

Another Word May 8, 2024

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

We've been flirting with it for a few weeks now, but I think I finally heard spring, spring into action early this morning. The weather looks great and temperatures are rising steadily. Before you know it, we should be able to start outside services at the pavilion. But before that can happen, we will need to have a clean up and work day around the church property.

We have chosen May 18, to have a work day starting at 9am. The church has some tools but to make the work go quickly, we also need rakes, shovels, trimmers (grass and hedge), blowers etc. The church has trash bags and there will be donuts and coffee as a treat as we make our property sparkle. We should be done well before noon. Thanks in advance for helping.

There are still 3 lessons left in our Bible Study, "Freedom, finding peace in anxious times." If you thought about coming, you can still join us in the gathering area this coming Tuesday at either 10:30 or 6pm.

Fostering Families will be having their color run May 18<sup>th</sup> at Freer Field. This is one of their fun, fund raising events. Devan, from Fostering Families asked me if we could supply them with a few gift cards that they can hand out as prizes to some of the walkers and runners. Of course, I said I would ask. I would like to be able to supply them with 20, \$25 gift cards for gas, food, or restaurants. The cards will need to be purchased and turned into the Church by May 15<sup>th</sup>. Just let me know if you can help.

We will be honoring mothers this Sunday.

Scriptures for the next few weeks are:

May 12- Psalm 1 and Acts 1: 12-26. Prayers are essential

May 19- Pentecost Sunday. Psalm 104:24-34, 35b and Acts 2: 1-21.  
Hearts on Fire.

May we pray. Dear loving God. We lift Your name above all names. There is nothing or no one greater than You. Your power and strength and wisdom open the path to everlasting life. As we pause and listen for Your voice, give us clarity, patience, and understanding. May we not allow the world and its distractions to drown You out. We ask for Your continued guidance, and Your healing touch for those we now lift up to You..... May we each reach out to help one another in our quest for peace and harmony in our broken world. In Jesus' precious name we pray, Amen.

Donita will be the first to tell you that in some ways, I am nothing but a big scaredy cat. For example, snakes and I do not get along. A funny bang or thump late at night can cause me to freeze. Sometimes when I need something from the garage, at night... the walk down the drive can cause the hair on the back of my neck to stand on end. And, I know that I will, someday, come face to face with big foot.... Who is probably waiting for me, in the dark, just beyond the garage. Fear! Fear of the unknown! Whether real or imagined, fear can cause us moments to struggle, physically, mentally, and even spiritually.

As I read my Bible the other day I realized that there are a number of examples of people who also experienced fear. The disciples rowing for their lives in a storm. Paul on a cargo ship for over two weeks in hurricane force winds. David being pursued by Saul. Fear, when it is mentioned in the Bible is often accompanied by God's word for how to conquer and overcome it. The word used is courage. Jesus said, "Take courage, it is I. Do not be afraid." Matthew 14:27. Just after that, Peter

asks to step out of the boat to be with Jesus. Jesus said, "Come." Peter took a few steps with faith, but then fear got the best of him, and he began to sink. The lesson here is, we cannot conquer fear without having faith.

In the book of Deuteronomy, we are told that Jacob and Caleb were men of faith. When the scouting party entered the land of Canaan, the promised land, the others were afraid. But not Joshua and Caleb. They knew what God's plan was for His people, so through faith they were not afraid. Through faith they also did not let fear convince them to go against God's direct command. The others rebelled against God and that generation was not allowed to enter the promised land. But because Joshua and Caleb had faith in God, they were ultimately blessed by His promise, and did enter.

Deuteronomy 1:21 says, "Do not fear or be discouraged for the Lord is with you." That is what we need to remember as we walk along the dark alleyways of life. Have faith in God first. That will give you courage. And because of faith and courage, all your fears, even the fear of big foot, will disappear.

In His Peace,

*Rich*