

Another Word October 25, 2021

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

It was so good to be back together in worship last Sunday. I am pleased to announce that no one else has fallen ill to the virus or the flu.

As we enter this last week of October, (Can you believe it?) please remember that this Thursday is Ashland's Trick or Treat night. If you aren't home handing out treats to roaming goblins, please be extra careful as you travel around the town.

As a reminder, our work day is scheduled for November 6<sup>th</sup>, starting at 10am. Come prepared to clean and spruce up the grounds around the building. If the weather doesn't cooperate, another day will be chosen.

Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup> is going to be a special day. First, it is the end of Daylight Savings so remember to turn back your clocks one hour. Second, and more importantly, it is All Saints Day; the day we honor and remember those who have departed from us over the past year. We would also like to extend this invitation to anyone who has lost a family member or dear friend this past year. Please send in a picture and name to us by November 3<sup>rd</sup>, so we may be able to add them to our presentation and light a candle for them.

Our scriptures for this Sunday are; Psalm 146, and Mark 12: 28-34. "So close, yet so far." Our Elder is Shelley Carpenter.

Carol Imhoff is recovering from covid and will be moving to Granville, Ohio the first of November to be closer to her son Keith. So during the first week of November, let's each send her a card wishing her love, encouragement, and joy in her new location. Her address is Middleton Senior Living 1500 Weaver Drive, Granville, Ohio 43023. Apt 401

Please keep in your prayers, Karen Light, Chase Martin, Larry Maneese, and Ella Strine.

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. We thank you and also pray for the many workers who day and night respond to emergencies, provide health care, and keep us safe from harm. Teach us to be still and listen for your voice of wisdom, and may we, through your word, help others be reconciled to your will. 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.

I am not a numerologist, nor have I ever played one on TV. And truth be known, I don't place much stock in counting numbers to show how we should live. However, sometimes numbers can show us some very interesting things. What follows was sent to me a number of years ago, and I present it to you for your consideration.

The shortest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 117. So, what is the longest chapter? It's Psalm 119. Can you guess what happens to be the very center of the Bible? If you guessed Psalm 118, you would be correct. That is, on its own an amazing fact. However, we aren't done.

If you care to count, there are 594 chapters from Genesis 1 to Psalm 118, and guess what? There are exactly 594 chapters after Psalm 118 to Revelation 22. That is also an amazing fact. Sorry, but we aren't quite done yet. If you add together the total numbers of chapters before, and after, you get the number 1188. Hum, could that be a verse from Chapter 118, the very center of the Bible? And, can there be some grand significance in what verse 8 may tell us?

Psalm 118:8 says, "It is better to take refuge in the Lord, than to put your trust in man." Talk about truth and guidance! The whole Bible points us to the truth that man will always disappoint and let us down. But The Lord is our protector and will never leave us. So, if we want to find His perfect will for our lives, and to be in the center of His, we need to simply turn to the center of our Lord's word, and make Him the center of our lives.

In His Peace,

*Rich*