

Another Word January 17, 2023

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

Well, by the time you read this we should be half way to Cincinnati to visit with Torie and her family, then off to Birmingham to spend time with Betsy and André. We will miss you all but will be back for worship on the 29<sup>th</sup>. In our absence, Linda, Shelley and Alan will lead you in worship the 22<sup>nd</sup>. I've had a small taste of Alan's message and it will be good.

Our next Bible study will begin in February. Information and a signup sheet are in the gathering area.

We hope a few will remain after our service the 29<sup>th</sup> to take down and put away our Christmas decorations.

Our scriptures for January 22<sup>nd</sup> are: Isaiah 9:1-4. Our serving Elder is Shelley Carpenter, and specially selected verses by Alan Girard who will bring the message. Linda Gardner will be your worship Leader.

For January 29<sup>th</sup>: Micah 6:1-8. Our serving Elder is Dale Campbell. My scripture will be Matthew 5: 1-12, "Who are they who follow Jesus?"

May we pray. Dear Holy God. As we settle in to this New Year, may we first express our love and gratitude to You. We often forget to simply say thank You for all You do for us. You provide for all our needs and we trust that You will lead us in ways to live fruitful lives. We ask for blessings on all those who work to provide safety and protection for our Nation. Guide us so we may help bring peace and comfort to a

world that desperately needs to know You and taste of Your love. We pray this in Christ's most Holy Name, Amen

A few months after our oldest daughter was born, we noticed rashes and hives as well as negative reactions to every type of baby food we fed her. By the time she was six months old, we took her to a specialist to test for allergies. It was heart breaking to watch the reaction to all the scratch tests done on her little back, arms, and legs. Almost every test was positive.

Our instructions; we were to make our own baby food and to avoid anything processed. In fact, for the first couple of years her diet actually consisted only of fresh carrots, broccoli, potatoes, and ground beef. Of course, all were prepared in a food blender.

The allergist then recommended that we start introducing new foods to her diet; one at a time to see if there were any adverse reactions. Vegetables were easy. Corn, peas, even beans. But by then, she understood that there were foods that could potentially harm her, and any "new" looking foods were difficult to get her to try.

I remember one summer day especially. Donita had purchased a basket of peaches to freeze. As we were preparing them, we decided to give her a small bite to try; just a taste. However, we had trained her so well in avoiding "strange" foods that it took us all afternoon to get her to try even a tiny bite. But, when she finally tasted it, she saw that it was

good! And just as important, no adverse reactions! From that point on, she began to trust us more as we offered more and more foods to try.

Taste and see that it is good. Hmmm, Sound familiar? Psalm 34:8 says, "Taste and see that the Lord is good." David wrote these words 3,000 years ago while he was a fugitive. Psalm 34 reminds us that we all have problems. Every person experiences broken heartedness, pain, fear, and troubles. David was telling Israel and us, that we don't have to face the world and its problems alone. That our loving God will protect us, will stand with us, and will show us the way to a better way of life. But the only way is to give ourselves to Him. To seek the Lord, find Him, and place our trust in Him.

Torie placed her trust in us. She tasted and saw that it was good. And in the same way, once you place your trust in God, you will taste and find that the Lord is good. Yes, very good indeed.

In His Peace,

*Rich*