

Another Word March 22, 2022

To Our Family and Friends of First Christian

Well, we finally made it to the first day of Spring. And it appears we may be having some real spring weather. Hooray!! But we all know what spring in Ohio always has in store so let's not celebrate too much yet.

The first three Sundays of Lent have been so intense, thrilling and informative. It has been interesting taking an in depth look at the last two days of Jesus' life as it chronologically happened. Each week has that "cliff hanger" that hopefully keeps us all coming back for the next chapter. These are all the stories that we have learned and studied from the books of Mark and Matthew all of our lives but Rich seems to have a way of making them come to life, as though we are actually there experiencing them.

Our scriptures for this coming Sunday are Mark 15: 1-20 read by Jim Thomas. Pastor Rich's message is "Taken to the Praetorium". Matt Henderson is serving Elder and will be reading Psalm 32.

There will be a Maundy Thursday service on April 14th at 6:00. You won't want to miss this as Rich and Brian always make this service memorable. You might want to add it to your calendar now.

We would like to take small Easter baskets to our shut-ins. If you would like to add any crackers or wrapped candy to these baskets, please just bring that in by April 10th.

As we go to prayer, we want to continue to keep the people of Ukraine in your prayers and also Ken & Mary Bee as they to recuperate from their issues, continued prayers for Monta & Ken Donelson as they continue to improve and plan for their return to Ohio.

We would like to praise Ada Sue who is being inducted into the Ohio Volunteer 4-H Hall of Fame for her service of 62 years as a 4-H Advisor. Congratulations Ada Sue!

Almighty God. We pray that through this season of Lent, by prayer and study and self-giving, we may penetrate more deeply into the mystery of Christ's sufferings; that following in the way of his cross and passion we may come to share in the glory and triumph of his' resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

When asked to write this newsletter, I hesitated knowing that I don't have the great stories that Ellie and Rich have, well, at least I can't remember them! So, I found this little story which many of you may have heard before but thought it was still a good time to share it:

Twinkies and Root Beer

The little boy wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with Twinkies and a six-pack of root beer and he started his journey. When he had gone about three blocks, he met an elderly man. The man was sitting in the park just feeding some pigeons. The boy sat down next to him and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the man looked hungry so he offered him a Twinkie. The man gratefully accepted it and smiled at the boy. His smile was so pleasant that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered him a root beer.

Again, the man smiled at him. The boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word.

As it grew dark, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave, but before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the man, and gave him a hug. The man gave him his biggest smile ever.

When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?" He replied, "I had lunch in the park with God." But before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what? God's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

Meanwhile, the elderly man, also radiant with joy, returned to his home. His son was stunned by the look of peace on his face and he asked, "Dad, what did you do today that made you so happy?" He replied, "I ate Twinkies in the park with God." However, before his son responded, he added, "You know, he's much younger than I expected!"

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, and honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. People come into our lives for a reason, a season, or a lifetime. Embrace all equally!

Author Unknown

In His Peace.

Linda