

Another Word December 29, 2020

We trust you had a lovely, if not a quiet, Christmas and will look forward to the New Year with anticipation and hope for a year of less turmoil. We pray that God will guide us through this time and we pray that we will trust that God is always with us.

We will be continuing our cards to the nursing homes – you can start bringing in ‘Thinking of You’ cards. Drop them off at the church in the outside box by the office door.

Our scripture for Sunday January 3<sup>rd</sup> is Matthew 2: 1-12 with Rich’s message “Who Told You?” We do thank you for the great response for Christmas pictures of the congregation. We received so many that only half of them were shown on our service this past Sunday. If you didn’t see yours, tune in again this coming Sunday. Brian will receive your picture until this Wednesday, 12/30, if you didn’t get it in before. You can message it to me or send it to the church. It was fun watching all the pictures plus the names. Thank you Brian!

Please remember all those who have been affected by this virus as well as those who have lost loved ones. We remember those still struggling with health concerns: Arlene Whitmer, David Franklin, Joyce Bradley and all of our shut-ins in nursing facilities and those at home. Pray for healing and pray for hope, comfort and strength.

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, you have been our companion through all of the problems and concerns of this past year. You held us up when we didn’t know the way. Take our hand now and share our journey to an unknown New Year. Help us to make this New Year rich in growth, in vision, and in service. Open our eyes to recognize your presence with us

each day so that we may praise you and celebrate your goodness and your guidance. Renew us. Refresh us. Fill us with your Spirit: we pray in Christ's name. Amen

We look at this coming year with apprehension, not knowing yet what is to come with the Covid 19 virus. We seem to have an answer and hope with the vaccine that will be available to more of us, but we still have some fear - when will we get it? – are we afraid to take it? – will things ever get back to normal? When can we just get a hug? We really don't know what to expect!

It reminds me of a time many (many) years ago, the very first time my sister Jude and I were allowed to stay up until midnight and “see” the New Year come in. Mom and Dad had gone out and older sisters were babysitting so Jude and I had our special snacks and sat on the couch to wait for the New Year. We watched the clock and when the hands hit midnight nothing really happened. We sat and waited and then heard some sound from outside. We opened the front door and could hear a horn blowing. Then nothing! What a disappointment I felt – I expected something more – something big I guess. Life is like this. We have big expectations but often nothing that happens is what we imagine. We ask God for help or even miracles and we expect something amazing and then miss it when God does answer. We want burning bushes and God might send a friend or even a stranger to help us. Let us be open to the messages God is sending us – he is with us – he won't leave us.

We are monitoring the mail, email, and outside box for cards or your offering envelopes while Pastor Rich and Brian are taking some needed time off. Do not hesitate to call the office and leave a message or call

Linda 419-651-2598 or Ellie 419-685-1483. One of us will get back to you as soon as possible.

Happy New Year!

*Linda & Ellie*