

## Another Word

June 23, 2020

To friends and family of First Christian Church,

What a blessing to see so many of you and to be able to worship together last Sunday!! Over 45 came out to our first live service in almost 3 months. It was a beautiful day to raise our voices to God our Father in praise and in adoration. And thank you Brian for editing and posting our service, allowing others at home to worship Our Lord along with us. Because of the time needed to edit and download, please know that our weekly live services will be posted in the early afternoon each Sunday. Thanks for your patience.

We will again have services on the 28<sup>th</sup> at the pavilion. Masks and sanitizer will be available. If the weather is threatening, the service will be in the sanctuary.

As a reminder, Pathways Hospice six-week Bereavement Support Group meetings, led by Amy Quinlan, will begin July 9<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 2:30 at the pavilion. Please call for information or to sign up. Also, please return your “filled” baby bottles to the church by July 12<sup>th</sup>. If you can’t make it here, call and I will come to pick them up.

Congratulations to Alexis, Rachel, and Lauren Hastings on your graduation from Ashland High. A celebration is planned at their home, 1588 Southwood Dr., Ashland, Saturday July 25<sup>th</sup>, from 2 to 6pm. We are all invited to this happy occasion.

Our scriptures for this Sunday are: Psalm 13, and Romans 6: 12-23, “Grace is amazing.”

Please keep in your prayers, Dona Gibson. Tomorrow, June 24<sup>th</sup>, she will be undergoing a serious operation in Jacksonville, Florida. May we pray...

Dear God of creation. As we ponder our lives, we realize there are so many things for which we are truly grateful. But also, there are so many things in life that can confuse, frighten, and fill our thoughts with sorrow and grief. We ask that You make Yourself present to us, that we see You in all the small as well as large moments in our lives. We can become so overwhelmed at times that we can lose sight of You. For that we are truly sorry. Please forgive our doubts and fears of everyday life, and may we always remember to look for You even in the chaos around us. For we know You are always there, and always with us. All praise and

glory are Yours, and Yours alone. May we always reflect Your guiding light to a dark and wicked world. In Jesus' most precious name, Amen

At the end of World War II, work was started to rebuild downtown London. One of the beautiful and historic cathedrals had been greatly damaged during the bombing. The restoration was progressing slowly but surely, except for the statue that welcomed people to worship. It was a statue of Jesus with outstretched hands. It had an inscription on the base stating, "Come unto Me." The statue was destroyed during the bombing.

A group of German medical students got together and made it their mission to rebuild the statue. Piece by piece it began to take shape; everything except for the hands. The hands had been turned to dust. Then one day they came up with a perfect solution. To this day, the statue of Jesus without hands, stands in front of the cathedral, with an inscription on the base proclaiming, "Christ has no hands but ours." What a beautiful and appropriate sentiment.

That is an amazing perspective on who we, as believers, are. We are "The Hands of Jesus." We are his hands, at work, in our homes, at meetings, even in our neighborhoods. If we belong to Christ, we in turn represent Him, each and every day.

Paul reminds us beautifully in 2 Corinthians 5:20, "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, (His hands) as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: be reconciled to God." We need to approach each day and every situation in life with the mindset that "Jesus couldn't be here today, so He sent me to say what He would say and to do what He would do."

Jesus left us to carry on in His stead. To be "His hands" and to reach out to help others, until His glorious return.

In His Peace,

*Rich*