



**FAMILIES
VALUED**



Dear friends,

During the holiday seasons, my family's kitchen - like many households' - operates in high gear. For Christmas, we churn out batches of cookies. When the Lunar New Year approaches, dumplings abound. Although it sometimes leads to excess, holiday over-production has a purpose.

We make enough so that everyone has a full plate. We make more than

enough so that we have something to share, so that friends can pull up a chair and have their plates filled, too. Abundance and hospitality go hand in hand.

At their best, families are places of abundance – of food, of love, of belonging. When families lean into abundance, that blessing can spill over, enabling families to be a blessing to others. As Dr. Christina Edmondson recently shared with the Families Valued community, “Healthy families are not just good for themselves; they should be impacting their entire culture or society.”

Looking to 2023, the Families Valued team has chosen the theme of abundance to guide our work together. The twenty-third Psalm contains one of the most indelible Biblical images of abundance: “you set out a table before me....my cup overflows.”

Over the course of the year, we’ll invite you to a conversation about the Psalmist’s abundant vision, what it means for our own lives and the work to build a common life in which all families have not only enough but more than enough.

Peace and hope,

Rachel Anderson
Resident Fellow, Families Valued

Celebrating a 2022 success: new protections for pregnant women

On December 29, President Biden signed into law the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (PWFA) as part of a year-end legislative package, after the measure received a strong bipartisan vote in the Senate.

The PWFA will make it much easier for pregnant women to secure necessary changes at work. As Lauren Reilford shared with Families Valued this fall, accommodation can mean something as straightforward and essential as a chair to sit in.

[Learn More](#)

The final legislation also confirmed religious freedom protections for employers - a demonstration of hard-won common ground on the PWFA between policymakers with different views about abortion.

Many of you took the time to learn about and advocate for the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act this fall. **Thank you.** You helped make this

change and modeled the kind of collaborative advocacy needed to build a world that's healthy and safe for women, families, and children.

For details on how the PWFA will work, please take a look at this [helpful explainer](#). The law goes into effect this summer.

Announcing: Community Call and Text Study with Families Valued

Join us on Thursday, March 2 from 12-1pm ET for the first of our quarterly community calls around the theme of abundance. Each meeting in the series, titled "**Setting the Table where Families Flourish**" will include a Biblical text study and introduce an update and practical ways to support pro-family policies. In March, we will discuss health care for pregnant women and new families. Sign up here to register for the call.

[Register](#)

Recording: God's Purpose for Families - Learning from Our Family Stories



In December, Families Valued held an advocacy training titled **God's Purpose for Families - Learning from our Family Stories**. Many thanks to our panelists **Dr. Christina Edmondson, Rev. Dr. Mika Edmondson, Mariah Humphries (M.T.S.), Dr. Joshua Wu,** and moderator **Kathryn Freeman**.

From the Families Valued Advocacy Team: Rachel Anderson (Resident Fellow) * Madi Allen (CPJ Advocacy Manager) * Kathryn Freeman (CPJ Consultant) * Michelle Kirtley (CPJ Fellow, Co-chair, Association for Public Justice) * Chandler Robinson (CPJ Advocacy Intern)



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