

May 20, 2020

Dear First Christian Church,

Isn't it wonderful watching the grass grow, the trees filling out, and flowers bursting into an array of colors? All of God's splendor and beauty is on display for us to enjoy. Just wanted to remind you that God is with us, His love surrounds us, and makes Himself known to us in a variety of ways. Be sure to give thanks to Our Lord and God, this and every day.

We are still on schedule to open the 7<sup>th</sup> of June for live worship on King Road. Preparations are being made for your safety. This day will be a celebration, not only of our return, but also a celebration of our 5 graduating seniors; Ryann, Lauren, Rachel, and Alexis Hastings, and Ryan Dull. The service will be available on our webpage later in the day for those unable to attend.

We will continue to post our services on YouTube and our website for the foreseeable future. Protocols for our "in person" services will be outlined in our next newsletter.

If you missed the news, Dale Wells will be celebrating his 94<sup>th</sup> birthday May 21<sup>st</sup>. Give him a call or send a card to wish him a terrific day.

Vera Chalfant, a long time and beloved member of our congregation passed away May 17th. As a tribute, and request by her family, the service will be held here, at her home church, Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2 pm. A time of gathering and visiting will follow immediately after the service. All safety measures and social distancing will be observed.

Please take a moment this weekend to remember our Country's service members who made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms we enjoy. May we pray... Oh Lord, we come to you this day, grateful for the many gifts you lavish on us. In the midst of everyday fears, concerns, and trials, we sometimes forget to just say thank you. Thank you for your love, wisdom, and for your Son, who made the ultimate sacrifice for us. Guide us to those who are in need. Open our eyes and hearts to reach out to our neighbors, strangers, and yes, even our enemies. Give us courage to be your light in a dark and wayward world. All this we ask in Jesus' most precious name, Amen.

I ran across this scripture the other day and it made me think about our city streets, and my faith. "For by one sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are being made Holy." Hebrews 10: 14

I know what you are thinking, but no, I haven't lost my mind...yet.

Have you caught yourself saying this; "they just paved this road, why are they digging it up?" It seems that road construction is never done. Can you imagine a sign that would say, "Road done, it is finished and perfect, forever." No, neither can I.

Now, let's look at our spiritual life the same way. I think we all, early in our faith journey, can imagine reaching a point when we think we have it all figured out, when our lives are "smooth, and pothole free. Yes, even perfect." But, just like the potholes that pop up on our streets, our lives just never seem to be finished. We go through fears, trials, doubts, any number of experiences that can set us back and make us feel as frustrated as seeing a new road torn up.

But our scripture brings us an amazing promise. "For by one sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are being made Holy." What Jesus did on the cross has already saved us. Completely and perfectly. In God's eyes we are already whole and finished. But while here on earth, we are still being shaped into his likeness. As our scripture says, still "being made Holy." As John in 1 John 3:2 states, "One day we will see Him face to face, and we shall be like Him." But until then, we are still under construction, being shaped until the work in us is finally complete.

In His Peace

*Rich*