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## Connect for Joy

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### THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Penny Creek Ward

Hello friend,

I haven't received an email from you in a while. Did you have a good summer? Reply and let me know.

When we communicate, we connect. We also connect when we share a similar experience or serve one another. In fact, we can connect with each other in many ways. The more interactions, the more connected we are with each other. For example, you are more closely connected to family, or close friends than an acquaintance you might barely know.

Makes sense, right? Well, I believe the more connection you have in your life, the more possibility you'll have for joy.

Now, everyone is different, so I don't mean that the more people you know the more joy you'll have, unless you're a person who likes knowing a lot of people, then you'll get joy from that. But some people would rather just know a few people, and what that means is their connection with those people is even deeper, so they receive joy from those few deep connections.

That's why I used the word 'connection' instead of connections. A few deep connections might equal many shallow ones.

We can even connect with people who lived during a different time than us. I might venture to say that Sister Wakely has a massive number of connections from all the family history research she has done over the years. All the stories and histories she has read has connected her with those people, even though they may not have talked with her directly, she feels connected as she learns their stories.

Serving others connects us with them, so doing work in the temple for those who have passed on can connect us with those individuals too, even if we don't know their stories.

I took my daughter to the temple yesterday to do baptisms and confirmations for those who have passed and we had a wonderful experience. Finding names from your own family tree couldn't be easier. Just log onto Family Search (<https://familysearch.org> or use the app) on your phone and click on the 'Temple' tab, then click on 'Ordinances Ready'. Select the ordinance you want to perform in the temple. It will search and tell you how many people it found. Then you click on 'View People', and click the checkmark for each one (or uncheck), depending on how many ordinances you want to perform that day. Then click 'Continue' and it will give you a QR code. Keep that screen up and take it into the temple office where they will scan it and print out the name cards for you.

You can literally do this in less than a minute in the parking lot of the temple before you go in. It's amazingly simple!

I had a great experience being baptized for distant relatives I didn't know. And I didn't know if they would accept my service or not, but as I went under the water I thought, "This is for you, Eli." And I was connected with him in some small way.

There are others we can connect with too. What about those wonderful prophets and individuals we read about in the scriptures? As we study their lives and experiences, we connect with them in a deeper way.

But there's one connection that matters the most, it's more important than any of the others, and that's our connection with our Heavenly Father and our Savior Jesus Christ. Communicating and interacting with them builds a deeper

connection and brings the most joy, because they will help you know why you are here and enhance your connections with others.

They've known you for a lot longer than you've known anyone else, so they know you better than anyone else. And they want you to get to know them.

I think you know how. Try it.

I'm so glad we're connected. It brings me joy.

Take care.

Bishop Williams

P.S

- Today at 3:00pm - Self Reliance Devotional at the Stake Center. Anyone interested in participating in one of [5 amazing courses](#) are invited to attend. This is where you'll choose your course and determine your meeting times with your group. (A great opportunity to connect.)
- Tonight at 7:00pm - Stake Youth End of Summer Devotional at the Stake Center where slide shows from all the different summer camps will be shown. Parents are invited too!
- This Wednesday, August 31 from 6-8pm at Thornton A. Sullivan Park on Silver Lake - come gather and connect with the ward as we enjoy the end of Summer at a favorite local amenity. Bring your own food, chairs, blankets, and whatever to enjoy spending some fun time together as a ward.
- Everett Stake Choir practice - 4:00 - 5:30pm September 4, 11, and 18 at Stake Center for a performance at Stake Conference on September 25.

**Singles Activity:**

Ensign Ranch Labor Day Campout

Fri, Sep 2, 2p to Mon, Sep 5, 2p

[3551 Hundley Rd, Cle Elum, WA 98922](#)

For more information and to register, go to <https://www.wewasa.org>

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You received this email because you made your email address available to your local Church leaders. It was sent by Rex Williams, whose calling is Bishop.