

Another Word

July 20, 2021

To our friends and family of First Christian Church

Well, I was standing down by the town creek last Saturday when I saw a number of white-water rafters heading down stream. Boy, were they having fun!! (I'm just kidding! The creek was so deep they couldn't have made it under the bridges) Experts say we needed the rain. I just don't think we needed 3 months' worth in a few hours. I hope you had little or no damage to your houses and property. It's hard to imagine any benefits coming from such an event, but somewhere downstream from us, there is someone whose needs are being fulfilled.

And speaking of streams; we have been live streaming services on our Face Book page for the past month. We are pleased to announce that we are getting many "likes", and many more are watching and sharing our services with others. Brian has also begun posting the services to our webpage ([www.firstchristianashland.org](http://www.firstchristianashland.org)) and on our YouTube site.

The cards collected last Sunday have been delivered to Crystal Care this week.

Our Scriptures for this Sunday are; Psalm 14, and John 6: 1-21. We will be starting a 5 week study of the 6<sup>th</sup> Chapter in the book of John. This Sunday's message; "How deep is your faith?" Matt Henderson is our serving Elder.

May we be in prayer;

Most Holy and gracious God. We, as one voice raise praises and honor to You. As Your children we thank You for Your love and guidance. Life at times can be a lonely uncertain journey, but we take heart in the knowledge that You are always by our side. Please hear our silent prayers for our friends, neighbors, and family who need Your loving touch. May our first responders and leaders hear and respond to Your unerring words of wisdom. All these things we ask in Jesus' beautiful name, Amen.

A number of years ago, I needed to fly into Boston to represent my company at a regional convention being held there. If you have ever flown into Logan International, it sits out in Boston harbor, and the flight path is over some industrial areas then open water. In the best of weather conditions, it is a hold your breath landing.

This particular day, the weather was not cooperating. There were storms off the coast and the whole area was covered in thick fog. I was looking out the window but saw nothing except swirling clouds of fog. Lower and lower we descended, but still nothing. Just when I knew we could go no lower, the fog lifted and water appeared. Then the blue lights from the front edge of the runway appeared, and we touched down. I could breathe again! What I wasn't privy to was the pilot, his flight plan, and the instruments he used to navigate when he couldn't see where he was going.

I think we all have felt the way I felt that day; confused, disoriented, trying to get somewhere you know you are to be, but can't seem to find a viable way. Often in our lives, we can feel as if we are flying blind and

our visibility is close to zero. Life can be scary, and if we trust only in our emotions and feelings, we could make a big mistake and crash. So, how can we avoid the perils that can confront us each day?

Like the pilot, we have a flight plan, laid out by God. In Jeremiah 29, verse 11 says, "I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you, plans to give you hope and a future." Our ultimate flight plan is God's word. We need to base our daily actions on what His word says to us, no matter what our feelings may tell us.

God's words are our flight plan for life. His words are trustworthy and you can know that He keeps His promise to be there and guide and direct you even on those days when you are in a fog, and can't see where you are going. And that promise is written in Isaiah 42: 16; "I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth." And I really love this last statement; "These are the things I will do."

So, when you feel that you are "flying blind", be sure to consult your flight plan so you will always land safely, and smoothly.

In His Peace,

*Rich*