

Another Word May 02, 2022

To our friends and family of First Christian Church

Good morning (or evening) depending on when you receive this letter! May is going to be a busy month. Mother's Day is the 8th, Graduation Sunday will be the 22nd, (More on this later) and Memorial Day Sunday is the 29th. As you can see, there is a lot to be grateful and thankful for as we worship together.

We will be celebrating our graduate's accomplishments a little differently this year. As long as the weather cooperates, we are planning a cookout at the pavilion starting at 4 pm. We will have grilled hot dogs, sloppy joes, baked beans, and salads. There will also be games, music, cake, and a fire. (Did I mention there will be cake?) Paige has a sign-up sheet for needed items. Plan to come for a relaxing evening and to congratulate Emma Gearhart, Shawn Brady, and Nate Whitmer, as they prepare to embark on their next great adventure of life.

I want to thank everyone who filled a baby bottle for the Ashland pregnancy and Care Center. They were most appreciative and our total donation will be counted and revealed shortly.

Our scriptures for Mother's Day are Psalm 23 and John 10: 1-18, "I will follow Him." Todd Whitmer is our serving Elder.

As we go to our Father in prayer, please remember Dick and Lennie Reich, and Ken and Mary Bee.

O Holy and Loving God. We praise and thank you for your wonderful creation. The beauty and endless bounty you provide sustains us in so many ways. May we never take you for granted but start each day with praise on our lips and a grateful heart. Teach us to be still and listen for your voice of wisdom, and may we through your word, help others be reconciled to your will. Please accept our personal prayers for our

family and friends who are in need of your healing and love. All this we ask, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Growing up, I remember that when something broke and needed fixed, you thought through the problem, talked it over with someone, and came up with a solution. A flat tire on your bike meant a trip to Western Auto for a patch kit. The person behind the counter showed you what to do, so you went home and patched the tube; problem solved. Even cars of the 50's and 60's were relatively easy to work on. You and a friend opened the hood, saw the engine, the spark plugs, fan belts, and at a glance, could figure out what may be wrong and were able to fix the problem.

But today, a trained mechanic is required just to replace a broken fan belt because half the car must be dismantled first. Our lives are getting way too complicated. Cell phones that turn on lights and brew coffee, computers that can give you information instantly, movies and books available on tablets, cars that drive themselves, and that's just the highlights!

There is one thing missing in all of this. It's the human touch; the human connection. The, "let's talk about it" conversations that are being lost in our high tech world. And one of our greatest losses is the ability to speak to someone about God and Jesus. I think most of us feel terribly inadequate with our ability to talk about our faith, so we stay quiet and hope someone else will say something.

But here's the thing. We, as believers, have been given the Holy Spirit; the same spirit that was breathed on the disciples. The same power that is there and just waiting to be used when you decide to speak about Jesus. How do I know? Hear these words of Paul.

"Pray that whenever I open my mouth words will be given to me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the Gospel for which I

am an ambassador. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly as I should.”
Ephesians 6: 19- 20.

When you are scared and don't know what to say, the Spirit is there and will give you the words that need to be said. That is a promise from God. We all need to pray this prayer of Paul's. Let God know that you feel inadequate. Because when you do, that opens you up to the Holy Spirit, and the Spirit will take over and the “words will be given to you, so you can proclaim fearlessly the Gospel.”

Remember, you are never alone and should never fear speaking with others because the Holy Spirit lives in you. The words you speak are actually coming from the heart of God, and through your voice, to the heart of someone who really needs to hear them!

In His Peace,

Rich