

Another Word September 15, 2020

To our family and friends of First Christian Church,

It's hard to believe that in the wink of an eye, we are half way through September. September is one of those months that loves to tease us. One day it reminds us of what a hot muggy day in July was like, and in the next, gives us a taste of the cold that is to come. Change is inevitable; change is part of life.

We have had quite a run of wonderful weather for our outdoor services. Last Sunday, we were reminded that weather, like the seasons, change, and we must adapt.

From now until spring, we will be worshipping inside unless the weather is sunny and the temperature is above 70 degrees, so dress accordingly. Seating is arranged with state guidelines, masks are required, and all safety procedures will be observed. Our sanctuary is arranged to accommodate up to 65 people and we have an overflow area if needed. So come and worship. We will continue to record and show each Sunday service on our website and YouTube.

Thursday evening the High School football team will again be using our pavilion for their pregame meal. And speaking of school, it is nice seeing the busses and our youth again moving around the city. To me it shows hope, resilience, a semblance of order, and a sign that life goes on and is returning to normal. I think Jesus said that even in the worst of times, we are to "Be not afraid, for I am with you." Life is only as scary as you make it. We must be careful and cautious, but we also must enjoy the journey of life that God has so lovingly given each of us.

I'm sure you have noticed that the driveway is yet to be completed. The gift of much needed rain has "dampened" the best laid plans. The

company doing the work has had a number of their jobs delayed, but has assured us that the project will be completed in the near future.

Don't forget to bring a donation for crop walk. If Dick Reich isn't available, you may drop it in our offering box. We will be sure he receives them.

Scriptures for this Sunday: Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45, & Matthew 20: 1-16.

May we pray. Most gracious and eternal God. We come to you this day filled with awe and wonder. You are strong and unchanging; bold and unyielding. Yet, our lives are so easily bent by the distractions and uncertainties of life. In the midst of all that confounds and confuses, may we always remember that You are there, guiding us by quiet whispers and through Your words of hope and truth. May we also remember that as You show us love, we must in turn, show love to our neighbor. As our world seems to be spiraling out of control, instead of hiding from it, we look to You for direction, strength, peace, and hope. Use us to advance your Kingdom here on earth as it is in Heaven. Guide our steps as we travel on our journey of life. In Jesus' Holy name, Amen

One of the things I remember when I was at Boy Scout Camp was the late-night hike in the woods. We would assemble after dark, equipped with only a flashlight, and start out on an unfamiliar path. As the hike went on, it got darker and darker. Using our flashlights, we could only see a few feet in front of us. The trail was unknown to us but every twist, turn, and tree was known by our leader.

That image reminds me of Psalm 119, verse 105. "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." In our hustle and bustle of life, we want to see where we are going, but also see the complete journey, from start to finish.

These beautiful words give us an insight into how God leads us. How He makes His will known to us. We want to figure it all out, see the whole journey. But God gives us just enough light to see the next step He wants us to take. Think of it as each step you take in the light is another day of your life.

Putting it another way, He only will give us as much as He thinks we can handle. If we knew what was facing us in 6 months, a year, or even next week, we would either run to or screaming away from it. Either way, God knows that we are not ready, not prepared for whatever we are walking toward. But taking it step by step, God is preparing us, teaching us, and keeping us on the path so we may be prepared to handle all that is in front of us along our journey. May God keep lighting your path, and may we all take life, as intended; one step at a time.

In His Peace,

*Rich*