

Another Word September 20, 2022

To our friends and family of First Christian Church

We had another good turn out for McCray Martin's band, "Abstractions". Our next concert will be October 3rd at 7pm, featuring John Hall and "The Percy Hall Orchestra."

There will be an Elders meeting this Sunday, Sept. 25th, following our 10:30 service.

Crop Walk is coming Oct. 2nd. Dick Reich is heading the effort again this year. See Dick for donations or sign up to walk and collect pledges. 25% of all monies stay in our community, and the balance goes to help those needing food around the world.

Upon inspection, we have decided to replace the floor in the woman's restroom. This will take place Sept. 26. On October 15, all the tile floors will be stripped and cleaned of wax build up. We will have a work day planned for either that day or the day before to clean out the storage room, kitchen, and nursery.

If you haven't signed up for the Legacy Resource Seminar yet, I encourage you to do so before the deadline of Oct. 7. The seminar is free, and will be held at The Wellness Center at Brethren Village October 15th from 10am to noon. Information flyers are available in the gathering area and on our website listed in the blogs.

Our scriptures for Sept. 25 are: Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16, and Luke 16: 19-31. "Life Has Consequences." Linda Gardner is our serving Elder.

Let us remember Ruth Paulsen and all who can't worship with us on Sundays, for those who are traveling, and who are facing medical procedures.

O Holy Father, there is nothing or no one greater than You. You are brighter than the brightest star, and Your love for us is immeasurable. At times, when we feel something is missing in our lives, it is then we remember who created us, who protects us, and who guides us with love. We are nothing without You. We ask for healing for those within our church family, and for those we hold dear in our heart. Grant wisdom, strength, and protection for all those who put their lives in danger to keep us safe. May Your will be done, this day and always. In Jesus' perfect name we pray, Amen.

A couple of years ago Donita and I wanted a new table in the living room for our TV. Something a little taller, yet a table that wouldn't take up as much room as the one we had. We found what we thought was the perfect sized table in a store in Columbus. We purchased it, brought it home, and began to put it together. Everything went well until it was time to secure the top to the frame. Not one of the 12 predrilled holes lined up so that we could complete the assembly. Without the top, the table was useless.

Isn't that typical? How often have you purchased an item or started a project only to find that it can't be finished because something doesn't fit, doesn't line up, or is missing?

It's not just tables or other items that are useless when something is missing. Paul reminds us that there is something much more important

to us than a missing bolt or poorly aligned holes. In his first letter to the newly established church in Corinth, Paul reminds them that they were also missing one essential component of life. In 1 Corinthians chapter 12, he explains that there are many spiritual gifts available to them now that they are believers. Gifts of wisdom, knowledge, healing, prophesy. However, he tells them that these gifts are nothing unless they have, as he puts it, “The most excellent way!” And that “Most excellent way” is love.

To emphasize his point, Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 13: 1-3, that if they had knowledge, gave away everything they owned, and even were willing to suffer pain and hardship, but didn’t have love, everything they did would amount to nothing. Paul goes on to encourage them to be patient, don’t envy or boast. Don’t be easily angered, (especially when the holes don’t line up). They are to always protect, trust, hope, and persevere. And never serve others out of duty, but to always serve others with love. (vs. 4-7)

We must remember that God wants us to always include love, the most important gift of all, otherwise it’s like a table missing the top. It may look fairly nice but it’s useless unless it’s complete. Our lives are the same. We can go on, day by day, but without love, we are “nothing but a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.”

In His Peace,

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