

“Glad Tidings”

“For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. ~ Colossians 1: 19-20

Pastor’s Message

Rethinking The Sabbath

During my continuing education event this year, I learned something extremely interesting: Sunday is technically not the Christian Sabbath.

“What? You cannot be serious Pastor Jira.”

Well, I am serious, and it has gotten me to thinking about what Sunday can be all about. But, before we get to that, let me explain about the Sabbath.

The first thing that you must understand is that the Jewish day begins and ends at sundown. Why is this? The first day of God’s creation started with darkness and ended in the creation of light. “Then evening came into being and morning came into being: day one” (Gen. 1:5b). For Jews, as soon as the sun goes down, the next day begins. Therefore, the last day of the week begins on Friday evening and ends on Saturday evening. This is the Sabbath day: Friday evening until Saturday evening. Look at the calendar hanging on your wall right now, and it will show that Sunday is the first day of the week (assuming it is not a work calendar).

Early Christians celebrated the Sabbath the way that they were taught to as children in Jewish families. They rested and heard God’s word in the Synagogue on the Sabbath (Friday evening until Saturday at sundown), and then gathered in homes with other

Christians on Saturday night (which is technically Sunday – the first day of the week) in order to break bread together on the day of Jesus’ resurrection.

What does this all mean? Well, it means that Friday night into Saturday is the day of rest, and Sunday (the day of the Lord) is the first day of the week. For early Christians, Sunday was not a day of rest, rather it was the day of the Lord. On the day of the Lord, they would do the works of the Lord; bringing bread to the hungry and the widows.

All of this ancient study has gotten me thinking creatively and excitedly. Our culture, in general, still holds Friday evening through Saturday as a day of rest – or housecleaning depending on your family. This is good, because Christians still have the opportunity in our culture to revive an ancient practice that is quite faithful. We can still rest on the Sabbath. Then, on Sunday afternoon, after we have been sent out by the pastor in peace to live a life in Christ, we can actually go out into our neighborhoods, communities, and families to do the works of God. We can remember the poor, care for the widow, visit the lonely, and raise up those who have fallen. In other words, we can live the “day of the Lord” as the Lord lived! I don’t know about you, but with a youth culture so interested in serving, this seems like a great idea.

The Question Box

(Questions About Our Christian Life)

“I would love to Remember the Sabbath Day, but I have to work. Is this wrong?”

Let’s face it, the old days of the blue laws that preserved a day of the week for the Sabbath are long gone. Global economic realities and the existence of a more diverse American culture will never allow such a thing to return. Please, do not feel bad if forced to work (either out of employer mandate or economic necessity). The commandments were a gift given to the entire culture to make certain that everyone religious or not got rest. I do encourage you to rest at least one day a week, it is a gift of God, and if the church can help your spiritual life in any way on other days of the week, please let us know how we might be able to do that. – Pastor Jira

Sewing Society

We had a great day and a wonderful crowd for our Tuesday dinner. We served 90 patrons. We wish Phyllis Mulcahy a speedy recovery from her recent surgery and hope to see you back soon. We miss you. Thanks to all who sent food and to all who came to help. Guys, you did another great job. Thanks. We couldn't do our dinners without you. Enjoy this great weather and hope to see you in June when we will be serving roast pork and dressing.

Whenever we do something kind for someone, we also do it for Christ.

North Rome Christian School Annual Benefit

The North Rome Christian School will hold its 13th Annual Benefit Auction on Saturday, June 7th beginning at 10:00 am at the Williams Fire-Star Building in Wysox (across from the church). They will also hold a huge yard sale from 7am to 2pm. Four Silent Auctions will be held throughout the day. There will also be children's activities and a concession stand and bake sale.

June Mission Project

The mission project for June will benefit the Bradford County Humane Society. Please put your donations of cat/dog food, cat litter, etc....in the shopping basket in the rear vestibule.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be held July 27th –31, 2014. Plan on joining us for a Wilderness Escape with Moses as we learn to trust God in everything we do! More information will be available as we get closer to the dates, but before your calendar gets too full this summer, plan on joining us this week for some great fun and bible teaching! For any questions, contact Rick Schmieg at 607-398-4557.

Camp Lackawanna

Registration forms for Camp Lackawanna are now available in the front and rear vestibules. Camp Lackawanna is June 15th thru August 9th. A list of the 2014 summer program can be found on the bulletin board in the rear vestibule. For more information on the programs and pricing, visit www.presbycamplackawanna.org.

Summer Music

Summer is just around the corner and we will soon be scheduling for special music. If you or someone you know would like to share their gift of song, please contact Dody Savercool.

Prayer Circle

We are still studying Exodus. We have completed Chapters 14,15,16,17,18,and 19. We read of the crossing of the sea, how there was no water in the desert, and the people started complaining. Moses followed God's instructions and got water from the rock. Jethro, who was Moses father-in-law, visits and helps with the ruling of the people, setting up laws, and judges. They are at Mt. Sinai where Moses went up the mountain and God came to him in a cloud. We are reviewing the Commandments. Pastor Jira is so knowledgeable and able to enlighten our views. It is a shame that there are only four of us to enjoy this information.

We miss Betty and Marion. Every week Martha reminds us that Betty should be there to seal our card envelopes.

We invite all to join us. We meet every Wednesday morning at 9:30 in the conference room. We have prayer, Bible study and send many cards. We have received several replies from our card ministry.

We would like to remind you that we are planning our annual Prayer Circle Banquet. Save this date WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18TH AT NOON. We are going to be at the Towanda Gun Club and Martha Kress will be our entertainment. More details will be available later.

The following were remembered on our Prayer List April 16th thru May 21st Prayer Circle Listing

Angel List

Makayla Evans
Mason Barto
Ashley Weed
Marisa Ivey
Betty Miller
Nancy Irvine
Andrew Pardoe
Deb Mathers
Shawn Mastrantonio
Abbriella Brown
Caiden Irvine
Carolyn Russell

Current List

Whitney Rockwell
Marion Lent
Gladys Derr
Jim Allen
Tom Jennings
Cynthia Sims
Rowena McCarthy
Wilbur Beers
Diane Place
Richard Hollenback
Our Nation
Michelle Lamphere

Shirley Strohl
Barb Bailey
Emily Woodcock
Robert Perry
Rev. Dwight Albers
Evelyn Wilson
Tom Neilson
Drew Faulkerson
Families of Flight 370
Prudence Wilson
Tornado Victims
Ruth Johnson

Brennan & Braydon Irvine
Nicole Pugh
Phyllis Mulcahy
James Walsh Family
Bonnie Chilson
Shelby Bruce
Fred Gerrity Family
Paul Young
Richard Rowlands

-
- ◆ Elders for the month of June are Deb King and Vaughn Hollenback
 - ◆ Pastor Jira will be out of the pulpit on June 15th, Father's Day. Dave Rowlands will be pulpit supply and The Joyful Sound Trio will provide the special music.
 - ◆ Dorothy Schmieg's memorial service will be held on June 21st at 10:30 a.m.

A Little History on the “Wysox Sewing Society”

The following history was taken from Sesquicentennial Church Bulletin On October 29, 1978.

~Submitted by Sandra Hollenback

The Wysox Sewing Society is 100 years old. The Sewing Society, one of the oldest organization in the area, is observing its 100th anniversary (1978).

The Society was organized July 16, 1878 at the home of J.E. Piollet with 10 ladies present.

The object of the society was to “promote the social welfare of the Wysox Presbyterian Church; to aid in the church work in any direction it may see fit; and do any benevolent work the members may decide upon.

The meetings were held in member’s home every other Tuesday. Supper was served and visitors often came and contributed to the collection of dues.

Through the years, the society, at times, has had to struggle to remain alive and functioning, due to deaths and the moving of many members from the community. However, the memory of those 10 women and the heritage they left has always been an incentive for the group to continue.

Today the Wysox Sewing Society is a group of strong dedicated women determined to keep alive the old traditions and objectives of the original charter. They contribute yearly to the minister’s salary, (considerably more than in the old days); pay the organist’s salary, and contribute to many more areas of the church, both financially and spiritually.

