

Another Word July 28, 2020

To family and friends of First Christian Church,

We hope you liked turning around the seating arrangement at the pavilion during worship. It was our thought that it would add a few more seating spaces under cover, especially during inclement weather.

Here are a few quick announcements: This is your last reminder to sign up for the virtual banquet and fund raiser for the Ashland Pregnancy and Care Center. It is August 6th at 7pm. in our sanctuary. We have 15 signed up and have a few more seats available. Please call me if you would like to attend.

The Ashland County Ministerial Association will be hosting a Sacred Assembly Sunday, August 23rd at Freer Field in Ashland. This community wide gathering is to pray for repentance of our national, community, and personal sins. To call upon our God in Heaven to "Heal our Land." (See Joel 1: 13-14) I would love to see a thousand people (including some of us) gathered together in prayer.

Our scriptures for this Sunday are; Psalm 17: 1-7, 15 and Matthew 14:13-21. When things seem impossible, God is there to see it through.

May we pray. O Holy God. You and you alone are worthy of our praise. You are the God of creation, the God of life. We raise our voices as one to express our love, and to give you continual glory and honor. We hold up to you those among us in need of your loving and healing touch.

(Add personal prayers here.) May we always remember to come to you first not only for forgiveness, but also for guidance and the strength and power to do your work among our neighbors. May we never forget your love, and never forget to pass on your love to others. We thank you for the gifts you bless us with each day. And we especially thank you for Jesus, the ultimate gift of life. In His name we offer this prayer, Amen.

Chocolate! I bet that got your attention. Chocolate, that sweet, delicious, irresistible treat that most of us love. On a scale of one to ten, my love of chocolate tops out at around 19! In fact, if you go downtown and look in front of our local Nut and Candy shop, there is a brick out front with my name on it. One friend's tribute to me for my love of chocolate. The latest figures show that we spent over \$92 billion on chocolate last year. (I think half of that came from me) Part of the reason for the large outlay of cash is because chocolate has been found to contain flavonoids, an ingredient that helps the body stay young and also fights against heart disease. Now that's the kind of prescription I like!

In Proverbs 24:13, King Solomon recommends another "sweet", worthy of our attention. He recommends that his son eat honey "for it is good." He then compares honey's sweetness to God's wisdom. The person who feeds on God's wisdom in scripture finds it not only sweet to the taste, but beneficial for our soul. Wisdom will help us to grow strong, allow us to make smart choices, and to better understand the world around us. This sweet treat is also intended to share with others.

We all have overindulged and become sick because of the sweetness of chocolate. Or maybe some of us have even stashed it away so we don't have to share. (shame on me!!) But God's sweetness, His wisdom, is a treat that we can indulge in without limit and is a sweet treat that we can share with others without the fear of ever running out.

In His Peace,

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