

Another Word February 6, 2024

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

Well, I don't want to give credit to the first cousin of a rat, but if the weather stays like this for 6 more weeks, then, "Thanks Phil!"

February 14th is much more than Valentine's Day. It is also Ash Wednesday. Our service will begin at 7pm. We hope to see you as we begin the sacred season of Lent.

Feb. 11 is Transfiguration Sunday. Psalm 50:1-6. Todd is our serving Elder. Our Scripture is Mark 9:2-9, (10-13).

Feb. 18. Psalm 25: 1-10, 16-21. Alan is our serving Elder. Our scripture is Mark 9: 14-29.

As we go to prayer, please remember Ada Sue and Gerald Workman, Shannon, Lennie, and the residents of Kingston as they deal with a large outbreak of covid.

O, Holy and mighty God. Together as one, we raise our voices in praise and adoration to You. Your love is there and unending, even when our thoughts are turned away from You. There are so many in the world that are lost and struggling through the journey of life. May we be used by You to reach out to them with the fruits of the Spirit, Your love, and Your special gift of Grace. May we help all who are in need of peace, healing, and comfort, and direct us in Your perfect way of everlasting life. In Jesus' precious name we pray, Amen.

The story is told of a young man from Russia who was immigrating to America early in the 20th century. After buying his ticket, he boarded

the ship with his meager possessions; a small suitcase of clothes along with a jar of water and a few crusts of bread. Every day when he became hungry, he ate a little bread and sipped the water from the jar, hoping they would last the whole journey. He finally arrived in New York, tired of bread and very hungry. As he was leaving the ship, one of the stewards asked him if he had a good trip and enjoyed the meals that were served....wait....what? What meals? He didn't know that his ticket included 3 meals a day on the voyage. He missed all the good things that were included with the ticket. This story reminds me of some people who follow Jesus but are so wrapped up in their own lives, they miss the good things that have been given to them.

Believing in Jesus is our ticket to our journey of life. And because we believe, the Holy Spirit resides in us and blesses us with what the Apostle Paul calls the fruit of the Spirit. He tells the church in Galatia, and us, "to live by the Spirit," and that, "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." Galatians 5: 16a, 22-23. That is quite a list of good things that are included with our ticket of life. Things that can make our journey so much more enjoyable.

So, don't be like our young man above, who was consumed with all the worries of life, and forgot to check what his ticket included. Stay close and connected to God. If you do, you will begin to see all the awesome gifts that are available. Oh, and make sure you don't wait until you reach your Heavenly destination to discover all the fruits of the Spirit that are right there in your hand!

In His Peace,

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