

Another Word July 21, 2020

To family and friends of First Christian Church,

Because of the unexpected surge of the virus in our county, we have decided to postpone our ten-year celebration until a future date. We felt that moving inside was too risky at this time. Services will continue at the pavilion rain or shine.

Please see me if you want to attend the virtual fund raiser for The Ashland Pregnancy and Care Center. It will be shown in our sanctuary Aug 6th at 7pm. The guest speaker is Abby Johnson, author of the book "Unplanned."

Please remember Arlene, Dick, Marcia, Carol, Kim, and those suffering from the virus in your prayers.

May we pray. Dear loving God. We come to you with many things on our hearts. Some are joyful thanks, but others are heartbreaking cries. We raise them to you not only at this moment, but so often during the day. We ask for guidance, for understanding, and strength to go on. We ask for your guiding hand for our doctors, nurses, first responders, all who are helping those in need around the nation and world. Their work is an extension of your love. You bless us with life, and life in abundance. Sometimes we forget to pause and say thanks for this great and undeserved gift. So, hear our voice now as we say Thank You! Please hear and accept this prayer in Jesus' precious name, Amen.

As I sit here this morning watching a beautiful light rain come down, two thoughts come to me. One is the saying "into every life a little rain must fall", eluding to situations that can befall us and disrupt our lives. My other thought is that this light rain is just what we need. It will loosen the soil by adding moisture, green up the grass, and even give us relief from the extreme heat we have been experiencing.

One thought is literal while the other is subjective; one positive, the other somewhat negative. They both depend on your point of view, how you see life.

Over the past few weeks we have been looking at some of the parables of Jesus. Each parable can confound us, or lead us to some greater conclusion, something Jesus wants us to know, understand, and respond to.

This Sunday we will be looking at a whole string of parables that can change your world forever. They are found in Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

So, you may be thinking what are you getting at Rich? It's just this; it depends on how we look at and understand life. Like Jesus' parables, we can live our lives one of two ways. On the one hand, literally, the rain does wonders for our environment and eventually helps us. But on the other hand, the rain that comes into our lives, (health related, loss of a job, an out of control virus, any number of things), all appearing to be setbacks, also end up changing our lives in unimaginable ways. The funny thing is, both ways end up improving and benefitting our lives. We may not see it while "the rain is coming down," but as long as we have the belief and love that our God will be there guiding us, we can be assured that our lives will continue to grow safely in His loving arms.

In His Peace,

Rich