

Another Word September 22, 2020

To family and friends of First Christian Church of Ashland

Did you hear the crash? Something fell today. Yes you guessed it, today is the first day of fall. 3 days ago, a tree fell in our backyard reminding me that things are always in motion, and that “fall” was just around the corner. The tree has been cut into fire wood, and is ready to warm our chilly evenings. Are you ready for the change of season? Gee, that sounds kinda Biblical; see Ecclesiastes 3:1, “...a season for every activity under Heaven.”

There will be a worship meeting this Sunday at 9:30. We will be looking at worship and the many challenges confronting us in this strange but brave new world. Please forward any thoughts you may have or would like to see during worship.

Dick Reich informed me that many donations have been made for Crop Walk. The event will take place Oct 3rd. If you haven't yet given a donation, there is still time. You may either see Dick personally or drop your check or cash in our offering box or mail to the church. Be sure to mark the envelope or check for “Crop Walk.”

I have been asked to start a Bible study on Sunday mornings before our regular 10:30 service. If you would be interested in joining, please let me know. I would love to start somewhere toward the middle of October.

Our scriptures for this Sunday are Psalm 78: 1-4, 12-16, and our New Testament reading will be Matthew 21: 23-32. Our Elder is Yvonne Kimball.

Please remember Ada Sue Workman in your prayers as she has surgery this Friday to improve her hearing. Also please remember, Joyce Bradley, Arlene, Dick, Mike and all in our thoughts as well as our friends that cannot leave their homes.

May we be in prayer... O Creator of life, we humbly come to you in need of healing, comfort, and assurance. Life seems to tumble in on us at times, overwhelming us with burdens that can cloud our thinking and weigh us down. In times such as these, we look to you for strength and courage. It is nice to know that you are always there to support us, to guide us with your word, and comfort us with your love. We ask for wisdom to help us reach those around us; for your protection for those on the front lines that are working with the sick, the helpless; and encouraging those who feel that have no hope. May we all reach out with love to a hurting and scary world, and pass on your greatest gift; the gift of compassion and grace as given through your Blessed Son Jesus, our Savior and redeemer. In his holy name we pray, Amen

When Donita and I were first married, I worked for a company that transferred us to a different city in a different state every 6 months for over 3 years. Yes, 7 moves in 3 years. We got real good at packing and unpacking. The problem was, with each move we had more and more stuff, and it became more and more of a burden (physically as well as emotionally).

What a blessing though, when we moved back to Ashland. We had friends, family, and a great big truck. For the first time we had help with our burden. Our burden, our heavy load was lightened by others. Isn't that like our lives? We all have burdens. Burdens like health issues, work, deadlines, finances, a loss in the family. Sometimes the list never seems to end. And then we, for some reason, always try to carry these burdens ourselves.

Enter friends and family. They come along and help to lighten the load, to put on their shoulders some of your burdens. Paul wrote to the

Galatians (Chapter 6, verse 1) “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” In other words, no one should carry their burdens alone.

But notice the second part of the verse. It says “fulfill the law of Christ.” That law is simple. In fact Jesus said it often. “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

There is a wonderful bonus in helping your neighbor. When you help with someone’s burden, you begin to realize your own burdens aren’t quite as cumbersome and heavy. In fact, you begin to feel healing, proper perspective, even a personal inner peace that comes from reaching out to someone else’s needs. Proverbs 11:15 expresses it best, “He who refreshes others will also be refreshed.”

Our God is so amazing! Imagine, by helping others, we are also helped. So don’t be afraid to offer help, and don’t be afraid to accept help from others.

Jesus carried the heaviest burden himself; all the sins of the world. So with that burden gone, our “job” is fairly easy; to lighten the load of someone who could never have carried it alone.

In His Peace,

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