

Another Word October 17, 2023

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

I have the honor of officiating a wedding for the son of one of our dear friends this weekend in Columbus. We will miss being with you but Alan Girard has graciously offered to bring you the morning message. More on that later.

Kno Ho Co Ashland head start has once again asked for our assistance in providing a Thanksgiving meal for 15 families. Last Sunday I set out 15 bags with a list of items attached. They were gone almost immediately! Thank you!! The church is also providing 20, \$25 Butterball Turkey certificates. If you would like to help but didn't get a bag, you can either "buy" a certificate for \$25 (be sure to mark your check or cash offering), or purchase a few of the items on the list that head start can use to help larger families. Thank you for your generosity.

Our next Living Legacy series will be November 4th at U.H. Samaritan at 663 E. Main St. Our speakers include a financial advisor from Edward Jones, an Elder Attorney from Critchfield Critchfield and Johnson, a home health specialist from CenterWell, and a representative from Gentiva Hospice and Palliative care. This is a free seminar but you must register to attend. You may call 419-281-1477 to reserve your seat. There are flyers in the gathering area.

We are now hosting 80 middle school students who are attending LifeWise Academy. Their excitement and desire to be here is an amazing thing to witness. We thank all of you for your support of this wonderful program that will continue throughout the school year.

If you recall, last year we also helped bring a little joy to a number of foster youths in our community through the purchase of Christmas presents. Sherry Bouquet from Fostering Families has asked if we would participate again this year, and I said yes. We will be receiving case files soon as to boy or girl, age, and to provide a needed item, and a fun item.

Our scriptures for the next two weeks are as follows:

Oct. 22: Old Testament reading is Psalm 9: 1-2, 8-10, 16-20. Dale Campbell is our serving Elder. Alan's message, entitled "The God Nudge," will be based on Acts 8: 26-40, Acts 16: 6-10, Acts 14: 8-10, and Jonah 1:1.

Oct. 29: Old Testament reading is Psalm 90: 1-6, 13-17. Matt Henderson is our serving Elder. The message is based on Matthew 22: 34-46, "Truth always prevails."

We will be remembering our loved ones during our All Saints Day service, November 5th. If you have a family member or friend you would like to remember, please let us know and provide a picture by Oct. 26th. Scriptures are Psalm 65 and 1Thessalonians 5: 14-18

As we enter into a time of prayer, please remember those in harms way throughout the middle east.

Dear Lord, God of life. You bless us each day with new opportunities to enjoy life, and to reach others with Your love. With the problems and struggles around us, we sometimes forget how beautiful our world is. But by staying close to You and Your word, we are strengthened and can step out each day with confidence. We hold up to You those who need healing, those in our families with health issues, as well as our neighbors and friends. We thank You for all You provide. May we heed

Jesus' words and follow Him as we reach out to all who are in great need of care, love, and support. In His precious name we pray, Amen.

My message last Sunday was all about how God has nudged me my whole life. Always trying to get me to pay more attention to His words on the pages of the Bible, and less attention on the items placed between the pages. Alan's message this Sunday will be a continuation of the nudges given by God.

I first want to say thank you for all your kind words after the service. I hope that my personal journey with the Bible and God inspires each of you to delve even deeper into His Holy and perfect word. And second, may I offer a small apology to each of you who were there in person and to those watching on FaceBook.

As Brian and I were ready to turn out the lights, Donita asked why I didn't read my scripture that morning. Oh my!! I was so totally involved in my message, it completely slipped my mind. The apology comes because the words I was going to read were the perfect ending for what God has been saying to me. So, to end this letter, I would like to offer these perfect words of God, as an exclamation point!

Psalm 119: 9-16.

9- "How can a young man or woman keep their way pure?

By living according to Your word.

10- I seek You with all my heart;

do not let me stray from Your commands.

11- I have hidden Your word in my heart

that I might not sin against You.

12- Praise be to You O Lord;

teach me Your decrees.

13- With my lips I recount
all the laws that come from Your mouth.

14- I rejoice in following Your statutes
as one who rejoices in great riches.

15- I meditate on Your precepts
and consider Your ways.

16- I delight in Your decrees;
I will not neglect Your word.”

Not neglect Your word! What a powerful statement!

My letter today was going to be about how God directs us through His word and wants us to take care of each day and not worry about tomorrow. Matthew 6: 34, Jesus tells us, “to not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself.” He will direct us daily as to how we face each day. That’s the trust and faith He wants us to have in Him. So, may I add the verse I was going to use in my writing today; words we can happily live by;

Psalm 119: 105

“Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light for my path.”

That is the promise. God’s word directs us and He is with us, always.
We indeed, have a great and wonderful God.

In His Peace,

Rich