

Another Word October 14, 2021

To our friends and family of First Christian Church

Well, it's been an interesting week. But so far, only Brian has tested positive. And just so you know, he is at home, resting, and doing very well. May we all give thanks and praise to God for our continued safety and protection.

As a precaution, we will not have a worship service this Sunday (the 17th) but will resume our Bible study on the 19th and our worship service on the 24th. We thank you for your patience and understanding.

The trustees are planning a work day for Saturday, November 6, starting at 10am. We will be doing general maintenance and yard work so bring a rake, old rags for cleaning windows, a bucket etc. If the weather doesn't cooperate, another day will be scheduled.

As I delivered our "Thinking of You" cards to Crystal Care this week, their new activities director came running out the door to catch me and to thank us for them. She said that their faces light up when they receive one. Sometimes the smallest of efforts makes the largest impact! Again, I thank you for your continued support.

Our scriptures for Oct. 24th will be Psalm 34: 1-8, and Mark 10: 35-52. "The blind see, can you?" Todd Whitmer will be the Elder.

Please remember Tammy and Kevin Repp, Carol Imhoff, and Brian who are all recovering from covid. Also remember Wanda Bateson and Karen Light who are recovering from surgery.

May we pray.

O Holy Father, there is nothing or no one greater than You. You are brighter than the brightest star, and Your love for us is immeasurable. At times we become confused, even afraid. But then we remember it is You who created us, You who protects us, and it's You who guides us through Your perfect word. We are nothing but dust, without You. We ask for healing for those within our church family, and for those we hold dear in our hearts.....We also ask for Your wisdom, strength, and protection for all those who put their lives in danger to keep us safe. May Your will be done, this day and always. In Jesus' perfect name we pray, Amen.

Well, it's fall. And a sure fire sign of fall is geese flying south for the winter. Believe it or not, there is a lot we can learn from a gaggle of geese. God gives humans the power of reason but to animals He gives instincts and specific behaviors. The instincts and behaviors of geese can be a great lesson for us all.

Why do they fly in a "V" formation? As they flap, this creates uplift for each bird behind, making it easier to fly. And it adds over 70% longer flying range for the group, as opposed to flying solo. In fact, it has been observed that if one drops out of the formation, it feels the drag and quickly resumes its position. (Instinct.) People who share a common direction, a common goal, and work together accomplish what they set out to do much quicker and with less effort than trying to go it alone. (Reason.)

When the lead goose tires, it will drop back into the middle to rest and to take advantage of the lift, and another will take its place. (Instinct.) Our success is dependent upon working as a team, taking turns, sharing tasks, and sharing leadership responsibilities. (Reason.)

The “honking” comes from the back of the group. It is to encourage the leaders to keep going. (Instinct.) As we work together, we need to encourage each other, always in a positive way. Any discord is just noise. (Reason.)

When a goose falls out because it is wounded or sick, 2 other geese will go down with it to provide protection. They will stay with the sick or wounded until it becomes healthy or dies. Then, they will either try to catch up to their group or join another gaggle. (Instinct.) May we never leave someone alone in their time of need. We must be willing to sacrifice our time and selves to help a friend or neighbor. (Reason.)

In the book of Job, chapter 12, verses 7-9 are these wise words: “Ask the animals and they will teach you, ask the birds and they will tell you; speak to the earth and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this?”

There is a lot we can learn by observing all of God’s creation. And we are placed in this wonderful creation to share, to learn, and to live in harmony and take care of one other.

In His Peace,

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