

Another Word August 15, 2022

To our friends and family of First Christian Church

“You May Already Have Won A Million Dollars!”

Well, maybe not. But I did get your attention!! I want to make sure you remember that this Sunday we will be celebrating the 12th anniversary of our move to our new church home, as well as the paying off of our mortgage; two red letter days in the life of our church. There will be a picnic starting at noon at the pavilion. Dress casually and be prepared for a wonderful day of worship, food, and fellowship. Just bring a dish to share; burgers and hotdogs and drinks are provided. I promise, you will at least feel like a million bucks.

As you may recall, August 8th was a very hot and muggy day. But here at FCC we were treated to an evening of cool jazz. Paul Martin and his “Jazz Society” played to a large and enthusiastic crowd in our Sanctuary. There was such a great response that we have set up 3 more jazz concerts; September 12th, October 10th, and November 7th, all starting at 7pm. Mark your calendars and tell a friend, then come out for an evening of great music.

Our scriptures for the next 2 weeks are:

Aug. 21- Psalms 71:1-6, and Genesis 12:1-4a. “A step out in faith, part 2.” Lana Bell, Elder.

Aug. 28- Isaiah 6:8-13, and Acts 28:17-30. “Joy can be found anywhere.” Ellie Wells, Elder.

As we go to prayer, please keep Bud Strine, Gary Mowry, Keith Wertz, and John Whitmer in your prayers. May we pray:

Dear loving Father. We give You thanks each day for Your gifts of merciful kindness and faithfulness. May we never become so obsessed with our lives that we lose sight of Your presence, Your guidance, and Your love. May we find new ways to share Your promise of faith, grace, and love as we hold up to You those in need of Your calming and peaceful touch. May they feel Your presence and find comfort in Your arms. Help each of us stay connected to You, and bloom in ways that help others grow in Your love. In Jesus' most Holy name we pray, Amen.

You may never have thought of this, but one of the hazards of being in sales on the road is being ignored when you enter a restaurant alone. Let's face it, four people at a table leave a larger tip than just one.

I recall an incident, years ago where someone left a message on a table that read, "Waited 30 minutes, no service." It was written with a squeeze bottle of ketchup. (No Dale, it wasn't me) I have often felt those same frustrations. The hardest part is how to deal with the anxiety of those small annoyances that crop up on us without ruining our day.

In a restaurant, I began to limit my wait to 10 minutes. If I hadn't at least been acknowledged in that time, I would get up and quietly leave. But I also would observe how busy the restaurant was. If they were very busy I would wait longer.

I also make sure to be cheerful when I am being greeted and served. If you look around, you will often see that some of the patrons can be demanding and sometimes downright cruel to the wait staff. To me, that is never acceptable. Everyone deserves to be treated with kindness and respect.

You are probably thinking, “OK Rich, what’s with the *Miss Manner’s Lessons on Etiquette*? (Needed spell check on that one)

Paul wrote; “We are God’s people. Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.” Colossians 3:12. These are truly wise words for us to live by. And yes, they work in every setting in life as well as in a restaurant.

Instead of spelling out your displeasure in ketchup, look around and observe your surroundings. You just may find that it’s a time to show more patience. Kindness and compassion will go a long way in helping others feel a little less hassled. And of course, we need to remember, we are also called to serve as well as be served. So we must show humility as well as gentleness. Hearts respond quicker to love than anger.

Oh, and Solomon wrote in Proverbs 5: 15, “The cheerful heart has a continual feast.” So, whether you are waiting in a restaurant for service, or in the doctor’s office, or in the slow line at the grocery store, remember, we are God’s children. And may our actions serve our neighbor with a feast of love and joy.

In His Peace,

Rich