

PRAYING ON EMPTY

A Female Pastor's Story

MARJORIE WEISS

"Pastor Weiss tells the truth about what private life can be like for women who seek to publicly serve the Church."

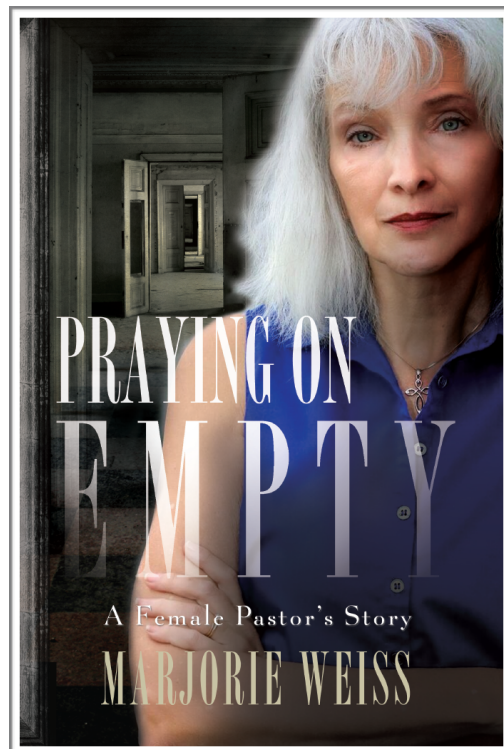
—Lynne Silva-Breen, MDiv, MA, LMFT, former ELCA Pastor

"Anyone who daily searches for a genuine faith relationship will find benefit from this work." —Bruce G. Trethaway, MDiv

"WHAT ARE YOU?" the curious man asked Pastor Marjorie Weiss when he saw her walk by him in the church corridor while she was wearing her clerical collar. That question is indeed the heartbeat of her story. Until the 1970s, "pastor" had been a male-only profession. *"What am I?"* she asks throughout her journey. *"What am I as I stand before a congregation weekly to deliver a sermon that will inspire and guide listeners to better understand themselves and God?"*

And what is she when that faith, so necessary to do her job, suddenly seems to vanish? What is she when her emotional life crumbles and anger rules her landscape? Can she be a pastor without God in her life?

Weiss's deeply vulnerable, often humorous, memoir speaks to universal issues experienced by the religious and nonreligious alike. Many of her experiences may seem familiar while others border on the truly toxic. Can the pastor recover her faith? Or is it God from whom she needs to recover?



BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY /
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PLove@CitrinePublishing.com



MARJORIE WEISS, as a pastor for thirty-nine years in the Lutheran Church, has served congregations in upstate New York, Pennsylvania, and Florida. Her gift for storytelling and using humor in her sermons has translated into her written word. Her writing has been published in *The Palm Beach Post*, *The Sun-Sentinel*, *The Clergy Journal* and *The Lutheran*. For more writings and her speaking schedule, visit www.prayingonempty.com.