

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2021

SUNDAY, JUNE 13

Scripture: Mark 4:26-29

Sermon: “The Power of the Powerless

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

With more activities happening there are opportunities each week for you to be involved in the life of the Church and in our community. Each week I will post a list of needs. Please prayerfully consider how you can share in the ministry of WPC.

Below are two “in-house” areas that you can be a part of. I’m working on getting another work time scheduled for the new God’s Shelter of Love thrift shop. Please watch your inbox for an opportunity to help them next week.

Fellowship: we are starting to have Fellowship events which means help is needed in that area.

1. Serve on the Fellowship Committee to plan different events
2. Help set up, serve, and clean up on Sunday mornings for our Fellowship Time. You can volunteer to help one time, weekly, monthly, etc. Whatever works for you.

Vacation Bible School: Our VBS is only one month away!

1. Painting the main set for the sanctuary. Everything will be ready to paint starting the week of the 13th. It’s a lot of faux painting so detail painting skills are not needed. You name the day and time and we will paint!
2. Volunteer to help the week of VBS (Sun, July 11 – Thurs. July 15, 6:00-8:00pm). A sign up sheet can be found in the Narthex. Or call or text me at 217-972-7093 for more information. We need volunteers for Crew Leaders, Station Leaders, help setting up the week of VBS, and volunteer meals.
3. Parents please pre-register you children.
4. Pray for our VBS program!

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.

MISSION COLLECTION

The Mission Committee will begin collecting items for God's Shelter of Love. Below is a list of items that can be brought in and put in the Narthex. We will have a collection basket for items.

Cat food

Body wash, lotion

Shampoo/Conditioner

All cleaning products: rags, bleach, wipes, brooms, dustpans, mops, toilet brush, small trashcans, garbage bags, dish soap, sponges

Small appliances: crock pots, coffee pots, toasters, vacuum cleaners, TV's (24-32in.)

Silverware

Baking pans

All paper products

Towels, wash cloths

ON THE CALENDAR

6/10 Prayer Shawl Ministry 10:00am

6/10 Worship Music Meeting 5:30pm

6/10 PNC Meeting 7:00pm

6/13 Fellowship Time 11:00am

6/13 Deacons Meeting 11:00am

6/14 Christian Education Committee 7:00pm

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: We are having our annual Community Family Fest on Sunday, September 12 from 5:00 to 7:00pm. More info to come.

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR HANS

Dear Friends,

Did you know that 10% of all drivers are responsible for the constant oscillations of the gas prices? These are the folks who will drive an extra 5 miles to shave off a penny per gallon of gasoline. The real cheapskates. Like me. Were it not for this obsessed minority we would be paying \$10 per gallon by now. This unappreciated - and I often feel, unrepresented - minority keeps our free market economy real. Such as it is. I do not know which cloud the folks live on who say there is no inflation. The days when I could have a decent lunch in a diner with a drink, and leave a tip, all for under \$10, are quickly disappearing in the rear view mirror. In the immortal words of Yogi Berra: a Dollar ain't worth a dime anymore. In this day and age, one has to be quick and constantly on the lookout to make it.

Let's take Sam's Club for instance. I just rejoined Sam's after a 25 year hiatus because their gas, for reasons absolutely unbeknownst to me, is suddenly the cheapest in a 5 county area. I got a coupon where I could join for free, so here I went. It was fascinating to revisit Sam's after a 25 year interruption. It used to be, if you were willing - and had the storage space - to live with a 10 year supply of something, say, paper towels or frozen chicken breasts, Sam's had good deals. No generics, and a reasonable selection and variety of stuff.

So I reentered Sam's. People who go to Sam's think they are smart, and good with their money. As I walked the aisles, I saw their fallacy. Sam's used to be really good about canned stuff. Well, they aren't anymore. Sam's used to be really good about basic car stuff. Well, they aren't anymore. Sam's used to have a decent selection of fresh stuff. Well, they don't anymore. And finally, Sam's used to be cheap by the ounce. Well, in many cases ... they aren't anymore. The first thing one sees coming into the store is 5 aisles of consumer electronics, and my son, the IT guy, got really excited about a new venue to get stuff. With the conclusion, it's not up to date anymore, and what they offer is not that cheap. When it came to groceries, yeah, junk food always was the first thing you saw. But now junk food gets half the floor space of all groceries. 5 aisles of foods that your mommy would not have wanted you to eat before a meal. Oh, how the mighty have fallen. Or, may be, I should say, how the mighty don't give a hoot anymore. Because people still come.

I try to think of myself as a smart guy. My 3 masters say, may be, I am not, but I am definitely curious. In this day and age, whenever I look for something, I first look on the internet. I fight off inflation, and make my dollar stretch till it groans, by shopping pretty much worldwide. It is the new reality, and because the smart guys make uberloads of money, I do not think it will go away. It is the internet, among other things, that exploded China to be the #2 economy in the world.

What does this mean for the church, for the faith of Jesus Christ? First, as Sam's has a faithful core group of clients that will do business there no matter what, so does the church have at its heart disciples who will be there no matter what. Guys, we love you and treasure you beyond all measure. Talking about salt of the earth. The tomorrow, however, belongs to those who like to worship in their bathrobe, with a cup of coffee in their hand, and the assurance, not of the salvation of Jesus Christ, but the fridge in the next room, if suddenly a snack attack should hit. COVID has set an alarm clock for the church of Jesus Christ: 12th century hi tech, meaning organ and pulpit, is not enough in the 21st century. The internet enables us to send our message into the most remote corners of the world. With the right worship service on face book, our humble Westminster Presbyterian Church of Decatur, Illinois, might reach the good people of Ulan Bator, Mongolia. Suddenly, grandkids and great-grandkids all across the nation might join papaw and nona during worship - provided we worship in a way that offers them spiritual food.

It always mattered how we worship. Now it matters more than ever before how we worship. Is our faith contagious? Is our worship calling out to the folks out there? Is the Spirit of the Living God through us, through our worship making disciples of all nations? Ask yourself these questions, and if any of the answers is no, start thinking how we can turn them all to strong affirming yesses. Indeed, the Lord is God, yesterday, today, and always. Let's make sure our part of the highway to heaven is not a cow path but a six-lane interstate.

Remember, I am pulling for you, and any way I can think of I will drag you towards the salvation of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Hans