

Another Word June 20, 2023

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

The weather has been a little interesting this spring. We have gone from monsoons to heat waves. From a dry spell to a “turn on the furnace” chilly days. Ah! Life in Ohio. However, good news on the doorstep! Our first “outdoor” service at the pavilion will take place July 2nd at 10:30 am. The picnic tables are available, but if you like, you may bring your lawn chairs and worship under the trees. Casual dress is encouraged.

Your worship committee has also selected Sunday, July 16th to be our first church picnic immediately after the service. The church will provide burgers and hot dogs. There will be a sign-up sheet in the gathering area this Sunday for salads, hot dishes, and desserts. This will also be a great time to invite a friend or neighbor to this fun gathering. As a reminder, we will be sprucing up the property June 29th starting at 6pm to make ready for the fireworks crowd that assembles to view the Fourth of July festivities on our front lawn. We again will be serving ice cream, popsicles, and water. Be sure to come out for this fun evening! We are also working on a new Church Brochure that should be ready to hand out by July 4th.

Our scriptures for the next 2 weeks are:

June 25: Psalm 86: 1-10, 16-17. Dale Campbell is our serving Elder. Our New Testament scripture is Matthew 10: 24-39, “Change my heart.”

July 2: Psalm 89: 1-4, 15-18. Lana Bell is our serving Elder. Our scripture is Romans 6: 12-23, “Freedom with strings.”

As we prepare for prayer, please remember Ken Bee and Dick Gordon. May we pray! Great and Merciful God, you are a constant source of peace and joy to us, and we recognize that your grace and mercy are our only hope. You watch over us and know the deepest secrets of our

hearts. May your loving spirit draw us closer to you, and may we be moved by your love to reach out and love and comfort others. We also ask that You continue to bless our nation as we prepare to celebrate its birth. We pray this prayer through Jesus' name, who leads us to the very depths of your heart, Amen.

Donita loves to do puzzles. And thanks to the donation of 3 dozen puzzles to the church by Ruth Paulsen, the card table has almost become a permanent fixture in our living room. I know many of you have also taken a puzzle or two home to put together. As a reminder, there are still some on the shelves in our dining room at church. So, if you finish one, bring it back and exchange for another.

Personally, I'm not too excited when another pile of pieces is poured out on the table. However, I am just ornery enough to pick up a piece or two and hide them so I can be the one to finish the picture. Now don't boo me too much. Recently, I have been getting more and more interested in putting them together. In fact, I really got involved in the last one we did, and almost took over the table. Even though we worked on it every day, there were times when hardly a piece was put in place. But we kept at it until finally we could celebrate that it was complete. (Donita placed the last piece.) See, I can be a nice guy. The puzzles though got me thinking. Sometimes, life can be just like a jigsaw puzzle. Some pieces may be in place, but there are many more that need sorted out and placed properly. (And no Dale, you can't cut some of them to fit.) Like the puzzle, God is the one working on us to transform us from a life of jumbled pieces to a work of art. It just happens that at times it can be hard for us to see much progress. When this happens, we need to remember Paul's words to the church in Philippi. He said that he "prayed with joy because of the good works that they were doing." (Phil 1: 3-4.) But he went on to say that it was not because of their abilities, but because of their partnership in the good news, (the Gospel) that God, "who began a good work in (them)

would continue it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Phil 1: 6.) Hmmm. Notice the word “completion.” God has started His work in us, and He has promised to complete that work. Just like the puzzle, there may be different areas in our lives that still needs piecing together. And then other times we may not feel or see that we are making any progress. Yet, we need to always have confidence that our Loving God has all the pieces, and is continually working on us so that we may become the masterpiece He has called us to be.

In His Peace,

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