

Another Word

June 17, 2020

Friends and Family of First Christian Church,

The big day is fast approaching. We are so looking forward to being able to worship our great God together and in person again. Please know we are taking all necessary safety precautions as we gather. If the weather holds, we will be in the pavilion, so bring folding chairs or you may sit at one of the picnic tables. Wear a mask if you like, and hand sanitizer will be available. If the weather turns bad, we will assemble in the sanctuary. If you feel ill or uncomfortable, please stay home.

We will continue to post services on our website and YouTube because of all the folks we have been reaching. God has provided us with new and exciting ways to spread His loving word.

Pathways Hospice will begin a 6-week Bereavement Support Group, starting Thursday, July 9th at our Pavilion. Each meeting will begin at 1pm and last approximately 90 minutes. Amy Quinlan, Bereavement Coordinator of Pathways will lead the group. If you or someone you know and love needs help adjusting to the loss of a loved one, please call 419-289-7439 for more information or to let us know you are planning to attend. (I will also attend)

Now that we are moving back to a more “regular” schedule, the Baby Bottle Campaign needs to be brought to a successful conclusion. We have 6 bottles returned, (full I might add) so there are 30 more that will need turned in, hopefully by July 12th. They may be brought to the church any Tuesday to drop off, brought in on a Sunday worship Service, or if you can’t make it here, call and I will come and pick it up. Thank you for your loving and generous support.

The scriptures for this Sunday are: Romans 6: 1b-11, and Matthew 10:24-39. Jesus says, “I bring division.” I say, “choose wisely.”

May we pray. We come to you O Lord with separate thoughts, wants, and needs. These burdens are heavy and often overwhelming, but we know you are there offering us your strength and peace. You, and you alone can make us whole, and give us hope through Grace. It seems that our world is tearing itself apart and at times we feel so helpless. In the midst of this helplessness, we realize you are our God, you are in control, and that we gain strength through you. May the healing begin in our hearts, so that we may pass it on to a dark and hurting world. May others then find the peace and comfort that we have found, that is revealed in your perfect light. In Jesus' precious name, Amen.

In 1986, a now cult classic movie, "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" debuted. It is a story of a wise guy teen, taking a day off from school. One of the early scenes is him in his sister's room "playing" her clarinet. He squeaks and squawks the instrument then turns to the camera, and in a proud voice says, "I've never had one lesson." The movie then goes on to many crazy situations that he and a couple of his friends get into.

So why the movie review? How do we see God in a silly scene; or more to the point, how could we miss God?

Now, let's look at Brian Nabors (director of music ministries) and his piano playing. We think it is beautiful, a gift from God, and an extension of Brian and his love of music. And yes, we would be right. However, he would never be able to express his heart through the piano without thousands of hours of practice. In fact, it has been suggested that it takes somewhere around ten thousand hours to become skillful at any craft. Yes, ten thousand hours; and then you must continue to practice or lose the skill. (Thank you, Brian, for your perseverance) Obviously, Ferris "never had a single lesson."

So, what is my point? As strange as it may seem, we need to practice our faith daily in order to live in the power of the Holy Spirit. In Galatians, Paul tells the church to “be set apart for God.” But then goes on to say that to be set apart won’t happen by just following and obeying a set of rules. Instead, he says we need to “walk by the Holy Spirit.” Galatians 5:16. The word “walk” used here means to walk around and around something, to journey around daily, not just once or twice. In other words, we are to journey with the spirit each day.

If we pick up an instrument and try to just play it, we end up like Ferris, squeaking and squawking. We need to be more like Brian, putting in time and effort with the Holy Spirit daily, and yield to the Holy Spirit’s work. If we do, He will guide, comfort, council, and be with us. And as we are “led by the Holy Spirit” daily, (Gal 6:18) we become better and better at hearing His voice and following His leading and playing the sweet music of His love.

In His Peace,

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