

Another word May 23, 2022

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

What a wonderful Sunday! Honoring our graduates after our service, then on to a birthday celebration! Please join me in wishing Emma Gearhart, Shawn Brady, and Nate Whitmer all God's best, as they embark on their next step in this journey called life. And to Alice, we wish you many more celebrations to come!

This coming Monday is Memorial Day. Please take a moment to remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms we all enjoy.

June 5th is Pentecost Sunday. We will be taking a special offering that that will be used to start and sustain new churches in our region.

Our scriptures for this Sunday are Psalm 97, and Acts 1: 1-11, "Trust Me, I'll be back." Ellie Wells is our serving Elder.

Please continue to hold Mary Bee, Dick and Lennie Reich, Janice Strine, and Dick Baum in your daily prayers.

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 Your healing and comfort to cover those suffering from physical and emotional heartache and pain. Please guide our world and national leaders. May they hear and heed Your voice. Please protect those who daily stand in

harm's way, preserving our peace and safety. Guide our steps and may our path and direction always remain clear and straight. And may we each boldly reach out to a neighbor, offering Your pure and perfect love. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Back in the mid 70's, I was working in a furniture store in Lancaster, Ohio. The owner of the store opened a clock gallery of fine mantle, wall, and grandfather clocks. They were beautiful time pieces, items that could last decades if not centuries. There was a problem though. Oh, we could sell them. But who would deliver them, set them up, and service them?

Enter an elderly clock-smith by the name of Hans. Hans was used for a while to set up the clocks in the store as well as in the homes. Whenever he came to the store, I made sure I was around to watch what he did, to ask questions, and to understand the workings of the clocks so I would be more confident in selling them.

One of the neat things he pointed out to me is something called a "witness mark." Clocks of this nature don't come with an instruction manual. There is not a list of parts or a "how to assemble" drawings, like you get with a piece of furniture from Ikea. The different types of works (the gears, weights, and pendulum) are made to fit a specific wood case and bonnet. Each unit is then aligned and balanced with the case and bonnet so that they work flawlessly together. And once they work, a small scratch or mark is placed at critical spots, so that if someone is servicing the clock years later, the small marks will help them reset the clock's mechanism.

If you think about it, God wants us to leave our “witness marks” as we serve others in our broken world. Paul writes to the Romans and to us, saying, “Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, and to build them up.” (Romans 15: 5.) We are to be an example of our God, who loves and encourages others by loving our neighbor.

Reaching out to others in kindness may seem like a small thing, but your “witness mark” can make a lasting difference in someone’s life. A smile, an uplifting word, or even just giving a listening ear; these are all kindnesses that can leave a lasting mark, and bring someone back in balance with God. So, don’t be afraid to make a mark for Him in someone’s life today!

In His Peace,

Rich