

Another Word June 21, 2022

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

Welcome to summer! It's hard to believe that half the year has already gone by. At this rate it seems winter will be here in about two weeks. (I know, I know, bite your tongue Rich.)

Speaking of two weeks; in just that short amount of time, it will be the Fourth of July. Families will be filling our parking lot and front lawn to watch the fireworks display. Once again, we will open our building and offer water and treats for all who come by. We are in need of bottled water, popsicles, and ice cream bars. We hope you can come out and enjoy the evening. Anyone wishing to supply some of our needs just give the church a call or see me this coming Sunday.

Our scriptures for the next 2 weeks are:

June 26, Psalm 71:1-2, 11-20 and Acts 8: 26-40. Shelley Carpenter is our serving Elder.

July 3rd, Psalm 30 and Acts 9:1-20. Ellie Wells is our serving Elder.

Let us be in prayer: Gracious and loving God. With praise on our lips, we give glory and honor to You. We thank You for listening to our joys, concerns and fears. Guide us through the ever-changing cycle of life. And allow us to see opportunities to reach out to others in ways that will touch their lives and bring them closer to You. Please hear our prayers for those in need of healing..... And may we always serve as we walk in Your presence. In Jesus' most Holy Name, Amen.

Whenever I go to the grocery store I buy 2 or 3 candy bars. When the bill is paid, I say thank you and hand one of the bars to the person at the register, one to the person who bags our food, and if I'm at Buehler's, the third goes to the person who puts the bags in my car. I love watching their faces light up with a big smile as they receive an unexpected gift. Even the spirits of the people in line behind me seem lifted, all due to a simple gesture of kindness. I get to see smiles. But do little kindnesses actually stay with people? Do they matter? And can they change lives?

I read a story the other day that I think answers all of these questions. A man goes through a drive thru every morning for a cup of coffee. And every morning, he not only pays for his coffee but also pays for the order placed by the person in the car directly behind him, and then asks the attendant to "wish them a good day." His intent is to secretly spread a little kindness and make someone smile each day. He wants nothing in return. Hmmm. Sounds like Acts 20:35, It is more blessed to give than to receive."

One day, while reading the paper, the man noticed an anonymous letter that started out; "To the person who paid for my breakfast on July 18.." The writer went on to say that it was that simple act of kindness that made them stop and reconsider their plans to take their own life later that day.

We are instructed by God to give love and kindness to others in many ways. A kind word, a candy bar, buying a breakfast, the list is endless. Sometimes, as a bonus we may see smiles; often we may never see any

reactions at all. Sometimes though, like the man in our story, we may even get a glimpse of the life changing impact from a small, seemingly insignificant gift.

So, yes, large or small, all gifts given out of love for God, and without any concern for receiving praise, will be used by Him to help meet the needs of those who receive them. And at some time in the future, our reward will be to hear the words, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

In His Peace,

Rich