

A Word on Wednesday from Pastor Tonia

"Enjoy the Journey" 6/28/23

Your life is a journey, you must travel with a deep consciousness of God (1 Pet 1:18)

We need to adjust and adapt to each new path, from following the creek to wandering through the forest, to climbing the rocks above the timber line. From flat land to ascending new heights. As we journey, we improve our skills and expectations. By embracing change, we step out of our comfort zone and let go of doubts and unneeded baggage. We grow stronger. We gain new appreciation. We are able to see new possibilities for ourselves, for our church, our community, our country, for the world so loved by God. We need to allow these new encounters to enrich our lives.

As we let go of our fear of change, of the new and different and we embrace the variations of this adventure, we become the people God created us to be. Change is a part of life, and by adapting and growing we can realize new dreams and experience life at its fullest.

Sure, it may be scary, at first, but hold on – it's going to be a great ride. Learn. Adapt. Increase your horizons; but don't look back – you're not going in that direction, anymore. Change makes us feel like we're swimming against the tide, sometimes like we are drowning, but God is with us as we pass through new waters, they will not overcome us. (Isa 43.2)

I think of Matthew. Matthew was a young Jewish man with a prestigious job, he collected taxes – for Rome. The people saw him as the enemy, a traitor. He was hated for who he was and for what he did. He had money, lived well, even had his own guard – because, well, because so many people hated him, and Rome wanted to keep him safe. Then along came Jesus. Jesus looks at him, see who he is – really is – and calls Matthew to come and follow Him. And, of course, he does.

Talk about change. Matthew had a house, now he sleeps under the stars. He had lots of clothes, now he has one tunic. He ate the best of foods, now he ate what others gave them or what they could catch. He would accept the differences, overcome the obstacles, and complete the journey. And Matthew wouldn't have changed this change if he could have.

Can we accept change? Can we adapt to a new normal? Can we look forward to what can be? Mindful of God's presence, can we continue forward, going to a new place, following a new way, and enjoy the journey?

Please pray with me:

God of the journey: Help me to move on when I fear, when I can't see the way, when I don't know what is around the corner, and I'm not sure I want to find out. Strengthen me to accept the new, the different, the change. Give me a vision of what lies ahead, of the beauty of Your new creation, of the power of walking in Your Spirit. Give me peace and help me to enjoy the journey You have laid before me.

Amen.