

Another Word March 9, 2021

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

Can you believe they are calling for temperatures to be in the 60's today? Combined with a very pleasant Monday in the mid 50's, the next few days appear to be ushering in spring. And while we are speaking of spring, don't forget to "spring" ahead your clocks this Saturday evening. Daylight savings takes effect this coming Sunday.

We will have clear face shields available this Sunday for anyone who finds it difficult to breathe for extended time through fabric masks. They will also be yours to keep and to reuse.

The scriptures for the fourth Sunday of Lent are as follows: Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22, John 3: 14-21, "Believe and have eternal life". The "Crown of Thorns" reading is Mark 14: 43-50. Matt Henderson is the Elder.

The cards collected this past Sunday will be delivered to Brethren Care Village. Your continued support for this outreach is greatly appreciated.

Please remember and pray for Ellie and the Wells family at the loss of her husband Dale. Also, continue to lift up those in our family who have recently lost loved ones or are facing health issues.

May we pray. O Holy and loving God, you and you alone are great and mighty. You are on your throne and your kingdom rules over all. The entire world is a creation of your hands, a creation that is given to us for our enjoyment and pleasure. At times when our lives are turned upside down, we may feel alone and deserted, but you are there giving us comfort, peace, and the will to go on. And to know that you didn't spare your own son for our sins, gives us the courage to believe and to

follow Him. We all have a finite amount of time on earth, but you have given us a true path to eternity; a path called Jesus. Your love is far more than we deserve, but we accept it humbly and freely. We thank you for your son Jesus, in whose name we pray, Amen.

Have you ever been to Niagara Falls? It's an awesome and frightening experience to stand at the edge and look down at the millions of gallons of water rushing past every second. And even more frightening to realize that you would have little or no chance of survival if you fell into the swirling, churning waters? That didn't seem to bother the famous tightrope walker Monsieur Charles Blondin; aka The Great Blondin.

In the summer of 1859, The Great Blondin became the first person to cross the gorge of the Niagara River just below the falls on a tightrope. Not only did he cross the river once, but crossed it hundreds of times and in many unusual ways. One time he performed a somersault. Another time he pushed a wheelbarrow across. Yet another time he cooked an omelet in the center. Once he even crossed with manacled hands and feet. But the ultimate performance came when he announced that he would carry a volunteer across the gorge on his shoulders.

Many in the crowd believed he could do this feat, but strangely, no one stepped forward to volunteer. No one, except his manager Harry Colcord. Blondin's instructions to his manager were simple; "look up not down. You are no longer Colcord but Blondin. If I sway, sway with

me, and do not attempt to balance yourself. If you do, we both will go to our deaths.”

Isn't it interesting that many believed but no one in the crowd trusted. That is a very human reaction. Even today, many believe without trust, especially when it comes to Jesus. We hear about Him, about His stories, and may even believe them. But do we put our total trust in Him? Do we think we can walk the tightrope of life by ourselves and return safely back to God?

Paul addresses this in his letter to the Galatians. Chapter 2:16 states, “You are not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ.” In essence he is saying, “you can't walk the tightrope of life and be pleasing to God, without relying on your faith and trust in Jesus Christ.” God wants us to cling to Jesus, like our lives depended on it. (Which it does)

We need to first put away our old independent “tightrope walking” ways. Then, we must climb up, cling to, and obey Jesus' instructions. Let Him do the balancing. All you need to say is, “Jesus, I'm putting my total trust in you, and in nothing else.”

You don't need to walk the tightrope of life alone. Remember, Jesus isn't calling you to walk out to Him; He's calling you to cling, to trust, to have faith, and then travel with Him through this journey we call life.

In His Peace,

*Rich*