

Another Word July 19, 2022

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

I think I can safely speak for all of us and say, "Thank goodness the year 2020 is behind us." However, 2020 should have been a time of celebration. It marked the 10 year anniversary of the move to our new church home.

So, to celebrate this milestone, and to celebrate the mortgage being "paid in full," we will have a cookout and mortgage burning party August 21, starting immediately after our service. Please, mark your calendars, bring lawn chairs, and be prepared to have a great afternoon of food and fun! Paige Carpenter will have a signup sheet in the gathering area.

Paul Martin and The Jazz Society will hold their first jazz concert here at the pavilion Monday, August 8th at 7pm. Please get the word out, and plan to come and be entertained with an evening of "cool jazz!" If it rains, they will perform in the sanctuary. There is no cover charge but donations are welcome to cover their expenses.

The scriptures for July 24 are: Psalm 85, and Acts 16: 6-40. "That's all?" Our serving Elder is Shelley Carpenter.

For July 31: Psalm 107: 1-9, and 43, and Acts 17: 16-32. "A trip to Mars." Ellie Wells is our serving Elder.

Let us pray. Our Most Holy God, to you alone do we raise our voices in praise and adoration. Your love is abounding and unending, even when

we try to hide our deeds and actions from you. There are so many who are lost in the darkness and are struggling to find their way home. May we, your servants reach out to them through Your light of truth, Your love and Your compassion and help them find their way back to you. Search our hearts O God. Test us, cleanse us, and direct us in your way of everlasting peace. In the Good Shepherds' name, we pray, Amen.

If you really read these letters of mine, then you may remember one I wrote about a closet I cleaned out, fixed damages that had been hidden, and with some major repairs, made it like new. Kinda like how God repairs us and makes us new. Well, I opened that closet just the other day, and guess what I found? A mess! Clothes, 2 suitcases, 3 blankets, miscellaneous shoes, books, pillows all piled in a heap! You get the picture.

I think we all do this. We all have a dark out of the way place where we hide things we don't want others to see or discover. The problem is, we fool ourselves into thinking all is hidden until the door is opened, and the light of day exposes your mess.

We do the same thing with our lives. We all have things we would prefer to keep hidden. While the door to your heart is closed, we may think our secrets are safe and all looks normal. In fact, we may even be continuing to pile things away. But at some point, the door will be opened and everything will come spilling out. God addresses this in Numbers 32: 23 when He says, "You may be sure that your sin will find you out." Nothing can be hidden forever.

This is where prayer and repentance comes in. Instead of trying to hide those big or little temptations, call them for what they are; sinful things. And when you do, Jesus will be there to help you throw open the door and clean up the mess on the floor of your heart.

In His Peace,

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