

the Loop

YOUR MONTHLY CONNECTION TO 



Bachelor Creek



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ELMO'S DIGITAL DIALOGUE: THE IMPORTANCE OF CONNECTION

If there was any doubt that the national mood could need a dose of encouragement, more evidence showed up in late January. On X (formerly known as Twitter), the account for Elmo, the red Muppet from Sesame Street, asked what seemed to be a simple, innocent question.

“Elmo is just checking in! How is everybody doing?”

In thousands of responses, social media users let Elmo know that no, they were not doing too hot. Users began pouring out their hearts to Elmo:

- “I’m tired, Elmo,” said one user.
- “The world is burning around us, Elmo,” said another.
- “Elmo, I’m depressed and broke,” one wrote.
- Others told Elmo that they were anxious about the 2024 election.
- “Each day the abyss we stare into grows a unique horror, one that was previously unfathomable in nature,” replied author Hanif Abdurraqib. “However, I did have a good grapefruit earlier, thanks for asking.”

“I don’t think anyone anticipated how deeply this particular question would resonate,” said Samantha Maltin, a marketing officer for the Sesame Workshop. Maltin believes that Elmo’s question provoked a lot of feelings because his character is rooted in the nostalgic memories of so many millennials.

After about nine thousand responses in about 24 hours, the account posted again. “Wow! Elmo is glad he asked!” it read. “Elmo learned it is important to ask a friend how they are doing.”

As I reflected on this seemingly trivial interaction, I couldn’t help but see a powerful lesson embedded within it. In a world where it’s common to feel isolated and overwhelmed, the act of reaching out and genuinely asking someone how they are doing can have a tremendous impact.

In the midst of our busy lives, it’s all too easy to overlook the struggles that others may be facing. We get caught up in our own concerns and responsibilities, forgetting to extend a listening ear to those around us. But Elmo’s simple question serves as a reminder of the importance of being there FOR one another, of offering a shoulder to lean on and a compassionate heart to listen.

Continued on the next page...

A word from Joel



One of our core values at Bachelor Creek is we **connect relationally**. As members of Christ's church, the body of Christ, we are called to express this spirit of compassion and empathy. We are called to be dependable friends who are willing to listen without judgment, to offer support and encouragement to those who are struggling. And we are reminded that we have a God who is always available to hear our troubles, who promises to provide mercy and grace in our time of need.

The author of Hebrews encourages us to "approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need" (Hebrews 4:16). This verse reminds us that we can turn to God in times of despair and uncertainty, knowing that He will always be there to listen and to offer comfort.

So let's take a cue from Elmo's playbook and make a conscious effort to check in on one another regularly. Let's remind ourselves and others that we are not alone in our struggles, that there is strength in community and solace in shared burdens. And let's never forget the profound truth that God is always listening, ready to extend His mercy and grace to all who call upon Him.

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." - **John 16:33**

FOR you,

Joel



BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED

God is a generous Father who has given each of us unique gifts, talents, and abilities. I have heard it said, "A flower does not think of competing with the flower next to it. It just blooms." As I reflect on my time in ministry, one thing I have found to be true...we all have room to bloom!

I meet with women regularly and have noticed that none of us outgrow our insecurities, our weaknesses, our doubts. Yes, life is a journey of continual growth and we may be doing better in one area of our life than we were doing five years ago; however, there is still some sort of pruning and growing that needs to take place. I think if we outgrew everything we struggled with, we wouldn't have much dependence on the Father, anyway.

So, what does it mean to "Bloom Where You Are Planted?" I believe we all need to take a hard look around and recognize that God has us here, in this place, in this family, in this church, in this community, in this season of life because we are supposed to be here. We are part of His plan and His plan has us here. Whether you're in a dry or flourishing season, there's room for you to grow. There is room for you to bloom. All your insecurities, flaws, and quirky tendencies are welcome here. There is no need to compare to the way the other girl beside you is blooming. (Although I do think there is lots of room for noticing and encouraging the beauty we see in others!!) When we recognize the value in our own lives and the difference we can make in our realms of influence, I can only begin to imagine how well we can represent our Father.

At our annual Sisterhood spring event, we are going to chat about what it means to "Bloom Where You Are Planted." We'll spend time with one another, laughing, worshiping, growing, and blooming. And the best part? This is just the beginning! We are launching Sisterhood Circles at this event, which are connection communities for women based on a common interest. I don't want to give it away, but you won't want to miss hearing about these opportunities!

Sign up today to ensure your spot on April 14 by heading to bachelorcreek.com or hopping on the church center app.

Until then, keep blooming, sister. The world needs who you were created to be.

Taylor

BEST NIGHT EVER RECAP

Best Night Ever 2024 was a night that lived up to its name! We were able to celebrate 110 guests and over 100 parents and caregivers throughout the evening. It takes so many people to make this event possible. Several volunteers showed up at 9:00am and worked hard all day to make sure Northfield High School was transformed from a school to party center with a dance floor, karaoke stage, arcade space, basketball floor, red carpet, and formal dining space. We had many buddies spending one on one time doing whatever activities their guest wanted to do. Our volunteers selflessly served each guest by cutting up their food, rebounding basketballs for an hour, doing the chicken dance, and in so many other ways. Others clapped and cheered until their hands hurt as each guest was celebrated on the red carpet. I could go on and on about the over 400 volunteers that showed up to be FOR the guests and their caregivers! I could also share many emails we received from parents but I'll just share a small part of this one: "A very BIG thank you for truly the Best Night Ever...I want to thank all of you that had a part in making this night so special. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! God does mighty things when we all work together." I couldn't agree more with this parent. God really does incredible things when we work together. Thank you to everyone who played a part in this night! God was glorified and our guests were celebrated! I can't wait till next year!

David



CONNECT WITH US!



SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER FOR ANY EVENT.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- APRIL 5 | BLUE GATE COMEDY NIGHT
- APRIL 11 | RECONNECT BIBLE STUDY
RECONNECT CARRY IN
- APRIL 14 | BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED
- APRIL 14 & 21 | NEXT EXPERIENCE
- APRIL 21 | MINI MASTERS
- APRIL 25 | RECONNECT BIBLE STUDY
- APRIL 26 | NOT ABOUT BINGO
- APRIL 28 | BABY DAY



BY THE NUMBERS

	03/03	03/10	03/17	03/24
Worship	816	765	827	872
March Group Attendance				207

Weekly Budget Needed	\$31,788.00	
Offering Received	\$38,990.06	(03/03)
	\$22,176.14	(03/10)
	\$26,623.23	(03/17)
	\$27,041.36	(03/24)

BCCC STAFF

Ministry Admin. Assistant | Rachael McWhirt | ext. 100
Lead Minister | Joel Cogdell | ext. 101
Worship | Evan Sumner | ext. 102
Next Steps/Outreach | Ryan Keim | ext. 103
Women/Admin. Director | Taylor McFarland | ext. 104
Media/Groups | David Diener | ext. 105
ReConnect | Michael Eaton | ext. 106
Next Gen/Elementary | Tyler Leland | ext. 107
Students | JT Canary | ext. 108
Early Childhood/Kid's Hope | Janet Legesse | ext. 109
Financial Admin. Assistant | Karin Brown | ext. 110
Facilities | Kipp Cantrell | ext. 111

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