



Embracing the New by Carol Landis

Although my memory is vague, I'm told I said I'd stop crying "when I got used to it." Apparently, this lasted weeks. I was a kindergartener, anxious to attend school with my big sister, but wasn't prepared to be separated from my mother. I remember my teacher as kind and pleasant, who I already liked on the first day. Going to school is what I wanted, but the unfamiliar and pain of separation, kept me from embracing the new.

New experiences come no matter our age. First day of kindergarten, high school or college. New job, parenting, empty nest, retirement, moving to a new community. Even our congregation is facing a "new," with Pastor Mark moving on and Pastor Rob becoming our new pastor. Change offers opportunities to grow. It's exciting and fun to meet new people and gain new experiences. Yet fear of what the new will include; feelings of loss that often accompany change; anxiety over what the change may require, can overshadow excitement.

As I thought about this reality, I recalled the story of Ruth. She too chose the new experience by moving to a foreign culture. As a widow with few resources, she was forced to gather grain left behind by harvesters so she and her mother-in-law could eat. The Bible doesn't tell us her thoughts (or of her shedding tears), but it does show us she wasn't stuck in grief or entitlement. Ruth worked steadily (2:6), and gratefully accepted the kindness of Boaz (2:10,15). Reading through to the end of the story it's obvious God was leading. He led her to Boaz's field; Boaz eventually became her husband; she gave birth to a son. Though not of Israelite descent, she's even part of Jesus' genealogy. While working in those fields through the harvest season, gathering only enough food to survive, she did not know her future. *But she trusted the God who did.*

While the Bible doesn't share details of Ruth's feelings it shows how she lived. It wasn't all about her. Rather while getting "used to it," she faithfully lived out loyalty to Naomi and Naomi's God (1:16). And God blessed her faithfulness.

Is there anything else we need to know?

Lord Jesus, thank You for being present in each new situation. Help us depend on You to know the next step, and for the strength to persevere, so we confidently lean into You. AMEN

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September 2022



WOMEN'S MINISTRY MISSION STATEMENT: Encouraging women to connect in deeper, genuine relationships both with each other and with Jesus Christ.



Making Connections

Summer Camp Counselors



Kayla Godshall: This summer was not like anything I ever could have imagined. If you talked to me before I left, I was expecting a fun time of fellowship and counseling. But camp was that and so much more for me. I will forever be grateful for the summer of 2022 at Big Sky Bible Camp. I decided to apply close to when camp would start because I was so indecisive. But in the end, I believe it was a God thing that I ended up in Montana this summer. I made amazing friends and we had an amazing group of staff that seemed to bond really well. Spiritually I grew exponentially this summer. Always surrounded by people who loved God and stuff that glorified God, it was easy.

We normally would get up early in the mornings to go do devotionals somewhere on camp. Big Sky did a really good job of not only pouring into the campers that came in and out of camp, they made sure to pour into the counselors constantly so that we would have the ability to pour into the campers that we met. God was constantly teaching me things and never failed to blow my mind. Whether it was from my campers or the other counselors or even me teaching a Bible class lesson, God was always blowing my mind. One big thing I learned is that it is more rewarding if you do everything for God's glory rather than other people's glory. Others' glory will fade and it will not last long; you will only feel a little satisfaction that is soon to fade. God's glory is beyond that. God's glory will last a lifetime and you will constantly feel satisfaction, and working for one summer for God's glory is worth a whole lifetime of working for people's glory.

All staff worship was my favorite night. This normally took place after dinner on Fridays when all the campers left. Just to see everyone genuinely and unashamedly worship our Almighty God was really cool. You could see throughout the summer, God's hand was evident in the work that we did and in our ministry. Sometimes, you could see the result of the week in a young kid's life and sometimes you didn't, but one thing is for sure, God saw your work and that is all that mattered because the end result, heaven, is what mattered to God.

So my advice to any person that is thinking about going somewhere to serve is do it if that is what you feel God calling you to do. It is all worth it. Being spent for Christ is worth it. The exhaustion is worth it. Meeting new people and having them become some of your closest friends is worth it. Seeing the change in the young kid's life through the week is worth it. And sometimes you don't see the change, but it is still worth it. Even the odd tan lines are worth it. It is all worth it. The part that makes it the most worth it, is seeing God get all the Glory.



Kelsey Stitt: I had such an amazing experience at Pinebrook Camp. My time there was full of fun, spiritual growth, laughter, tears, and much more. I made several awesome friends who have inspired me and helped me grow a lot spiritually. Being with 7-year-olds most of the summer is pretty exhausting but completely worth it. There were talks with campers and moments where you could tell a camper was fighting a spiritual battle. It was incredible to see the change in so many of the campers in just the first week. Helping these kids understand the Bible and learn about God was my favorite part. Though it can be stressful and chaotic at times, God works in those moments.

As us counselors prayed and told the kids about Jesus we could feel the devil fighting against us. A lot of us felt the weight of it, or we got sick, or we had a dark spiritual encounter, or just felt really drained. But through that God worked in incredible ways. I thank God for sending me to Pinebrook. It was one of the best experiences I've ever had and I hope and pray that I'll get to counsel at Pinebrook again next year.

I have some campers that need prayer. I'll just say names, I won't say what they're going through, for privacy -Eva, Carson, Brandon, Nehemiah, Indie, Laila, Assan, and Aianna. Thank you for praying :)



Get Involved!

Fall Women's Bible Study

Isaiah: Striving Less and Trusting God More



7-week video study
by Melissa Spoelstra

Learn to trust God for who He is and to rest in His promises. You'll find comfort and peace as you more deeply trust in the Faithful One who is utterly worthy of our dependence.

One study – Two options

Pick morning or evening, whichever is better for you!

Morning: Thursdays, 9:30-11:00 am
(facilitated by Julie Kratz)
Childcare provided

OR

Evening: Thursdays, 7:00-8:30 pm
(facilitated by Lucy Landis)

Starts Sept. 29th

Cost for study guide: \$10

Sign up at the Women's Ministry Table in the foyer, or by emailing franconiawomen@gmail.com

Service Opportunity

Comforter Blitz!

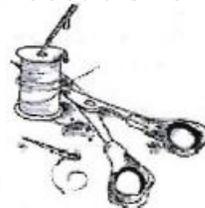
September 13th & 14th
8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Join us in the Fellowship Hall to knot comforters for MCC

**Childcare provided both days
9:00 – Noon

There is a great need for these comforters throughout the world. A handmade comforter provides not only warmth but also is a tangible message to people that their needs are not forgotten.

Please join us – stay an hour or two or all day – and give hope and comfort to those in need!



If you can tie a knot, you can do this!

Fundraiser Walk for **North Care Women's Clinic**

Thursday, Sept. 22nd
6:30 pm
Franconia Park

Franconia Women's Ministry is hosting a walk to raise funds for North Care Women's Clinic in Lansdale.

**Make checks payable to North Care Women's Clinic

We will have a soft pretzel tray after the walk

Feel free to come and enjoy the exercise and fellowship even if you can't contribute!

You are welcome to attend the official North Care Women's Clinic "Grace Changes Everything" walk, on Saturday, Sept. 24th, 9-11am. For more information, visit www.northcarecommunity.org/walk-2022/

Abortion Healing Group

You are not alone. There is healing. There is hope.

Group forming September 2022

NorthCare
WOMEN'S CLINIC

Visit www.northcarecommunity.org/abortion-healing/

September 2022

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THUR | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|---------------------------------|-----|---|-----|--|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 Moms' Market 9am-Noon |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| | | Comforter Blitz! 8am-4pm | | | | |
| | | Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm | | | | |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 Women's Clinic Fundraiser Walk 6:30pm | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 Isaiah Study 11am & 7pm | 30 | |

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