

Another Word May 18, 2021

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

I hope you are having a blessed week. I was sent such a beautiful sentiment that I would like to share it with each of you.

“How cool is it that the same God who created the mountains and oceans and galaxies looked at you and thought, ‘The world needed one of you, too.’” Don’t ever forget just how singularly special you are to God and to the world! Thanks for sharing Terri.

This Sunday is Pentecost, the moment when the Holy Spirit came down and began proclaiming the good news to the world through the disciples. It is also traditionally the day we celebrate the birth of the Christian church. We hope to see you this Sunday as we worship together on this very special day.

There will be a leadership meeting immediately after our worship service this Sunday. We will be discussing the new guidelines concerning the wearing of masks that will go into effect June 2nd. You all are welcome to attend this important meeting.

Our scriptures for this Sunday are Psalm 104:24- 34, 35b, and Acts 2: 1-21, “I can see clearly now.” Mona Campbell is the Elder.

The cards collected this past Sunday were delivered to Good Shepherd. Thanks for your support.

Please remember George Paulsen in your prayers this week. He is currently at the James Hospital in Columbus with a number of serious health issues.

May we be in prayer.

O Holy and mighty God, we give thanks to you for your love, compassion, and forgiveness. Your unerring word guides us each day as we are confronted with the challenges of life. We ask for healing and comfort to cover those suffering from physical and emotional heartache and pain. We also ask for protection for those who stand in the gap, preserving peace and safety. Guide our steps and may our path and direction always remain clear and straight; straight into the loving arms of Jesus, in whose name we pray, Amen.

I wrote about a high wire walker who crossed the Niagara Falls a number of weeks ago. It reminded me of another great high wire act; The Great Wallendas! They were one of the biggest attractions of the fifties, sixties, and seventies. You may remember their single high wire walks, the 2 or 3 on a bicycle walks, even blindfolded while sitting on a chair walks. But their greatest feat was the amazing multi-tiered pyramid. Each family member would either be standing on the high wire or on the shoulder poles of another, and as many as 8 people would move along as one across the wire 40 feet in the air.

It would be easy for me to write about team work, living lives that support one another, and working together for a common goal. However, I would like to write about avoiding a fall.

One of the last Wallendas performing today is Tino Wallenda, who happens to be a committed Christian. He performs on a 5/8" cable suspended from 30 to 100 feet off the ground. He has walked over a den of lions, a pool of sharks, and even between buildings. His grandfather began teaching him this art when he was around seven years of age. Starting on a cable only two feet off the ground, he was taught how to hold his body, how to place his feet on the cable, how to hold the pole with elbows tight to his body. But the most important lesson was to focus on a stationary spot at the end of the wire; on a point that is unmoving and doesn't shift.

In an interview, Tino said his grandfather's secret for not falling from the wire is also the secret to keeping your balance in life; concentrating on something that never moves. And for Tino, that something is Jesus.

Our lives are all filled with distractions. We all face fear, financial strain, health issues, and a seemingly endless list of uncertainties in life that can shake us and throw us off balance. If you focus on the problems and become distracted from your journey, that's how you fall.

In the book of Hebrews it reminds us "to throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked for us." It then continues with "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith." Hebrews 12: 1-2.

Did you notice the word perseverance? That means to hang in there and not give up. To not be distracted and lose your balance, no matter

what may happen. We are then urged to finish safely. How you ask? We are to focus on the only unmovable point in our lives; “to fix our eyes on Jesus.” As scripture reminds us, Jesus is our foundation of life, and is “the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

So as you walk the tight rope of life, be sure to focus on the only hope we have for safe passage. And that hope is Jesus, our one unmoving point that provides stability in our lives.

In His Peace,

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