

Another Word September 7, 2021

To our friends and family of First Christian Church

The musical, "The Little Mermaid" is being performed at the Renaissance Theatre, in Mansfield this weekend. Showtime for the Friday and Saturday performances is 7pm. The Sunday show is at 2:30. Why the commercial? Our own Brian Nabors is the musical director, and Emmy Henderson is in the cast. The tickets are \$15 and if you are looking for an enjoyable outing, this fills the bill.

I want to thank you for such an outpouring of love to Samaritan's Purse, Haiti relief. As of today, \$2080.00 has been raised. With our matching funds, we will be sending \$4,160.00. We are indeed the helping hands of God. Please pray that these funds comfort and give aid to those in great need.

Tuesday, September 21 will be the start of our next study, "The Art of Living" by Henri Nouwen. The first book that we will look at is "Identity." Each book is \$4, all five in the series is \$15. The signup sheet and books are in the gathering area.

This Sunday, Donita and I will be gone, but come prepared to worship with prayers, songs, and readings. Brian, Ellie, and Linda are working on a beautiful service. We look forward to worshipping with you with live streaming.

Crop Walk is October 3rd. Dick Reich and Todd Whitmer will be accepting donations. The collected donations help in two ways. First,

they go to help worldwide hunger. And second, a portion collected stays in our community to aid local food banks. Thank you for your continued support for this worthwhile program.

Scriptures for this Sunday are Psalm 19, and James 3: 1-12, along with other readings that will be presented with wonderful hymns, songs, and prayers. The Elder is Matt Henderson.

As we go to prayer, please remember all those with needs and who are suffering with losses. May we pray;

Most Holy and Gracious God, all praise honor and glory we lift to You, and to You alone. We long for the return of Jesus, but until then, may You always find us faithful. May we never take our lives for granted, and always pass on to others the joys we experience each day. At times, we feel so alone and afraid because of the dangers and uncertainties that surround us. But then, You make Yourself known and we are comforted and strengthened by Your presence. May we always live by faith and walk in hope knowing that Jesus has shown us the way to eternal life. And, in His name we pray, Amen

I remember reading a story a number of years ago about a rite of passage one Native American Tribe had for their boys who turned 13. On his birthday, a warrior would blindfold the boy and take him several miles from camp. Once they were deep into the forest, and the sunlight was fading, the blindfold was removed, and the boy was left to spend the entire night alone and to fend for himself. Imagine what it would be like to be left in a dark unfamiliar place, with no fire, surrounded by

eerie sounds, trees groaning in the wind, and animals howling close by. Needless to say, there was little to no sleep during that night.

Then, as dawn began to break through the trees, the boy would begin to see his surroundings. To see the forest as it really was; towering trees, beautiful flowers, and wildlife scurrying around looking for food. But then, he would be startled by an imposing figure, standing just a few yards away. Then, as the light grew brighter, the frightened young warrior recognized him. It was his father. His father had stood watch over his son the entire night, ready to protect him from all harm.

Can you imagine a father who is there, even when you are unaware of his presence? A father who would defend you against anything that comes against you? That would be security. In a world that is increasingly more dangerous and unpredictable, security is something that seems to be in short supply. I think we all are looking for such a protector.

Well take heart! We all have such a protector, have such a Father. He is the one who created us and loves us deeply. And He wants us to love Him also. If we do, we will never lose Him or His love. This is His promise; "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned, . . . for I am the Lord, your God." Isaiah 43:1-3. If the Lord is your God, you will always have His security and His protection, from the very moment you believe, all the way until eternity.

So, when you find yourself afraid and seemingly alone in the dark, remember our Heavenly Father's unbreakable promise in Hebrews 13:5, "Never will I leave you. Never will I forsake you." Know that He is always there with you, standing guard over you, and always close enough to protect you from harm.

In His Peace,

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