



# SOUTHSIDE MIDWEEK NEWSLETTER 10.7.20

## Dare to Hope – Barrett

The picture below is of my older brother, Allen, giving a thumbs up at the beginning of our kayaking adventure last week. It was taken just moments before I accidentally knocked my pedal drive to the bottom of Cave Run Lake. Perhaps I should have been more concerned about the location of the pedal drive on my kayak and less concerned about taking a selfie with my brother.

### THE 10 STAGES OF GRIEF Granger Westberg

- 1 We are in a state of shock
- 2 We express emotion
- 3 We feel depressed and very lonely
- 4 We may experience some physical symptoms of distress
- 5 We may become panicky
- 6 We feel a sense of guilt about the loss
- 7 We are filled with anger and resentment
- 8 We resist returning to our jobs and responsibilities
- 9 We struggle to affirm reality
- 10 Gradually, hope emerges.

Several of you have reached out this week wondering if Allen is still talking to me. I must admit he had a good reason to be mad, but instead of being upset **at** me, he chose to lament **with** me. And there's a big difference. He showed me compassion, empathy and humility. It was a tremendous example to me.

Jim Haubenreich, who is an avid kayaker, sent me the above list after hearing my story on Sunday. He suggested that these stages of grief might help me to understand what I was feeling on the lake that day. Obviously, the grief I felt on the lake was very minimal compared to the grief many of you have felt in your life. However, it still serves as an illustration of one going from a state of shock to a place of hope. Lament gives us a structure to walk through these stages of grief in a biblical way. The title for the sermon this Sunday comes directly from Lamentations 3:21 (NLT) – “Dare to Hope.” My prayer is that lament will teach us that even in our grief we can people who “dare to hope.”



## The Same Yesterday, Today and Forever – Evan

What a wonderful thought we find near the very end of the Hebrews letter, as the author shares some closing words of encouragement. These words carry such potential for comfort, especially to a young body of believers enduring persecution and wavering in their faithfulness. Their world had been turned upside down, and they needed to know that the One to whom they had given their lives was big enough and steady enough to carry them beyond their suffering.

None of us claims to have experienced the likes of suffering that these early Christians did, but we have no lesser need of knowing Jesus as an absolute constant in our lives. I don't know about you—or maybe I do—but I am weary of finding temporary normals in 2020. May I confess that? I am weary of adjusting to a different (and usually lesser) way of doing things and accepting it as how things are going to be for a while. I long for a return to the *normal* normal. At the same time, 2020 is showing us the need for some major societal change, change that can't come without growing pains. It is messy, and it can be exhausting.

It is such good news that Jesus never changes on us. The world may change, and I may change, but Jesus does not change, and He does not give as the world gives. He is in the best of what's worth keeping the same, and He is in the best of change that's worth making. He leaves His peace with us, and we need it desperately as the enemy works tirelessly to keep us rattled and resentful. May we find unshakable comfort and purpose in Him.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever  
As we long for a sense of normal  
Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever  
As we long for change  
Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever  
As our world turns upside down  
Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever  
As we suffer  
Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever  
As our loved ones suffer  
Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever  
As our enemies suffer  
Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever

## A Shepherd's Prayer – Dennis

Year 2020 continues to roll along with headlines that seem a little more attention grabbing than most years. As a result we may feel frustrated by the virus, anxious about our society, worried about the economy, ill-equipped for remote work or school, isolated by lack of time with friends or loved ones, or inadequate to just keep up with everything now on our plate. Some days we may cry "I just can't do this"!

Does Jesus have a word for us? He does. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Peter reminds us we can "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you". And Psalm 94:18-19 reminds us "When I said, "My foot is slipping," your unfailing love, Lord, supported me. When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought me joy".

Here's my prayer for the week: Father, we know that you know everything that is going on around us. Fill us with the promise that when put our lives in the hands of the Son that we will find everything we need for our journey.