

June 8, 2017

The Connection

In This Issue

To call all people to a vibrant life of faith in Christ

From Pastor Paul ~ Jesus Wept John 11:35

You and I, we exist in a reality that is filled with knowns and unknowns. It's as if we are canoeing a river for the first time without a map. We have a sense of the flow. We can read the signs of the river but we never really know what's around the bend. We can guess. We can hope. We can even have good expectations. And as we journey down that river, at times, those expectations are met, celebrated and the waters flow, strong, clear, and undisturbed.



But yet we are also aware the unexpected can visit us around the next bend, bringing churning water that is running too fast over sharp and dangerous rocks. Our sense of control, our ability to navigate our reality is severely challenged. It's in those unexpected moments, a disturbing health diagnosis or news of a tragedy, where we reach out to find something, anything, to steady ourselves. Otherwise we'd overturn and fear we'd be lost forever.

What do we do in those moments when our souls have been pierced like this? Well the Sunday School answer is simply to trust in Jesus. And some of us are able to hold on to that very quickly. However, so many of us find the daily, real world answer, while deeply connected to that trust, difficult to grasp. It's important for us to recognize that difficulty, and to not ignore it. It's important for us to know that whatever we feel in times of trouble, is an authentic expression of the deep soul impact tragedy or difficult news creates in us.

So if you find yourself responding with grief; grieve. If you find yourself responding with numbness; be numb. If you find yourself responding with anger; be angry. If you find yourself having no answers; it's okay to shrug your shoulders. If you find yourself responding with boldness and strength; then be bold-be strong. If you find yourself responding with hope; be hopeful. My suspicion and experience tells me that you'll move in and out of all of those responses at various times. And that is okay. Actually, that's normal. Your spirit does not have to be linear. Just like a river that finds its calm places again, so you too will ebb and flow.

And in it all God is there, grieving with you, empathetic to your anger, hoping with you, promising you a new future. And if you can't see it yet, that's okay too. It's just around the bend.



Lola the
Lama

Potluck—All Are Welcome

June 12–15 is a high-energy week of cross-culture fun with Vacation Bible Adventure, *Passport to Peru*. VBA is a time filled with Bible learning adventures, cultural experiences, game, treats, faith-building songs and more, for children from 3 years old through 4th grade. Contact coordinators Sarah Greene or Stephanie Noe to assist on Sunday with set-up or in some way during the week.



All are welcome to attend Family Night on Thursday, June 15. Bring a dish to share for potluck fellowship, beginning at 6pm. The VBA campers share a few songs from the week, and invite all to try some of the week's favorite games. Families can make a peace pole to take home for your garden or yard. Whether you've been to the morning camp or not, you are invited to Family Night!

Upcoming Events: (for more, visit Resurrection's [website](#))

Cook and/or Serve a meal at East Immanuel, June 12
Summer Stretch, June 14
That High School Thing Kick-off, June 14
LAFF Event (Adult Night at the MN Zoo), June 15