

Another Word September 8, 2020

To friends and family of First Christian Church,

Sunday was such a beautiful day. Church family, friends and visitors, all gathering together, celebrating the dedication of Emersyn, and witnessing the baptism of Marlee and Brendan Henderson. God is smiling and the angels are singing in Heaven. Please keep them all in your daily prayers.

Did you notice the side yard was cleared and leveled? The company doing the work will be sowing grass seed soon, so by the end of September, we may be seeing "green."

Provided the weather holds, the drive and new parking spaces should be completed by Friday of this week.

Last Saturday we were invaded by bus drivers and cross country teams from around the area. Thanks again to the Bells for hosting this annual outreach.

I am sure you realize that the beautiful weather won't last forever, so we must begin to prepare for indoor worship services in the near future. Please know all safety precautions and State requirements will be observed.

Be sure to see Dick Reich and give a donation for Crop Walk. Remember, you are not only helping the hungry around the world, but 25% of your gift stays right here in Ashland to help those in need.

Be sure to keep calling and sending cards to those unable to get out. Your contact is a vital link in the love shared by God to others.

May we pray. O Holy Father, the love you shower us with is immeasurable. And the gift of your Son is almost unimaginable. But we see, we hear, and we respond, because of that love. We at times are confused and afraid, but when we open our hearts to you, life seems so much better, and what you have in mind for us becomes clear. We ask for your saving grace and healing for those within our church. We pray for your guidance and strength for those on the front lines in health care and also law enforcement. Please accept our prayers for our local, state, and country leaders. May they see your wisdom and guide and direct us in your perfect way. In Jesus' precious name we pray, Amen.

__ . __ . __ . __ . Translated; da dit da dit da da dit da. If you happen to know Morse code, you know I just spelled out "C Q". In 1961, my father, brother and I took classes to become ham radio operators. To become a Novice, you were required to learn Morse code. I passed my exam being able to send and receive 60 words a minute. No simple feat for a shy 12 year old. But the real test came when you turned on your radio equipment, chose a frequency, and started sending a message.

Your message always started with "CQ, CQ." CQ was a call to anyone "listening" for some other novice's dots and dashes, and to respond with a conversation in code. Often, just to sharpen my skills, I would listen for other novices and write down the messages I heard. But practicing only goes so far.

It was time for me to send a message. It was time to connect; connect with someone who could be next door, or possibly halfway around the world. CQ.....CQ..... There were times when I got a response and we traded call letters, names, and locations. But often, there was only static and a lot of noise in the air. It was hard to believe that anyone anywhere was listening for your message.

I think of those days from time to time, and wonder if God sometimes feels the way I did? I can hear Him saying, "Here's a message; "CQ CQ"! Is there anybody out there? Anybody listening? Does anybody believe?"

Isaiah wrote "Who has believed our message, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?" (Isaiah 53:1) Jesus uses this same verse after He has performed miraculous signs in the presence of those in the Jerusalem. But they refused to believe. (John 12:37-38) Who will hear it? Who will receive it? Who will believe and respond to God's CQ?

I think we know the answer, but Paul says it wonderfully in Romans 10: 17. He says, "Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ."

God's message is strong and clear. But you must tune in to His frequency (The Holy Bible) to receive it. Don't be distracted by the static of the world. Listen for the strong CQ of God's message, delivered through the wonderful words of Jesus.

In His Peace,

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