

Another Word April 13, 2021

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

It was nice having a taste of 75+ degree weather over the past week. This week appears to be a bit cooler with an abundance of sunshine and April showers. You know what they say; “April showers bring May flowers,” and a whole bunch of weeds. (I added that last line) So get outside and witness God’s wonderful handiwork, as our world explodes into a rainbow of colors.

Brian has asked for pictures of your moms so he can put together a presentation for Mother’s Day. Mother’s Day is May 9th, so we ask that you submit your pictures by April 30th.

The cards collected last Sunday have been delivered to Kingston.

There will be a “Celebration of Life” service honoring Arlene Whitmer Saturday, May 8th at our pavilion. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Our scriptures for this coming Sunday are: Psalm 130, John 21: 1-19, “Jesus serves a Surf and Turf.” Shelley Carpenter is Elder.

In your prayers this week, please remember all those who keep us safe, and all who need healing and comfort. May we pray.

Holy God of life. As we celebrate the risen Christ, guide our thoughts and actions that we may never take for granted His sacrifice and that it lives within us stronger and clearer each day. May we also be bold and confident as we spread to a desperate world, the word of your unfailing love. In Jesus’ most precious name, Amen.

And speaking of spreading good news. Our modern day marathons are based on a story that happened in 490 BC. A Greek messenger by the name of Pheidippides, ran 40 kilometers (approximately 25 miles) from Marathon to Athens to announce the news of a great military victory over their formidable foe, the Persians. Can you imagine the joy Pheidippides must have felt as he drew closer and closer to Athens? And then, imagine the great celebration that began when he delivered the good news to the people.

Sound a little familiar? Less than 2 weeks ago, we read about another marathon that was run to tell of another great victory and good news. Mary didn't run anywhere near 40 kilometers, but after an angel said to her that Jesus had "risen from the dead", she was to "go quickly and tell His disciples." Mary, "afraid yet filled with joy," ran to tell the disciples what was revealed to her. (Matthew 28: 7-8)

Marathon runners today run for pleasure and for personal achievements, and that is ok. But Pheidippides and Mary both ran with a purpose and a joy to bring good news of a great victory; one for a country, and one for all mankind.

My prayer is that each of us can have the same joy and expectation to run to our neighbor (yes, even the ones next door) as Mary did, to deliver the good news of Jesus' victory over death, so we all might live with Him forever.

In His Peace,

Rich