

Another Word October 13, 2020

To our family and friends of First Christian Church,

What a beautiful fall day we have today! This is the type of day that motivates us, inspires us, and reminds us that God loves us and is providing for us. I hope you feel that way, even when the storms of weather and the storms of life show themselves. We need to remember that God is always with us in the midst of our storms; shielding, guiding, and protecting us, as well as providing for our every need. What a great God we have!

Starting Tuesday Dec. 1, we will begin a 4-week Advent study from Max Lucado entitled "Because of Bethlehem". Classes will be available in the mornings starting at 10:30, or in the evenings at 6pm. Study guides are available for \$8.00, and Max's full-length book (reg.\$23.00) is available for the special price of \$9.00. There will be a signup sheet in the gathering room.

Our scriptures for this coming Sunday are Psalm 99, and Matthew 22:15-22, Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and Give to God what is God's.

Our card ministry for our local nursing homes had a great start. Don't forget to bring a card or note of encouragement each Sunday to be delivered to someone who may feel lonely or discouraged. More on this in a bit.

Let's be in prayer. 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 worries surrounding us, we sometimes forget how beautiful our world is. But by staying close to you and your word, we are strengthened and 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 in our nursing homes facing serious health issues. Be with our doctors, health workers, aides, and emergency responders who during this increase in virus cases, work tirelessly to save lives. Bless them, and comfort all the family and friends of those affected. 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 Jesus' precious name, Amen.

For those who read devotions sent out by Dr. David Jeremiah, I apologize to you for having to read one over again. But I felt a great need to re-tell this particular story. It fits so well into what I want to say.

There was a seventh grader by the name of Journey Bowman. She wanted to make a difference in her school, so she started, what she called "The Power of Positivity" program.

She began putting positive and creative notes on random locker doors throughout the school. She said, "I wanted to write positive notes to make a difference in someone's day." She went on to say, "They might also choose to make a difference in someone else's day."

Guess what? That is what happened. One young man, who was not always upbeat and optimistic began writing notes of encouragement to many other students. And another student, who was very shy, also began reaching out to others by writing notes. All of the notes were anonymous. This simple project not only changed the hearts of the students, but impacted the whole atmosphere of the school. Teachers and students worked, taught, and learned together in a safe and positive environment.

Paul, in his first letter to the church in Thessalonica wrote these words; "Encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with

everyone.” He went on to say “always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.” (1 Thessalonians 5:14-15)

Journey Bowman sensed and put into action exactly what Paul was saying to his newly formed church. We all - yes all - need encouragement at some point in our lives.

We are all prone to despair, selfishness, and even conflict. And we are not able to lift ourselves up without God’s help and strength.

We all need to be uplifted, and we need to do the same for those around us through the power of Jesus.

Enter our 3-month card ministry to those in our 4 nursing homes. We are embarking on the same “Power of Positivity” program. I hope you see how something as simple as a “post it note” on a locker can change lives. Our cards and notes will do the same. We just need to follow Christ’s lead, continue weekly, and watch His power of love spread, and touch the hearts of others.

In His Peace,

Rich

p.s. October is Ministry appreciation month. Please remember to thank Pastor Rich and our music minister, Brian Nabors for all they do for us.

Thank you

Ellie