

Journey with us, destination greatness!



Pastor's Message

Have you ever really considered what the purpose of the church and of individual disciples is? Well, that has recently been the focus God has been giving me. And, fortunately, it's not overly complicated. I and we have a tendency to make it more complicated than it really is.

Jesus left some very clear direction, and each of the four gospels records that direction for His disciples in just slightly different ways. Matthew is the most often quoted which says "...go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matt. 28:19) Mark says "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." (Mark 16:15) Luke waits until the second part of his gospel "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8) And finally John states it through the conversation he had with Peter "Feed my lambs. Take care of my sheep. Feed my sheep." (John 21:15, 16, 17)

Very shortly after I came to Christ I lived in Estes Park, Colorado. I lived about 9 miles south of town. And so

twice a week I'd ride my bicycle into town and meet up with a couple of other guys. We'd meet at the AA hall and we did a few book / bible studies together. We also drank a lot of coffee. I learned early on that God's primary admonition to me and to all of his disciples was to make disciples. I barely knew what being a disciple meant. But I knew that I was to pass onto others whatever God was teaching me. And that is what I did. And that is what I still do.

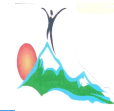
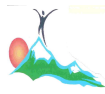
Sometimes we wonder what we're supposed to do. Well, if you're in God's Word (the bible), and you're in prayer, then God is fully capable of guiding us. We only need to learn to trust His voice and to obey what He says. It's as simple as that and it's equally as difficult as that.

What it is God instructs his disciples and his church to do is simple. But the difficulty lies right between our ears. We complicate it and we feel ourselves to be unqualified or to not have enough training. But the truth of the matter is this. If we will just take a step of faith and begin in the simple process of going and making disciples, receiving the power of the Holy Spirit and being a witness and feeding the lambs, we will be in full obedience to God's purpose for our life and for the church. It's as simple and as difficult as that.

There is one thing we must do in order to obey this command of God to make disciples. We must name certain people who God is leading us to work with. That can be the scariest part of all. But that is the most necessary part. Otherwise you and I will never know that we're making a disciple of anyone.

Let me lay out a simple challenge for you. Begin in the process of prayer, to ask God to lead you to those people who He would have you begin to disciple. It might be somebody who lives next door. Or it could be someone who lives on the other side of the planet. Wherever and whoever these individuals are, it must be intentional. You are going to become a disciple maker.

Obviously, those who God would lead you to become a disciple maker of, must be a student. They must be a



learner. They have to have a hunger and a thirst to follow Jesus. But they don't have to be a certain age.

Let me leave this right here for now. Begin the process by praying. And, of course, the whole process will be soaked in your prayers. Ask God to help you overcome your fears and insecurities. And ask God to lead you to whomever He has in mind for you to become a disciple maker of. Remember, share the things that God is teaching you. Also, remember that it is through prayer and the Word that you will gain all you need to accomplish His will for your life.

Your friend in Christ Pastor Vern

*With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.
Isaiah 12:3*

Administrative Board

The administrative board met on April 8th. The balance of the General Fund as of 3/31 was \$39,591.25. There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday April 21 and the Church service will be held at 10 AM. We are still receiving estimates for the repairs needed on the Parish House. Once all the estimates have been obtained they will be presented to the congregation. The furnace at the church hasn't been working properly so a call will be made to have it looked at. The board is considering updating the website in order to reach a larger audience. Vacation Bible School has been scheduled for the week of July 22nd and the theme this year is Time Lab. The Church will be supporting VBS with a donation of \$300 and volunteers are helping in the planning. The town's sidewalk sale is scheduled for July 6th and we are planning on opening the Church's doors for everyone to view the renovations and the cross.

Submitted by Janet Furlough

National Day of Prayer



Christian Education

Linda and I would like to thank you for your continued support of the Christian Ed program. Your donations of candy and money was much appreciated for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. We had 26 kids attend with parents, grandparents and friends. We read the book "The Very Best Morning" and made a Resurrection Garden. All the kids were able to decorate a cross and each family was able to make and take home their own little garden. Thank you Pastor Vern, Roxanne and Izzy for helping hide the eggs at the Church. It was nice to show off our beautiful new cross to all who attended.

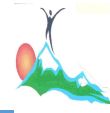
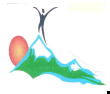
Linda's Sunday school class is learning the basics of the Bible, the books and authors. Pray her kids continue to be excited. The PK thru 6th grade continues learning Bible lessons with games and experiments.

Pray for more kids to join us!!

Happy Spring! Maurine

Fund Drive for Notre Dame

There is a fund drive being collected from the entire larger DeRuyter community to rebuild Notre Dame. A token from a small rural community to help rebuild one of the world's iconic landmarks. Memorial Day will be the final collection date. There will be collection jars around the town.



Women's Fellowship

May 18th at 10 AM there will be a Women's Fellowship meeting. We are holding a special meeting to plan for a summer picnic. We invite everyone to come and help in the planning. The date would be June 8th for a mid-day meal of pulled pork. This will take place of the Harvest Dinner. See you there to help us plan the dinner.

Volunteers from the Women's Fellowship group delivered Easter plants and they were greatly appreciated.



Decision America

Bring your family and friends to an exciting free event featuring live music by Crowder and a message of hope from Franklin Graham. On May 30th Franklin Graham comes to the Lakeview Amphitheater for the Decision America the Northeast tour. Hear the message of hope and afterwards stay for the fireworks!



Birthdays

- May 1~~Kathy Wood
- May 7~~Jim Laris
- *May 8~~John & Sue Young
- May 9~~Amber Gast
- May 9~~Fran Selover
- *May 9~~Jim & Rosalie Laris
- May 11~~ Debbie Foster
- May 16~Susan Katherine Benedict
- May 16~~Harold Wood
- May 18~~Roxanne Groves
- May 18~~ Colleen Ladd
- May 18 ~~Chrissy Ladd
- May 18~~Austin Baker
- *May 24~~Rick & Betsy Chiesa
- May 25~Mary P Fox
- *May 25~~Andy & Carol Clendenning
- May 25~~Jane Paddock
- *May 28~~Mike & Janet Furlough
- May 28~~Calvin Wood
- May 31~~Glenice C. Burdick
- May 31~~Bonnie Young

Calendar of Events

Each Sun @ 9:30 Sunday School classes-young meet at Parish House and adults at the church

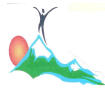
Each Sun @ 11am-Worship Service

Each Tues. @ 8:30 am- Prayer in Pastor Vern's office (all welcome to join)

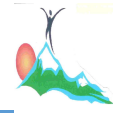
Each Wed. @ 6:30 pm -Prayer @ Ginny Moore's home (all welcome to join)

Sat May 11th - Men's group meets @ 8 am.

Sat May 25th - Men's group meets @ 8 am.



United Church of DeRuyter Newsletter~ May 2019



May 2- National Day of Prayer

May 4-2 pm, Lois Damon's Memorial Service @ PH

May 5- VBS meeting 1:00 PM at Cuyler Church

May 6- Administrative Bd Meeting at 7PM

May 7- Final After School program meets @ PH

May 9- Spiritual Board Meeting at 7PM

May 11- Women's Gathering cancelled

May 12- Mother's Day

May 18- Women's Fellowship Planning

May 19- Christian Motorcyclist Association – Bob Sweet bringing the morning message

May 19 –1 PM Blessing of the Bikes in front of Quincy's

May 27- Memorial Day & Parade

May 30-7:30 PM Lakeview Amphitheater Franklin Graham Decision America

This is a busy month, please be in prayer for the Spirit of God to have free access to influence hearts & minds.

Pastoral Protocol:

Whenever I am called to do a funeral or am notified of someone's death, I always wait until I talk to the family before I post things on the Prayer Chain or notify the bereavement committee. The reason for this is out of respect for the family and for the deceased. I do not want information or false information to float around the community before it has been fully disclosed by the family of the deceased. So this is my policy for me personally and for the Church as a whole. So, please

consider this and know this is done to avoid confusion and embarrassment for anyone and everyone.

Thanks and God bless. Pastor Vern

