

Another Word November 3, 2020

To our friends and family of First Christian Church

As of noon today, voting is well under way. I hope each and every one of you has been able to exercise your right to vote, and to express your voice for the governance of our great Nation. We are indeed blessed to live in a country where we can openly state our opinion and choice.

Don't forget to sign up for our Advent study, "Because of Bethlehem", by Max Lucado. Classes will be every Tuesday in December. If you can't make it but would like to home study, please call the church and we can send you a study guide.

The "thinking of you" cards collected this past Sunday are being distributed at Crystal Care.

This Sunday we will be honoring those who have served our Nation. Please take a moment to say a prayer and remember our heroes.

Our scriptures for this Sunday are: Psalm 78:1-7, and Matthew 25:1-13, "Stay alert, He comes when you least expect Him."

Please remember in your prayers: Arlene Whitmer, David Franklin, Joyce Bradley, John Myer, and all those who can't be with us on Sundays. May we be in prayer. O God. You have bound us together in a common life. In the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, guide us to work with mutual respect toward one another. Give us all compassion for the lost, the confused, the weary and oppressed. Move

us to action that promotes spiritual healing and your wonderful forgiveness. We hold up to you our loved ones who need your comforting embrace. Be with our peacemakers, our health workers, all those who put their lives before others. We commend to your care all the men and women of our military, at home and abroad, who defend the poor and abused. We ask that you cleanse our lives that we may be your workers, worthy of sharing your love and truth to a hurting and needful world. This prayer we raise in Jesus' Holy name, Amen.

Whenever I see a cell phone commercial on television, one thing stands out to me. West Virginia always has a large spot that does not have service. As a sales rep, my cell phone was useless when I traveled in an area from below Morgantown to just north of Beckley. And trying to find a payphone was next to impossible. I always assumed that because of the mountains, cell towers were too costly and impractical to install. Not so grasshopper!

It turns out, there is a little town in the middle of a 13,000 square mile area called Green Bank, W. Va. It is known as the "quietest town in America." This small little town is also the home of The National Observatory that listens to radio waves from deep space. (E.T. Phone Home?) This large area needs total quiet. There can be no distractions as scientists train their football field sized listening dish to the cosmos. By the way, the residents of Green Bank aren't allowed to even own microwave ovens or other items that could give off false signals.

I hope this little story reminds us that we also need to quiet ourselves and to listen for the one who created the universe. The Prophet Isaiah shows us the way. He wrote to the people of God who were distracted and missed hearing His word because of the distractions of everyday lives. Isaiah 55:3 states, "Give ear and come to me. Listen that you may live. If you do, I will give you an everlasting covenant." God, through Isaiah is saying, listen for His voice, come to Him and live, even in the midst of worldly clutter. And if you do, He promises Jesus, our "everlasting promise." Wouldn't it be sad to miss all this because of the buzz of a microwave oven?

God promises His love and forgiveness to anyone who tunes in, listens, seeks, and turns to Him. How do we listen? We need to tune out the distractions, and hear His voice through prayer and scripture.

Oh, and one more thing; God isn't distant like the galaxies in the cosmos. God is as close as we allow Him to be, in our daily lives.

So, turn off your cell phone and unplug your microwave. Then listen as you immerse yourself in prayer, scripture, and meditation. I promise, you will hear the clear Voice of the Almighty.

In His Peace,

*Rich*