

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER – WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2021

SUNDAY, MAY 23

We hope everyone will join us for this special Sunday. Following the Worship service, we will have a celebration to thank Tim for his ministry with us over the past nine years. The weather forecast indicates that we will be able to hold our celebration outside. You are encouraged to bring a card, or write a prayer or memory that you would like to share with Tim.

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.

RUMMAGE SALE

The rummage sale is coming. Plans are underway for the rummage sale to be held Friday, August 20 from 8-2 and Saturday, August 21 from 8- noon. More details will be coming, later, but put the date on your calendar

If you have been home cleaning during this year of the virus and have boxes of items for the rummage sale, you may begin to bring them now. Call the office 217-428-6603 before you come to make sure someone is at the church. Since we already have many items, it would be helpful if you could bring some of the items in a box. No adult clothing or electronics will be accepted.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

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”.

It’s not too early to register or to be praying about how you will be involved!!!

Registration is easy – just go to our website:wpcdecatur.org. Click on “Kids & Youth Ministries, then click on “Vacation Bible School” and fill out the registration form. ALL participants are required to pre-register this year. We will not have walk in registrations.

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE (PNC)

Our PNC will meet this week. This group will be responsible for calling our next full time Pastor. While they are doing their work – we ALL have work to do too. And that is to PRAY!. Pray for our PNC members, pray that they hear the Holy Spirit in all they do, pray for what God is calling us to do in our community to further His Kingdom. We encourage you to add this to your daily prayer list.

I’ve had a few questions lately about us looking for a Pastor, so I want to clarify a few things. First, we will not have two Pastors which leads to the second question that has

come up. Pastor Hans is our Interim Pastor. He will be with us until the PNC finds our next full time Presbyterian ordained Pastor. If you have any other questions please don't hesitate to ask.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has resumed their knitting/crocheting gatherings. You are invited to join them on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. The group meets at 10:00 in the Parlor. This group is for anyone of all levels of knitting or crocheting. All finished shawls are given to members who have been hospitalized, are ill, or are in need of comfort.

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR HANS

Dear Friends,

As I have been busy visiting and getting to know my flock, I have thought a lot about the nature of leadership in a church. And I realize that there are many misconceptions regarding the nature of Christian ministry, ministers, and presbyterian ministers in particular. So lets get to work with that:

I believe the foundational rule of all Christian ministry is that we are all monarchists; there is only one leader and one ruler -- Jesus Christ. We call everybody to follow Jesus, and if anybody follows somebody else, well, then they are something else, but not Christians.

Theoretically this is all I ought to have to say, but it is not. When it comes to ministry I believe that everything that is done in the name of Christ, and to further the building of the Kingdom of God on earth is ministry. So, yes, Tim and I are ministers in our preaching and teaching. But if you are a school teacher and you do your job in the way of Jesus Christ you are a minister, too. If you are a homemaker and do it following the Spirit of God you are a minister just as well. Same applies to physicians, electricians, plumbers, jet pilots, you name it. Ministry is not inherently rooted in the ability of standing up in front of a crowd, and then talk for 20 minutes about something more or less related to the Bible, but in doing whatever we do in the Spirit of Christ.

This understanding is more important in the presbyterian church than in any other Christian denomination. In our tradition, everybody is an equal holder of the franchise. Everybody is equally responsible for the ministry of the church. Remember, modern democracy was created in our image! I suspect that the responsibility part is often ignored in both cases. In truth, if you are a Christian and you can talk you can testify. And there is no greater fallacy than to ascribe to the minister all responsibility for evangelism, or, vice versa, to make a particular minister the sole reason of your faith. It's great to like a minister personally, but if you make a particular minister the sole reason for your faith you are not a Christian, but a Timite or a Hansite. If you do not believe me just read Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

By turning Christian ministry into a popularity contest you do not do anybody a favor. For us ministers, it is a sign of failure, for the church as a whole usually the source of conflict and fracture, and for the individual believer a sure road to disappointment and heartache.

Dear Friends, we need to cling to Christ for He is our only hope, His faith our only path to salvation. But then ... we are fallible. One more reason to stick to Christ and His forgiveness, who would have thunk?

Remember, I am pulling for you, more importantly, Christ is pulling for you, so keep your hopes up. God bless you all.

Pastor Hans

ON THE CALENDAR

5/23 Faith Study 9:00am

5/23 Tim's Celebration 11:00am

5/23 Jr. High and Sr. High 5:30 – 7:30pm

5/25 Mission Committee

5/27 Session Meeting 6:30pm