

Another Word July 13, 2021

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

Rain, rain, go away!! Actually, we need the rain. But it is hard (as the ground) to believe that after so much has fallen, that more is needed; especially after last Sunday's all day soak. Thanks to all who braved the weather and came out to worship.

Speaking of last Sunday, we had the privilege to be the first local church to bring a worship service to Belmont Towers in 17 months. Together, we sang, we prayed, we laughed and we cried. It was a wonderful God inspired experience. Please keep the residents of all the care centers of Ashland in your prayers.

And good news; according to Bob Bell, our congregation has grown by 2. The deer that has graced our outdoor worship the last few weeks has just delivered twins. It's wonderful to see God's miracle of life, right in our own back yard. And it appears we should be able to have services at the pavilion this Sunday.

Our scriptures for this Sunday are: Jeremiah 23: 1-6, Mark 6: 30-34, 53-56, "Do you feel what He feels?" Todd Whitmer is our Elder.

May we be in prayer.

Mighty and loving God. We praise and give glory to you, O Holy creator of life. We take this moment to thank you for your love and your guidance. For making Yourself always available to us. You know our hearts, and our needs. May we always seek to know Your will for us.

We also pray to You for those in need of Your love and comfort. Guide us this day to make a difference in a neighbor's life, and to be a witness of Your saving grace. In Jesus' precious name, Amen.

During the summer months while in high school, I would help my uncle on his farm. There were many different jobs that always needed done; herding cattle, feeding the sheep and chickens, planting crops, and then harvesting. One of my favorite jobs was driving the tractor while we baled hay.

Which brings me to a problem that would come up as you drove along on a hot summer's day. It takes a steady eye and firm hand on the wheel to keep moving straight and forward. But in the heat of the day and with the monotony of the drive, you would become fatigued, your eyes blurred, your mind began to wander, and after a while you found yourself drifting to the left or to the right. My uncle and I had a system. One drove while the other stacked the bales. The one stacking would watch the other and trade places whenever the other began to deviate from the straight course. This way, we were assured to always be moving straight ahead, and able to successfully finish the work.

Yesterday, while I was contemplating what to write, I opened my Bible to 2 Kings, chapter 22. And there in front of me was the story of King Josiah. You may remember he became King, at the age of 8. 18 years later, as they were starting to rebuild the Temple, Josiah's high priest, Hilkiah found "The Book of the Law" buried in a long forgotten room. (vrs.8)

The book was brought to the young King, and read to him. Upon hearing God's words (for the very first time), he cried out in anguish and tore his robes in sorrow when he realized how far his ancestors had drifted, strayed, and disobeyed the word of God. Immediately, Josiah set out to do what was "right in the eyes of the Lord." (vrs.2) "The Book of the Law" became his guide and tool to steer the Kingdom in the true and straight ways of the Lord. Under his rule, there would be no drifting to the left or to the right. God's instructions were there to set things straight.

Like Josiah and the people, and my uncle and I, we each need to care, protect, and watch out for one another. And to allow the scriptures to guide us day by day, in order to keep our lives in line with knowing God and His will. If we do, we will always keep moving forward, and never drift to the left or to the right. The Bible is a powerful and amazing tool that, if followed, will always keep us moving straight ahead.

In His Peace,

*Rich*