

WPC NEWSLETTER – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2021

SUNDAY, MARCH 7

Scripture: John 2:13-25

Sermon: “What People Really Are Like”

Communion Sunday

Pastor Hans Poetschner

FAITH STUDY

You now have two opportunities to join the Faith Study with Pastor Hans. The first opportunity is every Sunday morning at 9:00. You may join by Zoom or you may join Pastor Hans in the Parlor. The Zoom link is in your weekly emailed newsletter.

Your second opportunity is to join Pastor Hans on Wednesdays at 3:30 in the Parlor.

TIM’S LECTURE SERIES

Tim will begin a lecture series titled “Historical Crises of Faith” on Sunday, March 14. You may join Tim in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30pm on March 14, 21, and 28th. This will be the last lecture series that Tim will lead for our church.

UPDATE TO THE CHURCH DIRECTORY – Please let the church office know if you no longer have a land line or if you have changed your home phone or cell number. We would like to keep our contact list as current as possible during these challenging times. You can call Pat in the church office at 428-6603 or e-mail her at wpcdecatu@sbcgloba.net with any changes. Thank you for your assistance!

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR HANS

Dear Friends,

I find, as I age and - hopefully - gain wisdom one of my major learnings has been that I cannot do everything, and definitely not all the time. Call it getting a grip of my finite nature, or having a reality check, or just absorbing what my wife has been telling me all along, I can only do some things, and my beauty sleep becomes ever more important to me. Maybe, because it does me less and less good. And I know I am not alone in this.

So what to do? I have discovered the magic of prioritizing, and there are a few rules that have worked well with me. 1. If it is really important I try to do it right away, as I will otherwise probably forget.

An example: I got my first COVID shot, and learned that not all places are created equal. Pharmacies do shots, but they are kind of hit and miss. Hospitals do shots, but the system really mostly works for healthcare workers. Schools do shots, but they are busy getting the teachers handled. As an average mortal, right now right here, in Central Illinois your best bet is to contact the Sangamon County Health Department/National Guard mass vaccination site in Springfield. Every Illinoisan is eligible if your group has been approved. Do not trust anything you read online, the only thing that matters is what the governor says. Their phone number is 217 210 8801. You

might get in really quickly if you call towards the end of their working hours at 4:30 pm, say around 4 pm. That's when they know their cancellations. The site is on the State Fairgrounds, so easily accessible, and nobody can do logistics like the military.

Why is this a high priority for me? I want to see my church on the safe side of COVID as soon as possible, so we can start doing church the way we are used to.

Another rule of prioritizing I have discovered is: 2. Do I actually have to do that myself? My wife and I do not see eye to eye on this: according to her, just about every job should be given to professionals who know what they are doing. I, on the other hand, am cheap, and if I can do it myself I will. As I get older, however, I realize that climbing on roofs and trees is not quite what it used to be, and there seems to be less and less space under the sinks. Still, home improvement jobs are kind of a hobby for me, and in a profession where results usually only become visible in the long run, it is a nice change of pace to fix a toilet, and have the immediate reward of seeing it flush. (Or not, but that is a different story.)

Rule number 3, and really the absolute hinge pin to prioritizing is always the question: How urgent is it? I wish I could help with that evaluation, but it is incredibly subjective. Everybody has their own criteria. Again, my wife and I have very different views on urgency. For her clear counter tops and tables are a high priority, for me not. I on the other hand hate it when outlets don't work, and she plugs her stuff just into another receptacle.

When it comes to church, everybody usually agrees that either Jesus or His teaching on love are the number one priority. In real life, however, I have learned that nothing is worse for faith than busy schedules. For in reality, Jesus may be our number one moral priority, meaning it is what we claim as our priority. But the practical priorities are usually job/school, health, family, and the one we all love to disclaim: money.

So, I propose a fourth rule for prioritizing: What does it do for the well being of the soul? Particularly in a time of stress and anxiety it is important to find tranquility, or even to have true spiritual experiences. It is my prayer that we can find places to grow our souls, that we can find moments where the presence of Jesus becomes reality, that we together come up with ways to actually touch heaven. Look for Jesus, friends. You might be surprised what you will find!

Be safe, be healthy, and God bless
Pastor Hans

MU FOOD PANTRY

The Mission Committee voted to resume collecting food items for the Millikin Food Pantry. A list of items is below. All food items can be brought to the Church on Sunday mornings and placed in the basket in the Narthex.

BIG BLUE FOOD PANTRY LIST

- Breakfast: Life Cereal, Frosted Flakes, Cheerios, Pop Tarts, Oatmeal

- Snacks: Peanut Butter/Cheese crackers, Jello cups, Pudding cups, Protein bars, Fritos, Cheez-its, Rice Krispie Treats, Wheat thins, Popcorn, Ritz Crackers, Chex Mix, Fruit snacks
- Lunch/Dinner: Tuna, Ravioli, Chicken noodle soup, Tomato Soup, Pasta/pasta sauce, Vegetable Soup, Chili w/beans, Chili w/o beans, Peanut Butter, Jelly – grape, strawberry, Hamburger helper, Can spaghetti, Pork & Beans, Baked beans, Beef Stew, Ramen-chicken, beef
- Canned fruit: peaches, mixed fruit, fruit cocktail, applesauce
- Canned vegetables: Corn, Green Beans
- Condiments: Mayo, Ketchup, Mustard, Ranch Dressing, French Dressing
- Beverages: Hot chocolate, Keurig coffee, Lemonade

ON THE CALENDAR

- 3/3 Faith Study 3:30pm
- 3/3 LOGOS 4:30pm
- 3/3 Choir Practice 7:15pm
- 3/5 Women's If:Gathering 5:30pm
- 3/6 Women's If:Gathering 8:00am
- 3/7 Communion Sunday
- 3/7 Youth Group 6:30pm
- 3/8 Christian Education Committee 7:00pm