

June 18, 2024

After a fun day of playing and preparing for my youngest grandson's first birthday party, we received a call that my son-in-law's father had been taken to the hospital. It was determined Jake's father had an aortic aneurysm that burst and needed emergency surgery. My daughter, son-in-law, his aunt, and his sister immediately went to the hospital to be with Dave during his surgery. The doctor and surgical team were guarded but optimistic. The surgery was to be nine hours long, so everyone would stay the night at the hospital. I stayed with the boys who were tired from the day but kept asking about Grandpa Dave. Finally at midnight, all three boys were asleep in my bed and I laid down as well. At around 2am, I heard my daughter come in to check on us, said the surgery was going well, and laid down herself. At 4am my phone rang. It was my son-in-law asking me to put my daughter on the phone. I could hear her gasp and tell her husband how sorry she was, his father had died on the operating table. His aorta could not hold the blood and the pressure needed to keep Dave alive. Sadly, Jake's brother and his wife were on vacation and were quickly returning but would not make it in time. Grandpa Dave was 56 years old and had been told just two weeks earlier during a physical that his health was good, and he was doing well.

I tell you this not because I want you to worry about your health, though do get check ups and take care of yourself. I tell you this not because I want you to feel sorry for my family, though they will need your prayer. My grandsons were close to Grandpa Dave and Memo who watched them often and lived close enough that the boys were at their house at least once or twice a week. I do tell you this because of how quickly life can and does change.

So...

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| 1) Remember to make every moment count | 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 |
| 2) Give your all to God | Hebrews 4:16 |
| 3) Rest in Jesus | Matthew 11:28-29 |
| 4) God goes before you | Deuteronomy 31:8 |
| 5) Don't worry | Philippians 4:6 |
| 6) Renew your relationship with Christ often | 2 Corinthians 5:17 |
| 7) Rely on the power of the Holy Spirit | John 14:26; Romans 8:26 |
| 8) Use the gifts and talents God has given you | Galatians 5:22-23; Romans 12:3-21 |

Grandpa Dave's funeral will be Friday morning in Des Moines. The family asked if I would officiate. There will be tears and sorrow, laughter and joy, but most of all lots of love and reminders of God's love for each of us.

Many blessings of God's love,
Pastor Cindy