

Another Word July 27, 2021

To our friends and family of First Christian Church

It's hard to believe that August begins in just a few days. Weren't the fireworks just a week ago? I guess it's true that "Time waits for no one." Over the past weekend there were two celebrations. One was a wedding at our church for Kevin and Teresa Pflieder, and then there was the surprise party for Marty and Gary Mowery's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. One couple begins the journey, and one couple celebrates a milestone of theirs. We congratulate both couples for their commitments to God and to each other.

Our scriptures for this Sunday are: Psalm 51: 1-12, John 6: 24-35. "Who and what is, and isn't." Our Elder is Linda Gardner.

Please remember in your prayers: Dale Campbell who had surgery on Monday, Ken Donelson who is having a procedure this Tuesday, and Ellie Wells who is having eye surgery this Thursday.

May we be in prayer;

Gracious and loving God. We thank you for giving us time for prayer. A time that we may bring to You our joys, concerns, and fears. We love you because you are always there to listen with patience and with understanding. Guide us through our despair and the burdens of life. We ask Your help for those dealing with more than they can handle. May we also see opportunities to reach others through Your strength. Please protect our first responders and all who place their lives on the line for our protection. May we always seek ways to serve others as we

walk in Your presence with joy, faith and hope. In Jesus' precious name we pray, Amen

When we were first married, Donita and I moved to 3 states and 5 different cities in 3 ½ years. Every 5 to 6 months I would get the news that I was being transferred, usually on a Thursday, and was expected to be in the new location the following Monday. Needless to say, we became experts at packing and unpacking. During the next few years, and 7 additional moves, we had acquired furniture, appliances, and children, making moving more and more of a challenge. Every piece of furniture, every appliance, every filled box became a burden to carry; especially for one person.

However, the last move we made, (from Dayton to Ashland) was different. A truck was loaned to us, 4 friends in Dayton helped carry and load. And in Ashland, there were 8 people waiting to help unload. Our burdens turned out to be a blessing because of those who helped us carry what we couldn't carry alone.

We all carry burdens, things hidden deep in our hearts that we struggle with each day. But the Apostle Paul has a better idea. We are not supposed to do heavy lifting alone. In Galatians 6:1, he instructs us to "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Oh, and by the way, the "Law of Christ" is "Love your neighbor as yourself." And as the commercial tag line says, "But wait, there's more!!"

As you help lighten your neighbor's burden, something strange yet wonderful begins to happen to you. Your own burdens begin to fade and to lighten as you look beyond your problems to help another. Proverbs 11:15 says it best; "He who refreshes others will himself be refreshed." Talk about a "win, win" situation!

Each day, we need to look for someone who may be carrying a heavy burden. Reach out to them by listening, by giving them words of encouragement, or by finding ways to remove a little of the weight resting on their heart and shoulders.

I still remember that day when so many showed up to help carry our "Burdens". Think how much better the memories will be of the person who remembers you, because you helped them to carry what they could never have carried alone.

In His Peace,

*Rich*