

Another Word October 18, 2022

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

Well, summer has officially given way to fall. The air is as crisp as an apple and the foliage is sporting beautiful shades of reds, golds, and browns. Be sure to get out and admire God's beautiful art work.

For those who may have trouble reading the screens during the service, we are now printing the call to worship, the Old and New Testament readings, and the prayer of offering and dedication for your convenience. They will be available on the back table in the sanctuary along with a large print hymnal.

Please prayerfully consider making a donation to help with the recent destruction in Florida. For the next two weeks we will be collecting donations that will be matched by the church, and sent to Samaritan's purse. Thank you for your willingness to help. Please memo your check to, "Samaritan's Purse."

And may I say WOW! We just set out the bags to collect 15 Thanksgiving meals for needy families, and all 15 bags were taken the same day. We will be providing 20 gift certificates for turkeys, so if you missed grabbing a bag, you may donate toward the cost of turkeys. Please note your donation for "Turkeys".

Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, will be our Congregational meeting to go over and vote on the 2023 budget and slate of officers. And after the meeting, we will be decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas. Can you believe it's that time of year already?

We are looking for a few folks who would be interested in visiting one or two of our home bound and nursing home members once a month. Personal contact is a very important part of life. So, if you would be interested with helping in this outreach or would like more information, please contact Linda Gardner or Rich.

Our scriptures for Oct 23 will be: Psalm 65, and Luke 18: 9-14. "Isn't it all about me?" Dale Campbell is our serving Elder.

For Oct 30: Psalm 9: 137-144, and Luke 19: 1-10. "The lost has been found." Todd Whitmer is our serving Elder.

May we be in prayer:

O Holy and Loving God. We praise and thank you for your wonderful creation. The beauty and endless bounty you provide sustains us in so many ways. May we never take you for granted but start each day with praise on our lips and thanks in our hearts. Teach us to be still and listen for your voice of wisdom. And with your guidance, help others through acts of kindness. Please accept our personal prayers for our family and friends who are in need of your healing and love. All this we ask, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

As mentioned above, personal contact is a very important ingredient in life. When everything was shut down in 2020, our "Thinking of you" card ministry to our local nursing homes became a powerful connection to many who had little or no contact with anyone other than a doctor or a nurse. We are so blessed that you still come forward each Sunday to fill out a card with an encouraging word to someone you may have never met.

I just want you to know that our cards touch more hearts than just the recipients. The nurses and aids who deliver the cards are often asked to read your notes of love and encouragement. Often, I hear how a smile appears on a face or a tear of joy traces down a cheek after having the card read. And the smiles and tears don't always come from the resident, but can come from the nurse, the aid, the doctor, and even a family member or friend who happens to be visiting.

This is one of the reasons the Elders would like us to expand our card ministry by beginning to regularly visit those who can't always be with us. Our goal is for each person to visit 2 different people each month. That way, you will have visited 24 different folks in a year, and each person will have been visited by at least 12 members in a year. What a comfort and what a joy we will be able to bring to each other; the reconnecting with friends, and the making of new friends.

Allow me to leave you with some of Paul's words to the Corinthians, and to us. "The Father of compassion and comfort comforts us in our troubles, so that we can comfort others with the same comfort that we ourselves have received from God." 2 Cor. 1:3-4. I hope that you will prayerfully consider becoming a visitor, and spread the joy and comfort given to us by our loving and caring God.

In His Peace,

*Rich*