

Another Word August 25, 2020

To family and friends of First Christian Church,

Well, it's been a week since Donita's surgery and I'm happy to report that she is making good progress. She sends her love and thanks for all the cards and prayers, and hopes to be back with you very soon.

The prayer service at Freer Field last Sunday was very well attended. Thanks to all who joined with other believers in our community to pray for guidance and healing for our city, nation, and world.

As a quick reminder, our entrance driveway will be replaced this Wednesday and Thursday, so the building will be inaccessible. Please call the church or my cell if you need to reach us.

Please mark your calendar for September 6th. During this Sunday service, we will be baptizing Brendan and Marlee Henderson, and dedicating Emersyn to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Come and join Matt and Molly in this wonderful and joyous occasion.

During your prayers, please remember Kim Mercer, Arlene Whitmer, Mike Reynolds, and Dick Baum. Also, please remember the family of Ruth Miller who passed away this past weekend. Ruth's beautiful presence among us will be sorely missed. Her funeral service will be held in our sanctuary, Tuesday, September 1, at 11am. The calling hour will begin at 10am. Miriam, please accept our deepest sympathy for your loss.

May we pray. Dear gracious God. You are our strength and our guide. Our lives, just when they seem to be going smoothly, can turn quickly, and become chaotic and harsh. But because of your love and direction, we can and will be able to weather any storm life can bring. From confusion, health, or loss, you stand with us. At times of pain you allow us to lean on you. In times of suffering, grief, and loss, when all our strength is gone, you will even stand for us. You, and you alone are what we can always count on, rely on, and take comfort in. We thank you for your love and daily provision. And we thank you for your greatest gift of all, the gift of salvation through your son, Jesus. Please accept our prayers for all those in need (Personal prayers). We raise these prayers to all that is Holy, Amen

A number of years ago, I had some appointments in the finger lake region in upstate New York. I headed out of Erie, Pa. early that morning into a rather heavy snow storm. That's nothing too unusual in that area of the country. However, as I traveled east on Route 17, the storm became much more intense. Turning on my radio, the announcer said, "this is one of the worse blizzards in recent history. The State Police request that all travel is to be restricted to emergency vehicles only." Oops! Trust me when I tell you, I was committed; turning back was not an option. The only other traffic I encountered on my 4 hour white knuckled drive was a large, slow moving truck that was billowing snow, and adding to the almost total and constant white out around me.

What saved me from running off the road was a little light; a little red light that briefly appeared between the gusts of wind and snow. The red light was on the trailer of the truck ahead of me. I was trusting that the driver could "see" more of the road than me, and ultimately guide me to safety.

Our world today has become a vast wilderness not unlike the blizzard I found myself in. Many people are lost, wandering through life without a sense of direction, without a light to direct them, without a hope of being found.

Enter Jesus. Jesus proclaims in John 8:12, "I am the light of the world." The Bible uses the word "light" often to symbolize spiritual awakening and salvation. The purpose of the light is to draw us out of the wilderness of life and guide us to a place of safety. A place where we can be rescued and saved.

So when life rages around you, look for the one **true light**, the light that shines brightly, a light that remains constant. Look to Jesus, the light that will guide you safely through the blizzards of life.

In His Peace,

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