiene items, incontinence products, and pet food.

We collected over \$1900 in offerings that will be split 40% to Week of Compassion, 40% to KC Area School Lunch programs and 20% to our DWM Speakers Fund. In addition, we raised \$273 for The Fellowship of John through book sales and donations.

The Hillcrest ladies led us in a short worship discussion from “The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World.” In this discussion with the late Desmond Tutu, he discussed our greatest joy -- when we seek to do good for others.

We had 40 women attend in person and 5-6 ladies join us virtually via Zoom. These ladies represented 22 different congregations. Isn’t it amazing what 45 women together can do?

Fifteen ladies stayed through dinner and joined together for evening worship. Ginny Bottrell led us in a short worship on thinking about what brings us joy and the joy of laughter. We ended the retreat by dancing (and laughing!) to a song called Shabbat Shalom which means “peaceful rest”.

We were truly blessed from our time together, fellowship, worship, singing and recharging!