

Another Word July 14, 2020

To family and friends of First Christian Church,

As Dale Campbell said last Sunday, "God has Blessed us with wonderful days to worship." I totally agree. The last 4 Sundays have been wonderful! However, be sure to not miss the other 6 days He so graciously gives to us. Whether it rains, snows, or becomes hot or cold, (sometimes we get them all in one day) every day is an amazing gift from God. Speaking of our outdoor services, we had over 60 in and around the pavilion praising and worshipping this past Sunday.

Our 10-year anniversary of moving to our King Road home will be celebrated July 26th. We will be worshipping in the sanctuary this day. All safety precautions will be in effect. Social distancing will be observed, and temperatures will be taken. Face coverings are highly recommended. There will be no singing, but we will have prerecorded music and a special presentation of our move and what we have accomplished to date. Seating will be somewhat limited but with rearranged seating, we should be able to accommodate 70 to 75 people. Let us know, in advance, if you require one, two, three, or more seats together.

As a reminder, The Ashland Pregnancy and Care Center's fund-raising virtual banquet will be shown in our sanctuary Aug. 6, at 7pm. Please contact me to reserve a seat. Thank you for returning all the baby bottles. They will be turned in this week. And don't forget that Alexis, Rachel, and Lauren's graduation party is July 25th.

Our scriptures for this Sunday are; Psalm 139: 1-12, 23-24, and Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43. "How do you rid the weeds?"

Please remember Dick Baum, Arlene Whitmer, Marcia Gallaway, and Carol Cochie in your prayers. May we pray; Dear God, author of life. We bow our heads in love and respect to you. We thank you for our lives and give praise to you. In Jesus, you have given us hope, and given us

life in abundance. We thank you for your forgiveness and for your physical and spiritual healing, and we most of all thank you for our Peace. May we never waver and always be faithful to you all the days of our lives. In Jesus' precious name we pray, Amen

As some of you know, I am a motorcycle rider. (yep, leather jacket, boots and all) It is something you either love, or it is something you just don't understand. It is a way for me to get away, to relax, and even refocus on life. I started riding when I was 15. My first bike was a Harley Davidson 165cc, a rather small bike, but one that helped me to learn the fine details of riding.

I remember one time right after I got my license, I was riding out Route 58, feeling free and thinking that I was totally in charge. Suddenly, while zipping along at 60 miles an hour, my machine quit. Total silence. Only wind in my face and my speed quickly dropping from 60, to 50, to 40. I remember my mind racing to figure out what had happened, what to do, and how will I get myself and my cycle back home. As I dropped below 30 miles an hour, I remembered that I had a reserve fuel switch under the left side of the gas tank. With my left hand, I reached down by the carburetor, found the tiny valve and twisted it 90 degrees. Instantly, the engine started, and though a bit shaken, I turned around and headed to the nearest gas station. An important lesson learned.

I think our lives are kind of like my little adventure. We all run along, sometimes fairly hard, often quite fast, or possibly just admiring what's around us. Maybe all of our cares and worries build up until one day we wake up and realize, we have nothing to give, we feel depleted, we have no strength. We are out of gas. Where do we turn? What do we do?

We need to call on God's reserve. Isaiah 40: 28 says, "The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary." Our God is inexhaustible, his wisdom and power never

run out. But yours and my power, like my main tank, can and will run out. But here's the good part. Here is where the reserve tank kicks in. Isaiah 40 continues, "He gives strength to the weary, and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall." Notice the words weary, tired, stumble and fall. (out of gas.) Now, here is where God's promise pours into us. Isaiah 40:31 says, "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not grow faint."

When I ran out of gas, the reserve tank made all the difference. That's the way with our lives. If we dwell on life's stresses, or how tired or sick we are, or how overwhelmed we are, we are just dwelling on an empty tank. But if we focus on the Lord's inexhaustible strength, His unlimited power, we will be able to keep "riding", when we thought we couldn't go another mile.

In His Peace,

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