

Another Word August 3, 2021

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

We have just entered the “dog days of summer.” Maybe the weather will cooperate enough so we can enjoy a few more Sunday Services at the pavilion before cooler weather is upon us. Todd and I were talking at the pavilion Saturday. To be honest, he was working, and I was watching, when one the fawns came up on the lawn. What a beautiful gift of God that is being raised in our own back yard. I’m hopeful that they will grace us with an appearance this Sunday.

There will be a leadership meeting this Sunday at 9:30. A number of items and needs will be discussed. You are welcome to join the leadership team as we conduct the business of the church.

The cards collected last Sunday have been delivered to Kingston of Ashland. Again, thanks for your continued support.

Our scriptures for this Sunday are Psalm 130, and John 6: 35, 41-51. We are continuing our journey through the 6th chapter. This is the pivotal moment when Jesus reveals to the crowd who He is. The serving Elder is Ellie Wells.

Please keep in your prayers: John Kirby’s 2 sisters, Mira and Julie, both with health issues, and Tony, a renter of Julie’s, with liver problems. Pastor Matt Potosky’s father in law with heart complications. And please remember our nephew Chase Pate who is awaiting major surgery.

May we be in pray.

Most Holy God. We praise You and give glory and honor to You, and You alone. You are our giver of life and we pause to thank You for this precious gift. This gift You give reflects the plans You have made for us. May we always be aware of Your guidance, instruction, and teaching through Your word. It seems like the world is spinning out of our control, but yet we still ask, "What can I do," "Where can I help," and "Here am I, send me." Show us how to strip away the layers of hate, greed, and deception so that we may cover the world with Your love, faith, hope, and grace. We pray to You in the precious name of Jesus, the Christ, Amen.

"Welcome to the homeowner's club!" These words were said to me just after we bought our first home. I was listing some minor repairs that needed done when a friend uttered those infamous words. Since then, I have spent countless hours repairing, replacing, rebuilding, repainting and sealing every inch of walls, ceilings, and floors, especially in our current older home. I enjoy the challenge, but it seems that when you just finish a project, another pops up.

You would think that after 33 years in the same home, I would have tackled every room at least twice, and you would be right; except for one small out of the way closet. It was only used for storage so it was "out of sight, out of mind." However, just recently Donita and I decided to redo the walls. It is small; only 3ft. deep, 2 1/2ft. wide with a very steep sloping ceiling. After removing 4 layers of 50 to 90 year old wallpaper and rock hard paste, it was revealed that the walls were in

need of repair. The old paper was used to cover up cracks, roof leaks, and corner separations, hiding all the imperfections. After cutting, filling, and sanding, the walls are now in much better shape. And to be honest, even as I type this letter, Donita is upstairs putting on the first coat of paint.

What I realized was that the previous owners used wall paper to *cover up* damage, when their efforts should have been used to *repair* the damage. The Bible tells us to, “Live free, but don’t use your freedom as a cover-up for sin. (1Peter 2: 16) In other words, if something is wrong or broken in your life, you need to act to make it right. If you ignore or cover up sins and imperfections, they will eventually destroy your life.

So, like our little closet project, you first need to uncover the damage, to strip off all the layers of denial and then set out repairing it. Asking God for forgiveness is the first step. Only then can you begin to fill in all the cracks and imperfections you will find. Maybe you realize you have hurt someone else and those scars need to be mended. Peter gives us instructions on how to fix the damage. We are to reach out and “Love each other deeply. Because love covers over a multitude of sins.” (1Peter 4:8) This doesn’t mean concealing sin but it shows that love will, in a positive way, affect our relationships with each other. And that love is like the paint Donita is putting on the walls, covering the scars, stains, and patches as you repair your life with God, and your neighbor.

In His Peace,

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