

Jeff's Jottings

Thank You ...

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If the only prayer you say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough.
Meister Eckhardt

I don't know that I exactly believe these oft-quoted words of Meister Eckhart, the 14th century German philosopher, theologian, and mystic. "Only?"

Beyond this miniscule quibble with semantics, Eckhart's encouragement has been on my mind lately. And in this last EMerge of the summer, his advice seems entirely appropriate.

Thank you.

Thank you: to the members of the PTCA, for your faithful service in ministry. Honorably retired, called and installed, at-large, validated: what you are doing in and for our communities of faith, and in and for the wider communities in which we live and work, is noticed, is appreciated, and is making a difference.

Thank you: to congregations and sessions, for your faithful stewardship of the ministries and buildings and funds that God has entrusted to you. To see how much is being done, sometimes with limited resources, is inspirational.

Thank you: to all of you for the work you are doing beyond your own congregations, in the communities to which God has called you. Last Friday I was at a meeting of immigrant resettlement agencies and representatives of our legislative and political leaders. People thanked me for the involvement of Presbyterians in direct support of and wider advocacy for immigrants in our state.

Thank you for your support of the Presbytery and its work. Your faithfulness in your offering of per capita and mission dollars, and in your personal participation in the wider work of the church, is so appreciated. “We” are the presbytery. This work is your work, and as in other places, you are present and faithful.

I watch what you all are doing in ministry, and know from that of the need for me to continue to step up in my work as your presbytery leader. In that, your advice, guidance, and wisdom is essential. What do I need to know to help me better do our common and committed work, of supporting congregations and equipping leaders? I may not know unless to you tell me.

As summer winds to a close, my thoughts are Eckhart-simple: Thank you. Thank you for the faithful witness that is the congregations and leaders of the PTCA.