

Another Word February 14, 2023

To our friends and family of First Christian Church

I don't know about you but I think this weather is wonderful! I hope you can get out and enjoy it before it changes. It's hard to believe that we are half way through February already. Winter is winding down and spring is just around the corner.

As a reminder, the new Bible Study, a five week look at "Love", the fourth book in the series, "The Art of Living," begins February 21st. There will be a class at 10:30 am and at 6pm. Alan Girard has graciously volunteered to lead the discussions. Hope to see you there.

We hope you will be able to join us for our Ash Wednesday service February 22 beginning at 6pm.

Our scriptures for the 19th are: Psalm 99, and Luke 9: 28-36, John 11: 38-44, and John 12: 12-18, "And now it begins." Linda Gardner is our serving Elder. This service will cover The Transfiguration, The Raising of Lazarus, and Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. These 3 recorded incidents are instrumental in the coming Passion of Christ.

Our scriptures for the 6 weeks of Lent will follow the writings of Mark, chapters 14 and 15. We will be taking a close look at the last 2 days of Jesus in Jerusalem. For February 26th, our scriptures are Psalm 91: 1-2, 9-16, and Mark 14: 1-25, "In Bethany and Jerusalem." Matt Henderson is our serving Elder.

As we go to prayer, please remember Lennie Reich will be having a surgical procedure this Friday.

May we pray:

Most Holy God, we lift up our voices as one, praising your name and all your great works. The plans you have made for us are for our peace, comfort, and safety. To live in your ways is indeed a challenge but also a great blessing and we are humbled that you care for and love us so. As we seek Your will, may we look out for our neighbor's welfare, and discover more opportunities to spread your love to others. In Jesus' precious name we pray, Amen.

On January 10th, 1971, the album "Pearl" by Janis Joplin was released. The opening song on the album started, "Oh Lord, won't you buy me a Mercedes Benz? My friends all drive Porsches, I must make amends. Worked hard all my lifetime, no help from my friends, so, Oh Lord, won't you buy me a Mercedes Benz?" To those who know the melody, it will now become an ear worm for the next few days. You are welcome! So why, you may ask the reference to a 50 plus year old song?

In Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, a favorite passage of many is, Matthew 7: 7-8, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened." It has even been put to music. And I dare say, it is a favorite to many because of the words, "Ask, and it will be given." Have you ever asked yourselves, "What is the IT to be received?"

Let's face it, the words, "ask and you will receive" are quite an enticement. I think we all have at times, found ourselves asking for

things of the world; Like Janice, a Mercedes Benz, maybe a better house, or even help with finances. Of course we also ask for things like better health, healing for others, and help with a broken relationship. There is nothing wrong with our asking for help to improve our lives. But what if “IT” is something even more important than things?

“Ask and it will be given.” Maybe the IT is God’s wisdom and guidance. With His wisdom and guidance, we will be led to make good decisions that affect our lives in positive ways.

“Seek and you will find (IT)” Maybe the IT is seeking a closer relationship with God to discover His great love, compassion, and forgiveness. We can then pass on these wonderful gifts to our neighbors, making the world a little better place.

“Knock and IT will be opened.” I remember a Bob Dylan song of the 60’s, “Knock, Knock, Knockin’ on Heaven’s Door.” If we ask for wisdom, seek God’s love and forgiveness, then Heaven’s door will be opened to us and we will find Heaven, just as Jesus taught; right here, “on earth, just as it is in Heaven.”

So, don’t sell yourself short by asking for just a car. Ask, seek, and knock for what is truly important; a closer relationship with your creator.

In His Peace,

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