

WPC NEWSLETTER – WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2021

SUNDAY, APRIL 25

Scripture: John 10:11-18

Dr. Tim Kovalcik

#### WOMEN'S IF:GATHERING VIDEO SERIES

The next video that we will watch from our If:Gathering will be “Even If” by Bianca Olthoff. Bianca gives a powerful talk based on Daniel 3. **YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS ONE!!** There is so much good teaching in this 22 minute talk. Seriously – this is a good one. I hope you will join me in the Parlor on Sunday, April 25 at 11:00am.

#### RISE & SHINE

It's important for us to attract and hold the attention of those who tune in for our Facebook Live worship broadcast to get our Gospel message out in the community and grow Westminster Presbyterian Church in Decatur. Upgrading our technology is critical to succeeding in this mission. We are in the process of acquiring and installing new audio and video equipment to enhance both our online worship and our in-person worship. We have already spent or committed about \$15,000 to this project, and the total cost may approach \$25,000. This is in addition to our approved budget. Please consider donating extra to support this effort if you're able. Just designate your extra donations to “Rise & Shine.”

#### FAITH STUDY

Everyone is invited to join Pastor Hans for his weekly Faith Study. You can join him on Sunday mornings at 9:00 either in the Parlor or by zoom. Or you can join him on Wednesdays at 3:30pm in the Parlor.

#### HAVE YOU HEARD??

Our Vacation Bible School is scheduled for Sunday, July 11 through Thursday, July 15 from 6:00 to 8:30pm. All children ages three years old through completed fifth grade are invited to participate in this fun week. Everyone else is invited to help make this week a spirit filled fun experience for all! Our theme this year is “Treasured: Discovering You're Priceless to God”.

#### ANNUAL MEETING

We will have our annual meeting on Sunday, May 2 following the Worship service. In addition to the annual reports, we will be approving the slate of nominees for our Pastoral Search Committee.

4/29 Reagan Van Hook

#### ON THE CALENDAR

4/22 Session Meeting 6:30pm

4/25 Faith Study 9:00am

4/25 Women's Watch party 11:00am

4/25 Jr. High and Sr. High Youth 6:30-m

4/27 Mission Committee 7:00pm  
4/28 Faith Study 3:30pm  
4/28 LOGOS 4:30pm

#### MESSAGE FROM PASTOR HANS

Dear Friends,

We all have been dealing with the joys and woes of modern technology beyond the usual share during the last year. Kickingly and screamingly 20th century folks and 19th century churches have entered the 21st century. A year ago for most of us skype and facebook were the peaks of personal electronic accomplishment, and look at us now: zoom meetings everywhere, and churches live streaming on Sunday. I bet a fiver, a year ago nobody even knew what live streaming actually meant. There is a saying, where there is much light there is also much shadow. Usually this is attributed to the german scholar poet Goethe though I find on the internet, another marvel of the electronic age, the saying is also claimed by a contemporary asian, Haruki Murakami. I reckon he has not read Goethe. Or so I hope.

I personally dealt with the dark side of the electronic age when my workhorse laptop started stuttering and spitting, so to say, smoke clouds. My productivity dropped by 90 %, and if I ever had any doubts, yes, I do just about everything on my PC, working, shopping, socializing, playing, and even watching some TV. I updated a part, but that bought me only 1 week. I ordered a new computer, but the promises given to me by Dell were not quite truthful. With 2nd day FEDEX I thought I will have the new machine before the week was over. The little detail that the good people of Dell did not tell me, was that the laptop was shipped from China, and the 2nd day FEDEX was only counted from the moment it arrived at a shipping center in the US. So instead of 3 days it took 3 weeks to get here. Oops! With all this I have to count myself lucky yet. On Saturday I transferred all my files from my old machine to my new one. Yesterday night I woke up when my old computer started tooting loudly to tell me that my hard drive had died. Talking about smoldering ruins ...

The truth remains, a church of the 21st century had better embrace the technology of the 21st century if it wants to become eventually a church of the 22nd century. Up to now, too many parts of the body of Christ have relied solely on medieval hi tech: printed books, organs, and speechifying. If we want to reach out to the children of tomorrow we need to learn their language, their ways of communicating. Our church is upgrading technology, but we also need to upgrade how we deliver the contents, send the word of God into the modern world with modern know how.

Does this mean we need to rewrite the contents of our message? By no means, the word of God, the teaching of Jesus Christ is an eternal truth. And from this teaching comes the great warning which we need to pass on to the people of the future: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:21)

Yes, technology has its benefits, but never should we allow machines to become our purpose. Remember, we are called to love our neighbor. A person. Persons. Not things.

We need to teach our children the primacy of human interaction, that no screen ever will be able to substitute for real people. That whatever a machine may know, the human experience always needs to be the most relevant in the end.

So what is our treasure in the end? I love my new computer, but not like this. Truly, I love God, and I love my family, and I love the people around me. This is where my heart is, and this is the only treasure I really need.

Remember, I am pulling for you, and we are all in this together. God bless.

Pastor Hans