

Another Word February 26, 2025

To our family and friends of King Road Christian Church

Donita and I enjoyed our 4-day weekend retreat. And I would like to thank Brad Williams for filling in with an inspirational and thought-provoking message. It's nice to get away, but it is still great to be back.

It is hard to believe that Ash Wednesday and Lent are right around the corner. Our Ash Wednesday service will be at 7pm on March 5th.

We will also once again be participating in the Baby Bottle, "Change For Life" Campaign with the Ashland Pregnancy Care Center during Lent. Bottles may be picked up in the gathering area beginning this Sunday.

Be sure to pick up a copy of the Lent devotional book, "Savior, Servant, Friend." If you know of someone who can't make it to worship, or would enjoy reading, please take an extra.

This Sunday, Devon Lefever from Fostering Families will update us on their work and progress in placing children in safe and loving homes. She will remain after our service to answer your questions and explain more ways in which we as a church can help.

Over Lent we will be taking a closer look at the last week of Jesus' life on earth as recorded in the book of Mark. Our prayer is that you will be drawn even closer to Jesus and the ultimate gift that has been given to us by God. Please join us, and bring a friend.

As we go to prayer, please remember Lyle Easterday, my brother Tom, and brother-in-law Bryan.

Most Holy and gracious God. Your love is abounding and unending, even when we turn our thoughts away from you. There are so many who are lost and struggling, not only around us, but around the world. May we, your servants reach out to our neighbors with your love and compassion. Guide us daily to help them find their way back to you. Search our hearts O God. Test us, cleanse us, and direct us in your way of everlasting peace. In the Good Shepherds' name, we pray, Amen.

While we were on our get-a-way and trying to relax, something came back to me very clearly. Every part of our lives in some form or fashion is bombarded by the noise and clutter of life. We have busy schedules; hurry and do this, don't be late, go see that. We put enormous pressure on ourselves causing a great amount of stress and fatigue in our lives. Even our phones intrude on us 24 hours a day. (Thanks Verizon for waking me at 4:00 AM Sunday to tell me about your latest offer.) There are times when life just seems overwhelming. So, how do we slow down and get life back into perspective? Here's what I did.

I first muted my phone instead of breaking it. Then, in the last wee hours of night, I prayed. And as I prayed, I began to feel a peace and calm come over me. The frazzles of daily life and the annoying ring of a text began to melt away. In fact, I was even reminded of Jesus' words in Matthew 6, "But when you pray, go into your room, close the door, and pray to your Father who is unseen." NIV.

Prayer is the great equalizer. Without prayer, quiet, private and heartfelt prayer, there is no way we could ever manage our schedules, quiet our world, or relieve our fatigue. Prayer brings us into the very presence of God, who loves and will strengthen us in our times of need.

So, make time for prayer each day. Find a quiet place and talk with Your Father. Oh, and be sure your phone is on mute!

In His Peace,

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