

Another word    November 2, 2021

To our friends and family of First Christian Church

It was a bit strange, and even a little frightening to type in the word, November. Time appears to be escalating. And speaking of time! This Sunday, Daylight Savings ends, so be sure to set your clocks back one hour Saturday night, or you will have to wait in the parking lot until we get there.

And speaking of Saturday! We will be working around the property starting at 10 am. Come join us as we spruce up the property and prepare it for the upcoming winter season. Brrrrr!!

Also, there will be a free concert by Jeremy Camp at Central Christian Church in Wooster. The doors open at 7pm, and the concert begins at 8pm. Jeremy's current single is "Keep it in the Moment," and his life was spotlighted in the hit movie, "I Still Believe."

This Sunday is a very special day. It is All Saints Sunday, where we will remember and honor the lives of our loved ones who have gone on before us during this past year.

For our Advent offering this year, we will be collecting snacks and one cup meals for "The Lord's Pantry" in West Salem. Because of their current need, we have decided to start collecting now through the end of December. Pastor Mike and his team are helping 300 children in the area by supplying backpacks, one cup meals, single serving boxes or packs of cereal, and individual snack packs of cookies and crackers. I

will have a selection of items on a table in the gathering area as ideas for what is needed.

Our scriptures for this Sunday are; Psalm 116: 5-16, and Matthew 5:1-12, "For all the Saints." Linda Gardner is our Elder.

May we be in prayer... O Holy and Loving God. We praise and thank you for your wonderful creation. The beauty of your tapestry of life weaves us together, and provides for us in countless ways. We offer our prayers for those who, day and night respond to emergencies, provide health care, and keep us safe. May we take time to be still and listen for your voice of wisdom, and then help others come to know and love You and follow Your will. Please accept our personal prayers for our families and friends who are in need of your healing, comfort, peace, and love. All this we ask, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

In 1973, I began my career in fabrics that lasted over 35 years. It all started in a furniture store in Lancaster, Ohio. I quickly realized that selling wasn't enough. I needed to know about the different types of upholstery fabrics. Things like, what were the yarns made from, how they would wear, and even how they were dyed. And then custom draperies were added which began my lifelong love of fabrics.

Upholstery fabrics were ok. But their main function was to look good and be able to withstand the daily wear and tear of a family. But drapery fabrics are something entirely different. First, they come in a variety of widths; 36", 45", 48", 54", 60", and even 118". Then there are

different yarns like cotton, nylon, polyester, rayon, wool, and silk. There are different ways for dying. Yarn dyed, beam dying, as well as print dying. And then there is screen printing. Most prints have an average of 5 to 10 separate colors added. However, a 16 screen print is one of the most beautiful and skillful prints available. Then there are treatments like polished cottons, chintz cottons, and even waxed cottons. And lest we forget, how are the different yarns made as well as their properties? Which accept dyes, what is its thickness, how many twists per inch and so on. Then, how will the fabric react when sewn into different treatments. Will they hang or flair? Will they stretch or shrink? Will they drape smoothly when cut on a bias or break? And you thought they were just curtains!

So, why am I giving you a lesson in custom draperies? It is so you may understand the most important step that I am about to share. All fabrics must be woven together. They all start out with a warp yarn. That is the vertical yarn that is pulled tight on the loom. Then the weft, the horizontal yarn called the fill, is woven into the warp yarn. Depending on the placement, the weave, and the type of yarn used, it will produce a look, a feel, or a distinct pattern that is desired. It's an amazing thing to see. However, there is one more thing to consider; without the strength of the warp, the weft will fail. But without the weft and its intricate support, the warp is worthless.

Hmmm! One gives strength, one gives support. Gee, that sounds a lot like our lives doesn't it? There are times when we are the warp, the strong foundation to someone in need. But then there are times when we are the weft, and in need of a little support from someone else.

But it goes even deeper than that. To me, some of the most beautiful fabrics are Brocades, Jacquards, and Tapestries. They are the ones that have the most intricate weavings; one yarn supporting another, each strengthening the other, each a different color and texture, each with a specific placement. Does that not sound like our lives?

We are all made in God's image. We are all fearfully and wonderfully made. But if we were all a blue yarn, that would be a rather boring piece of fabric. Our God has woven each of us, the whole world together, to form a magnificent tapestry of life. If we would all just take a step back and look at the pattern, I think we would see how our lives are connected and interwoven, especially when we love and support each other. And we would then see how our lives together, become the perfect picture of Heaven on earth.

In His Peace,

*Rich*