

Another Word January 12, 2021

To our friends and family of First Christian Church

Greetings, and may God through Jesus bless you always.

We are back to regular “thinking of you” cards and notes to be sent to our nursing homes. By February 1 we will switch over to Valentine’s Day cards.

We will be opening the building for live church services by February 17th which is Ash Wednesday. There will be more information later on as we get closer to that date.

Our Scriptures for this Sunday are: Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18, and John 1:43-51.

Please pray for Brian and his doctor and staff, as he will be having surgery this Wednesday.

It is with a sad heart that I tell you Arlene Whitmer has passed from this life early Monday morning. Please offer prayers for Todd, Nate, and their family for their great loss.

May we pray. O Holy and gracious God, may your love endure forever. We look forward to a time of peace, and the time when Heaven will be throughout your world. Our hearts are heavy with sadness and grief. We ask for your love and comfort to shower down on Todd, Nate, and their family. May we remember that your almighty hand is always over us, guiding us, even when we can’t make sense of our day to day lives.

You O God are our strength and provider. We love you, we follow you, and will love and comfort others, as you love and comfort us. Thank you for the gift of your Son and a place in Heaven, prepared for us. In Jesus' name we raise our voices to you as one, Amen

I recently heard a story about the Queen of England. To escape the daily demands she lives with, she asked her chauffeur to take her for a drive in the countryside. Dressed in every day clothes, she then got out of the car and at that moment, became an ordinary person, taking a walk down a country road.

It began to rain so she stopped at a cottage and asked for an umbrella. The lady had 2 umbrellas, one new, and one old and tattered. She gave the tattered one to the Queen who thanked her and promised to return it the next day.

Imagine the shock when a uniformed chauffeur in the royal limousine pulls up the next day and said, "I'm returning this for Her Majesty with Her kind regards." All the lady could say was, "If I'd known it was the Queen, I would have given her my best." This is, sorry to say, human nature. For some reason we always want to hang onto our best and share the rest.

In the book of Malachi, chapter 1, God rejects the offerings of His people because although He commanded them to bring to Him their best as an expression of their love, they brought sick, diseased, and crippled animals and kept the best for themselves. Later in the book God asks, "Will a man rob God?" He then answers, "Yet you rob me." The people withheld their best and gave the rest.

I write these words solely because the world teaches us to amass wealth, and to keep what we think is ours. But the Bible reminds us that “We must present as the Lord’s portion the best and holiest part of everything given to you.” (Numbers 18: 29) “Given to you.” Everything, including our time and talents, are a gift from God.

Unlike the lady in our story, God gave His best for us. “He did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all.” (Romans 8:32) So, with this knowledge, how can we try to hold on to our best or give it to someone else when God gave His Son for you and me? We indeed have a loving and generous God, so give Him your best, rain or shine.

In His Peace,

Rich