

Another Word

June 4, 2020

Well, the pollen is blowing, eyes are watering, people are sneezing, maple pods are spinning, and the tissue manufacturers are watching with glee as sales go through the roof. We hope you aren't too affected as allergy season kicks into high gear. The weather is beautiful, and God's plan is in full bloom. Enjoy!

The family of Bernice Lambert wishes to express their thanks for your thoughts and prayers during this time of loss. The service was a wonderful expression of a life well lived in Christ.

The reopening of our city, county, and state seems to be going well. There are many good signs that we are getting back to "normal." **If all continues to go well, we are thinking of starting outdoor services at the pavilion toward the end of June. There will not be live services until then. Please stay tuned for further updates.**

Our pavilion is becoming quite the gathering place. Hardly a day goes by that someone (couples, families, and friends) doesn't show up to have coffee, lunch, or just to get out into the fresh air. There is plenty of room, so come out when you can. Again this Sunday at 11am, a group from The Ashland Pregnancy and Care Center will be holding a prayer service in the pavilion.

The sanctuary will remain open each Tuesday through the Month of June from 10am to 2pm for those wanting to pray, listen to music, or watch our latest service at 1pm. You, as well as your friends, are always welcome. Come when you can, leave when you must.

May we pray. Most Holy God, we thank you for loving us. You are so eager to please us. You know our needs even before we ask. But you also know our lack of understanding. We often try so hard to be self-

sufficient that we forget all gifts come from you. We ask for your guidance and know even in our daily trials, you are there supporting us and caring for us. We pray for those whose lives have been changed by the pandemic, and also those being torn apart by the violence that has erupted in our nation. We pray for the family of George Floyd. May your blessings shower down on them, and may they be lifted up as examples of true Christian love and forgiveness. We thank you for your many blessings as we pray in the precious name of Jesus, Amen

Anyone remember Carley Simon and her hit song of the early 70's, "Anticipation"? Do you also recall a catsup manufacturer using the song in their advertising? You watched with anticipation, as the catsup slowly poured out onto a great looking burger. Yum! (I'll wait while you go to the fridge for a snack)you back? OK.

Psychologist tell us that anticipation is an emotion of extraordinary healing powers. Couples separated by military deployment, students looking for the end of the school year, the wait for the birth of a child, the bride and groom waiting for their wedding day. These all embrace anticipation. Something to look forward to, something to keep you focused on, something to give you hope.

Now try to imagine a world without anticipation. A world without a promise, a world without anything to look forward to, a world without hope. Many in the world are living such lives. They are living a life without Jesus.

I can't imagine living with no promise, with no hope. Knowing that everything will perish, and that death is final. Having no anticipation of things yet to come.

But, living with Jesus, we have a message of hope. Peter describes it in 2nd Peter 3: 13-14. "But in keeping with His promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless, and at peace with Him. “Note the words, “looking forward to this.”

So what is this “this”, that we are looking forward to? It’s Jesus’ promise! A new heaven, and a new earth. What great joy we have, knowing that Jesus will indeed return for us, and we will go to “the place He has prepared for us.” John 14. And no burger, catsup, or song can ever top that Anticipation.

In His Peace,

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