

Another Word February 9, 2021

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

I must apologize to everyone... it's my fault... completely my fault.

Just a little over a week ago, I mentioned to Donita that we haven't had any significant snow or extremely cold temperatures for at least 2 years, then WHAM... 3 snow events, 1 ice event, and then the deep freeze, all in one week! If you like the cold and the snow, you're welcome. If not, sorry about that.

Well, the time has finally arrived that we can worship together again on King Road. Services will begin at 10:30. We ask that you please wear a mask, if you feel ill stay home, temperatures will be taken, and social distancing will be practiced. If you are unable to attend, services will continue to be shown on our webpage and YouTube. We look forward to seeing everyone!

As an update on our card ministry; thanks to you, we have received a good amount of Valentine's Day cards and they will be delivered to all 4 nursing homes this Friday. You may again bring cards with you each week when you come to worship or continue to place them in our drop box.

During Lent, we will once again fill baby bottles with loose change, to support the Ashland Pregnancy and Care Center. Bottles will be available this Sunday (call if you can't be here, and we will bring one to you).

May we pray.

Dear loving God. We once again pause during our busy day to humbly give thanks to you. Our lives are a special gift from you. May we never

take them for granted. You are always present in our lives. Guiding us, giving us hope, even in the midst of chaos. We thank you for never leaving us alone but are always there working to make us whole. Speak to us that we may hear your voice so that your will, will become our will, your purpose to become our purpose, and your love to become our love. In Jesus precious name we pray, Amen

We live in the era of the 24-hour news cycle. News, sports, and weather are blasted at us round the clock from televisions, radios, Facebook, email, texts, and tweets, to mention just a few.

I think many of us can remember when television signed off around midnight, and the radio station's signal became distorted after 6pm, making it really hard to listen. So, what did we do? Turned them off and waited for the newspaper the next day. The problem here is obvious. If an emergency, such as a fire, tornado, or other disaster was occurring, you wouldn't know about it until it was too late to act. Oh, there were emergency broadcast radio messages, but the radio needed to be turned on to receive it. Many signals went unheard because many weren't listening.

This reminds me of an incident in 1 Samuel. The priests were corrupt and lost their spiritual bearings allowing the nation to drift from God. In 1 Samuel 3:1 it says, "The word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions." Yet God persisted. He began to speak to a young boy named Samuel who was being raised in a priest's home.

Earlier, the boy's mother prayed to God for a son. Her prayer was answered, so she named him Samuel, which means "the Lord hears." God's part of the answered prayer was that the child would be raised into the priesthood.

One night Samuel couldn't sleep and kept hearing a voice calling him. Three times he went to Eli the priest asking what he wanted. Finally, Eli realized that it must be God speaking, and instructed Samuel to listen, and the next time he hears the voice to say, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Notice that it is the servant who hears the voice. We, like Samuel need to listen and obey what God has revealed to us in His scriptures. We also need to submit and commit our lives as humble servants to Him. But the only way we can do this, is to keep our Bibles open, and to be sure our "radios" are kept on, and tuned to God's clear station that never fades or distorts. And when you hear His voice, say "speak, for your servant is listening."

In His Peace,

*Rich*