

Another Word Oct. 20, 2020

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

It's hard to believe that a few days ago it was summer, and then suddenly... Thanksgiving is just around the corner.

The Ashland Head Start program has approached us to help provide a Thanksgiving meal for 10 of their families. In our gathering area is a table showing the food items needed. You may sign up for selected items and bring them to the church by Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>. For those not able to attend but would like to participate, you may call us for the list or send a check marked for "thanksgiving meals" and we will purchase what is needed. We thank you for your willingness to show God's love in such a caring way.

The "thinking of you" and "cards of encouragement" collected last Sunday will be going to Kingston Nursing Home. Thank you for being so faithful.

Our random act of kindness is to simply call 2 people you haven't spoken to in a long while. Make someone feel good today.

Scriptures for this Sunday are Psalm 90: 1-6, 13-17, and Matthew 22: 34-46, The Greatest Commandment.

Remember in prayer: Ella Strine, John Myers, David Franklin, Arlene Whitmer, and Joyce Bradley. May we pray; O God, father of life, we come to you with praises on our lips, and thanks in our hearts. You are the great provider, and know what is on our hearts, and what is needed even before we ask. It seems our world is pressing in on us and our lives are strained and at times out of our control; but you are there, watching, guiding, and lovingly showing to us a more perfect way. May

we continue to follow you, to live for you, and to help others see your love and greatness as we do. Be with our first responders who put our lives ahead of their own. Be with our leaders that they may include your will in the day to day workings of our nation, and with each of us as we go about our daily lives. We are grateful for your gift of salvation, bought through the sacrifice of Jesus, in whose perfect name we pray, Amen

One day in January 1988, I was calling on a number of customers north of Dayton. Not wanting to spend another night out on the road, I decided to head for home. I stopped at Lima for a quick supper (coffee and a donut) and headed east on old Route 30, a stretch of road that was mainly flat farm land and very little else. About 10:30 pm, as I was approaching Upper Sandusky, a loud clanging noise erupted from under the hood, and the car began to slow. I crossed a railroad track and just to the left was a little “mom and pop” diner/ truck stop. I coasted into their lot and turned off the engine. I realized I was at the end of my trip, but was still 50 miles from home, and no cell phone. (they were just being invented)

I groaned. Just what I need, another repair. I had already blown two different radiator hoses, replaced a heater core, and had a head gasket replaced just the month before!! Augghhh...what's next?!?!?

Can you relate? Seems that when you get through one crisis, another one is waiting in the wings, ready to pounce. I think we can all relate. Besides car troubles, we all go through other troubles; an unexpected diagnosis, a sudden death of a family member or friend, or some other terrible loss.

At these moments, we all wish and hope for things to get better, to be less broken, for our world to be less full of troubles.

There is a wonderful promise Jesus made to his disciples (and to us) in the book of John. You see, His earthly ministry was coming to the end, and he laid out what was going to happen; they will be scattered, they will be hunted, they will be persecuted, they will weep and mourn. But then he said, “..your grief will turn to joy!” How? Look at all the unexpected problems they will face. (look at the problems we face)

Jesus’ promise, the one I think everyone should always carry in their hearts is, “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

What a great promise! He knows we have problems. But with Jesus in our hearts, we can face our problems and still have peace. And in the end, we will be brought home, safe and sound.

Oh, the end of my story? I walked into the diner to use their phone. There were only two people there, and they were just leaving. One of the men heard me say I had car problems and asked if he could help. He happened to own a small car repair shop and salvage yard. He towed my car, replaced the transmission with one on his lot, and had me back on the road in two days.

Trust me when I say, God is always with you. So, take heart, and be...

In His Peace,

*Rich*