

THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church
A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

April 2017

Vol. 78, No.4

Pastor's Page

Live The Life Of Christ

"Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh." Romans 13:14

"Rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death — even death on a cross!" Philippians 2:7-8



There were two brothers who lost their parents in a tragic car accident. Older brother, Theo (not real name), was 13 years old and younger one was 9. They had to go through a tough life. They were so scared, frustrated, and kind of angry at God and the world. They only had each other. They were exhausted from the burdens the world gave them.

Years later, Theo was invited to a church by one of his friends. At first, it did not seem right, because he was mad at God who took his parents from him. However, with the help from his friend and church members, he was finally able to get to faith. He felt a lot of love from people in the church and of course God. He became a totally different person. The situation had never changed, but he could manage his life. He could move on. Actually his heart was always full of joy.

On the contrary, his younger brother went the opposite way. He was still angry at God. He made friends with some wild kids, local gangs. Soon he left school and lived on the street with his friends. Sometimes he got involved in some violent crimes. So Theo often had to bail out his brother from a prison.

These brothers had lived their lives in different ways. One day, Theo was preparing a dinner for his brother and himself. Then he heard some loud noise from outside of the house. He heard some people screaming from far. They seemed to chase someone. Suddenly his brother rushed into the house. He was out of breath and sobbed a little bit. His face was covered with sweat. Theo was freaked out and held his younger brother's arms by both hands. He asked his brother what it was going on. But his younger brother did not answer. He shivered and seemed to be scared. His eyes were looking at nothing. Then Theo realized that his brother's clothes were covered with blood. He could hear from the TV that there was a murder and a suspect was on a run.

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CHURCH SERVICES

8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion

10 a.m. Sanctuary Service

10 a.m. Church School

11 a.m. Fellowship

He quickly got a hunch it was him and he started to take off his brother's clothes. He told his brother to hide in a closet. His brother seemed to have a loose screw. Theo pushed him into a closet. Then he took off his clothes and began to put his brother's blood stained clothes on himself. He threw away his own clothes into a garbage can. Right at that moment, policemen and detectives ran into the house and arrested him, because he wore his brother's clothes. At the police station, he did not say anything except these words, "I did it." He kept saying I am the murderer. I did it. The court decreed the verdict as soon as possible because it was an extremely cruel and vicious murder. So people badly wanted justice to be done. Theo got sentenced to capital punishment. Yes, he died instead of his brother. He died his brother's death.

After a week, Theo's brother got out of the closet. He was so terrified and scared to death. So he could not get out of his house. He decided to stay at the house for a while. Sometime someone was at his door and knocked the door. But he did not answer it. It could be a police. He just stayed put. Later he learned his brother died for him. He ran to the prison and met the warden. He told the warden everything about what happened that day. But there was nothing he could do to change what happened. The warden gave him a little note. It must have been written by his brother. He cried and tried to read the note through his tears. It read like this,

"My dear brother,
I am dying wearing your clothes for you.
So put on my clothes and live like me.
I love you so much."

He cried for a while and came back home. He looked into his brother's closet and wore his brother's clothes. He began to follow his brother's life and follow in his footsteps. Old friends came to him and told him to come back to his old life style. Always, he told them the person who used to wear

these clothes had never done those things, had never talked like that, or went to those places.

This is what happened on the cross. Jesus clothed himself with our clothes and died as us and for us on the cross. When we approach Easter, we need to remember this. Our brother Jesus gave himself to the cross to pay the price we should have paid by ourselves. If we are to appreciate the joy of Easter, we need to go through the death of our brother, and listen to him.

“Clothe yourself with my clothes and live in the clothes.”

“Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ and live in Christ.”

Easter is not just a day of joy or celebration. It is a day to remind ourselves that we should live the resurrection and the life of Christ. I pray that you remind yourself of the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ and live out your faith and live like Jesus Christ so that you can get to the real joy of Easter.



In the clothes of Christ,
Pastor Kim

CELEBRATE EASTER AT PROSPECT UMC

- **Sunday, April 9** Palm Sunday 10 a.m. service with parade of banners and palms
- **Thursday, April 13** Maundy Thursday Service - 7 p.m.
- **Sunday, April 16** Easter Sunday - “People Near the Tomb” Children’s Easter Egg Hunt following services

■ The Role of the Cross

—*Elisabeth Elliot, A Path Through Suffering*

If the cross is the place where the worst thing that could happen happened, it is also the place where the best thing that could happen happened. Ultimate hatred and ultimate love met on those two crosspieces of wood. Suffering and love were brought into harmony. . . .



To be “saved” requires a severance from the former life as clean and sharp as though made by a knife. There must be a wall of separation between the old life and the new, a radical break. That means death — death to the old life, in order for the new to begin. . . . This wall of separation, this barrier, is the cross.

■ Lacquered with love

Japanese artisans practice a 500-year-old Japanese art called kintsugi, or “golden joinery,” to reassemble broken pieces of pottery using a lacquer mixed with gold, silver or platinum. The premise is that brokenness doesn’t render something useless or ugly. Indeed, another Japanese term, wabi-sabi, means “to find beauty in broken or old things.”

We come to Jesus broken, but he doesn’t discard us. He heals us, though our scars do often remain visible — just as the spear and nail prints remained in his own body when God raised him from death. The Holy Spirit coats our wounds and fractures with the lacquer of divine love, and we become uniquely beautiful, appealing to others so they can find support for their own healing. Our scars tell them they aren’t alone, while the brokenness that’s part of another’s faith journey assures us that we, too, have companionship along the way

History Corner

Easter Eggs Tied To Ancient Customs - Kathy Dube

Did you ever wonder how the Easter egg custom came to be? According to the on-line encyclopedia "Wikipedia," the oldest tradition used dyed and painted chicken or ostrich eggs. It wasn't until modern times that eggs with chocolate or other fillings were wrapped in colorful foil as a substitute.

"Eggs, in general, were a traditional symbol of fertility and rebirth. In Christianity, Easter eggs symbolize the empty tomb of Jesus, from which Jesus was resurrected. One ancient tradition stained Easter eggs red, in memory of the blood of Christ, shed as at that time of his crucifixion."

This custom of the Easter egg can be traced to early Christians of Mesopotamia, and from there it spread into Russia and Siberia through the Orthodox Churches, and later into and throughout Europe through both Catholic and Protestant churches. The Christian use of eggs may have been influenced by practices in the "pre-dynastic period in Egypt, as well as amid the early cultures of Mesopotamia and Crete.

"The practice of decorating eggshells as part of spring rituals is ancient, with decorated, engraved ostrich eggs found in Africa which are 60,000 years old. In the pre-dynastic period of Egypt and the early cultures of Mesopotamia and Crete, eggs were associated with death and rebirth, as well as with kingship. ...

"Decorated ostrich eggs, and representations of ostrich eggs in gold and silver, were commonly placed in graves of the ancient Sumerians and Egyptians as early as 5,000 years ago. These cultural relationships may have influenced early Christian and Islamic cultures in those areas, as well as through mercantile, religious, and political links from those areas around the Mediterranean."

So whether you like to eat Easter eggs or use decorated eggs at Easter time as a table decoration, take note this is an ancient custom that pre-dates our Christian culture.



Calling all Kids!

For Prospect United Methodist
Church's Easter Egg Hunt!

Easter Sunday

April 16, 2017

Outside on our church grounds

Following 10am Worship

Please bring your own basket.

We will have separate sections for
different ages.

■ Lenten Community Pilgrimage

"Thanks to everyone who joined in our Lenten Community Pilgrimage on Sunday, March 19th, after the 10 a.m. Worship Service," reports Christa Zaldivar, education superintendent.

"Just as Jesus walked, we walked down North Main Street in Bristol and along the way, stopped to recite brief prayers that expressed God's love for each person within the community. We handed out a few postcards with information about our Holy Week and Easter Services.



"In addition, we shared our delicious pretzels with the community! The Bristol Fire Fighters were our best 'customers,' where we were surprised to witness a slide down the fire pole!"

■ PUMC Book Club

The PUMC book recently met to talk about Daniel James Brown's *Boys in the Boat*. The book celebrates the 1936 U.S. men's Olympic eight-oar rowing team which consisted of nine working class boys who transformed the sport, and galvanized the attention of millions of Americans. They reminded the country of what can be done when everyone quite literally pulls together. And they provided hope that in the struggle that lay just ahead, the ruthless might of the Nazis would not prevail over American grit, determination, and optimism.

All who read it, agreed that it was an inspiring story. The next book club discussion will be on *Atlas Girl: Finding Home in the Last Place I Thought to Look* by Emily T. Wierenga. It is the story of a disillusioned pastor's daughter who searches the globe for God and finds him in the most unexpected place-back home. Stay tuned for the date and time. See Jeanette Baker if you have any questions.

■ Walk for Hunger

Battling hunger in any community requires a team effort. Many in our community struggle to put food on the table. On May 7, Foodshare will be hosting their 34th annual Walk for Hunger in Hartford. Please consider joining the PUMC team in this walk to raise awareness and funds for the fight against hunger. See Jeanette Baker for more information.



■ Relay For Life Event

Prospect United Church once again will participate in the Relay for Life. According to team captain Luisa Gladu, "We Relay to honor those in our lives who are survivors of cancer and we Relay in memory of those who lost their battle but are our inspiration. Please go onto www.relay.acevents.org where you can locate the PUMC team by zip code 06010 or team name, Prospect United Methodist Church and make a donation.

■ Tickets On Sale For Renaissance Dinners

Luisa Gladu - Chair, Middle Ages Group

The Renaissance Dinners return to Prospect's "Great Hall" on Saturday, April 29th, and Saturday, May 6th. The doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and dinner will be served starting at 6 p.m. The event is reserved seating only, so reserve your tickets now!

For those of you who have never attended, Luisa Gladu, who chairs the Middle Ages Group, explains, "It's a fun-filled evening with food, songs, dances, magic and perhaps some intrigue. Sessions Hall becomes a 16th Century Great Hall. Our reigning King opens the Great Hall to his loyal subjects for a feast to celebrate Spring ... well we hope it will be Spring before April 29th and May 6th. For those of you who have attended before, you know how much fun it is and that each year we have a new script to keep you on your toes.

"At present the April 29th date is half full! We need to sell at least 70 tickets for each evening so please tell your friends, neighbors, family, etc. The dinners are our biggest fundraisers for the church. All profits go towards the General Fund."

"The festivities will begin at 6 p.m. sharp. Don't be late, the Lord Sheriff gets so upset if you are late for an evening of good food, fellowship, and fun as you are transported to a 16th century castle great hall. A seven-course feast will be served as you are entertained by the King's Royal Court. Costumes are encouraged but not required."

For tickets and to reserve a table call Luisa Gladu @ (860) 582-8383 or email TheGladus@comcast.net.

If you cannot come but would like to make a donation towards the expense of the dinners, you can do so as well. Checks are made payable to PUMC and in the memo section of just put down Donation Ren Dinner.

"Thank you and we hope to see you there!"

■ Scholarships

Scholarship applications are available to be picked up in the Church office. Return date for applications is May 8, 2017.

■ Gift Card Fundraiser

Cards are always available to order for your shopping, gift giving and dinners out. Please consider buying gift cards through our church to help raise funds through the rebate. See Matti Verzion for more information.

■ Think Green This Spring

You can start your day glorifying God by taking care of what he placed in your hands...His planet. How? By making an effort to REDUCE, REUSE, or RECYCLE.

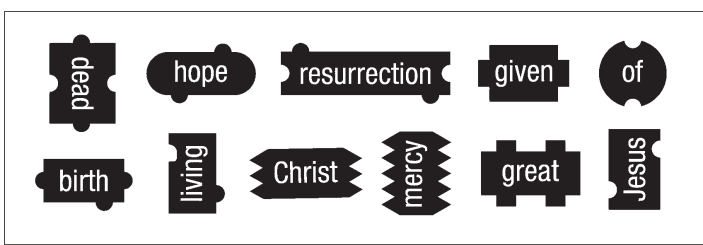


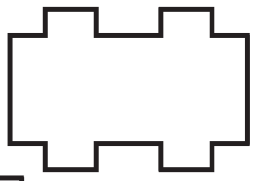



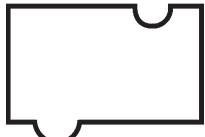
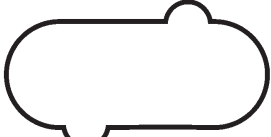
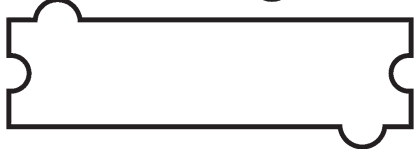
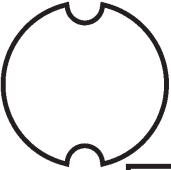
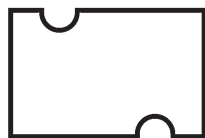

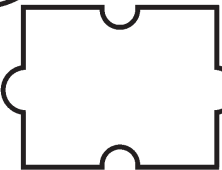


> NEW LIFE <

How did God work through Jesus to give us new life at Easter?

Directions: Use the puzzle pieces from the box to complete 1 Peter 1:3, NIV.



In his   he has
 us new  into a
  through the
  
 from the .

1 P E T E R 1 : 3 , N I V

Answer: In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3, NIV

**PROSPECT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Dated Material - Please Do Not Hold

Return Service Requested