

**2023/2024**

MOMSCONNECT  
**HANDBOOK**



Whether you're a soon-to-be mom, seventh-time mom, teen mom, adoptive mom, stepmom, single mom, foster mom or any other type of mom, you are welcome here!

Our hope is that you will find encouragement, support, relevant biblical teaching, and friendship with other women who are in your same season of life. MomsConnect is a non-denominational Christian organization. You do not need to be a churchgoer or from a specific denomination to join. We welcome women from all faith and non-faith backgrounds and beliefs. The vision of MomsConnect is to see no mom alone.

# What to expect

## When's the last time you had...

- a few moments to sit still?
- a hot meal you didn't have to prepare?
- the space to be silly and have fun?
- an opportunity to be vulnerable with other moms in your season of life?
- a listening ear, and caring advice from a mother who has been through your season of life?
- an evening planned just for you?

**MomsConnect meetings are designed to do just that!**

# Make Connections

**Calendar of Events:** Access our upcoming events online at [woodlandmqt.org/momsconnect.html](http://woodlandmqt.org/momsconnect.html). You can also click the link in your welcome email you will receive after registration, or scan the QR code here -->



**Special Events:** Our special events provide opportunities for fun experiences geared at building deeper relationships within the group. We will plan some fun activities outside of our normal Tuesday meetings. Most of these events will be open to members and non-members so feel free to invite a friend!

**Playdates:** Take this opportunity on the 2nd Tuesday morning of each month to bring your kids to a playdate. See the online calendar of events for more details about location and activities. We are also looking for members who are interested in hosting or planning play dates. Contact leadership.

A MomsConnect meeting includes dinner, coffee, and an opportunity to connect with other moms. It usually includes a fun icebreaker activity, practical teaching through a speaker, demonstration or video, and time at the end to discuss with a group of 6-8 women.



This year MomsCo is using "Gather Moms: Mom Struggles" as a guide for about half of our meetings. Find out more at [gathermoms.com](http://gathermoms.com)

**Testimonies:** Every semester we try to have a meeting when members have an opportunity to share what God has done in their life. This can be a 5 minute, spur-of-the-moment story you share during dinner, or a planned 15-20 minute presentation arranged with leadership.

**Skill Share:** Do you have a special skill you think other moms would benefit from learning, or seeing? We would love to celebrate your talents by inviting you to share them with our group. Contact someone from the leadership team to chat more about this!

**Care Groups:** Each semester our registered members will be randomly divided into smaller groups called Care Groups. Each group will include a mentor mom and one of our leadership team members. At about half of our Tuesday evening meetings you will be sitting with this group. We hope this will be an opportunity to develop stronger friendships and more in depth discussion at your tables. We encourage you to share prayer requests with one another, and possibly plan special events for your care group outside of Tuesday meetings.

# General policies

**Punctuality:** Please make every effort to arrive on time to meetings. We will start promptly at 6:00 pm.

**Food:** Many of our meetings will have catered dinners. From time to time we will plan a pot-luck style dinner, or ask for side dishes or dessert to go along with a main dish that we provided. Feel free to contribute, but don't feel obligated!

**Babies at meetings:** Infant care for babies ages 0-12 months is available at Tuesday night meetings in the nursery. Please RSVP a few days prior so we can plan for enough nursery workers. You may also feel free to keep your infant in the meeting with you if you feel more comfortable doing so. If you need help finding childcare for your older children refer to our "suggested babysitters" handout later this fall.

**Closings:** In the case of inclement weather, we will notify you of cancellation via text and a Group Me message/Facebook post.

**Clean-Up:** We request that you take time to clean up your table. We also need help at the end of the meeting if you are able to stay an additional 15-30 minutes.

**Private Facebook Page:** The purpose of our private Facebook group is to encourage registered members to stay in contact, ask for advice, share ideas, ask for prayer, arrange play dates, etc. Please remember that all things posted on this page are confidential and not to be shared outside of the group without permission. This page should be a safe, kind, loving environment that encourages members to grow as friends and moms.

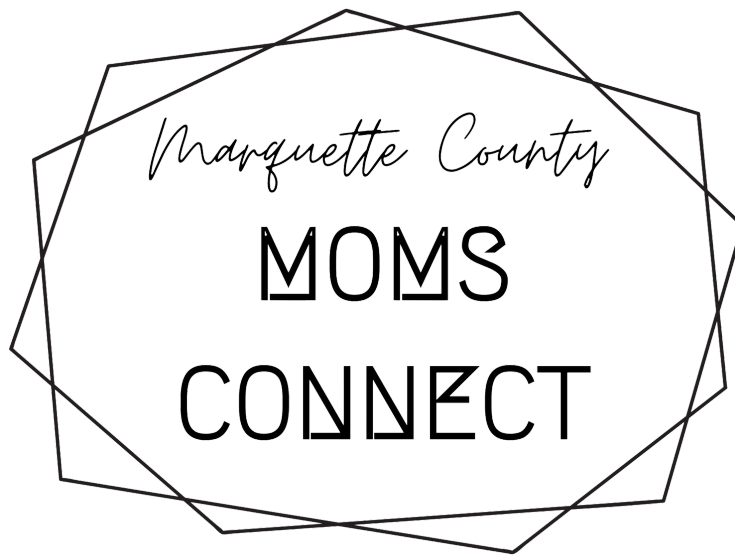
**Selling Things:** We ask that you refrain from selling anything here. Items that other moms may find useful may be shared if you are giving it away free of charge. Also, please do not use this group to promote your personal business. A good way to share with other moms about your business is to donate a door prize for a meeting. Contact a leadership team member if this is something you are interested in doing.

**Respect our guest speakers:** Please refrain from interrupting guest speakers, or members who have been given an opportunity to share. We realize you may have comments or questions, and we ask that you hold those until after the meeting, or if given permission at the end of their presentation.

# Registration

Please scan the QR code to be directed to our online registration form. Cost is \$30 per semester, payable to Woodland Church online or by cash/check (due after first 2 meetings attended) This fee offsets the cost of dinners, crafts, prizes and other special things we do throughout the year. If you need assistance with this fee please indicate that on your registration and we will find a sponsor to cover your membership.





*a community of support for moms*

## *Leadership Team*

Our MomsConnect group has a Leadership Team made up of devoted women who meet monthly to help make sure our meetings run smoothly and important details aren't overlooked. They are the behind-the-scenes faces to our Tuesday meetings. They share the MomsConnect mission of equipping and developing every mother to realize her potential as a woman, mother and leader. Please feel free to contact any member of the Leadership Team with questions, concerns, or suggestions.

**Elyse Gregg**  
906-475-4457

**Hannah Niemi**  
906-360-5600

**Hanna Rajala**  
906-458-0172

**Linnea Salo**  
906-458-4195

**Caitlin Woodward**  
906-869-9247

Lead Mentor Mom  
**Sharon Elliott**

## *Mentor Moms*

Our group is blessed to have some "seasoned moms" with us who can offer their wisdom, experiences, and guidance. Our mentor moms are praying for you, and here to walk alongside and support our group any way they can. Please don't hesitate to reach out to them.

**Sharon Elliott**  
906-249-3792

**Nina Frederickson**  
906-250-9824

**Jean Kohtala**  
906-362-9216

**Montie Motta**  
906-204-5694

**JoAnn Olivier**  
906-360-5430

**Peggy Salo**  
906-249-1984