

THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

April 2019

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Pastor's Page

Let's Practice Resurrection



"I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25)

'If only' Mary and Martha said when they caught up with Jesus: 'If only' you were there, my brother would have not died. 'If only' the end of the time comes, he will rise again. We cannot find any acknowledgment of Jesus who presents them with the here and now. They live in the past or in the future, not in the present.

That's why Jesus reminds them, "I AM the resurrection and the life." God also said the same thing to us. The resurrection is not a past event or the future event. It is the present event. It is happening among us here and now. We should practice and live out the resurrection. All of us are born. No exceptions. Birth brought us alive into a world that is vast, complex, damaged, demanding and beautiful. We drink from our mother's breast, go to sleep, and wake up. One day on waking up we stand upright and amaze everyone with our pedestrian acrobatics.

We are growing up.

Jesus used the birth event as a metaphor for another kind of birth: becoming alive to God. Alive to God — Alive to God's holiness, God's will, God's kingdom, power, and glory.

There is more to life after birth than mother's milk, sleeping and waking, and walking. There is God. We are growing to God. The resurrection of Jesus establishes the conditions in which we live and mature in the Christian life and carry on this statement: Jesus is alive and present. A lively sense of Jesus' resurrection keeps us from attempting to take charge of our own development and growth.



(Cont. to Page 2)

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(Cont. from page 1)

The meditation on Jesus' resurrection — the huge mystery of it — keeps us from reducing our perception of God to what we can define or control. 'Practice resurrection' strikes just the right note. We live our lives in the practice of what we do not originate and cannot anticipate. When we practice resurrection, we continuously enter into what is more than we are. When we practice resurrection, we keep company with Jesus, alive and present, who knows where we are going better than we do. I pray we can grow and experience here and now what is more than we are: the presence of God through practicing resurrection during this Lenten season.

Let's Practice Resurrection, Here and Now

Pastor Kim



***Tomb, thou shalt not hold him longer;
Death is strong, but life is stronger.
Stronger than the dark, the light;
Stronger than the wrong, the right.
Faith and hope triumphant say,
Christ will rise on Easter Day.***

—Phillips Brooks

Middle Ages Group

■ Relay For Life

Relay for Life will run from Friday, June 7th, starting at 2:30 p.m. to Saturday, June 8th, at 8 a.m. Middle Ages Group's Luisa Gladu, event chair for Team Prospect, reports, "Team PUMC will be participating in the Bristol Relay for Life on beginning Friday, June 7th, at Memorial Boulevard. Join us as we honor our survivors and remember those we lost to cancer. Our team will be setting up the PUMC Pâtisserie, (a fancy French word for pastries/bakery), to raise money during the event. We will be selling Iced or Hot Coffee and delicious baked goods. We usually sell out!

"Closer to the event I will ask for some help baking brownies and Rice Krispie treats, which we will turn into delicious gourmet baked goodies. Our team already has been entered into the Bristol Relay, so please consider joining. We hope to have someone walking the laps throughout the night and if you are really brave, join Gary and I as we "camp" out on the field.

"We are \$506 towards our goal so far! We all have been touched by cancer one way or another. Relay for Life brings us all together to give each other hope and support. We laugh, we cry and we Relay. I will keep everyone posted as to the theme and plans for this year."

■ Family Karaoke Fun Night

A Family Karaoke Fun Night is planned for Saturday, May 4th, starting at 6 p.m. in Sessions Hall, Luisa and Gary Gladu announce. Everyone can be a super star! Join us for a fun night of singing and dancing and family fun. Reserve a table, bring some snacks and drinks. If you have a favorite Karaoke CD bring that as well.

A free-well offering of \$5 is suggested. The sign-up sheet will be in Sessions Hall. We hope to see you all there!

What Tony learned

When Tony Snow was 17, he watched his mother die of colon cancer. In his early 50s, he learned that he, too, had the disease. Sadly, it was too late to do much about it.

As White House press secretary under President George W. Bush, Snow sometimes shared with members of the press what he was going through. At one gathering, he told what he'd learned during his ordeal. "You have to learn something that is very hard in the modern era," he said, "and that is you have to give yourself to God, to surrender."

Snow discovered that he could find joy even in sickness. Beyond the pain and worries about his family, he sensed God's telling him that he was more blessed than he realized. God was preparing him for his graduation to the Father's house.

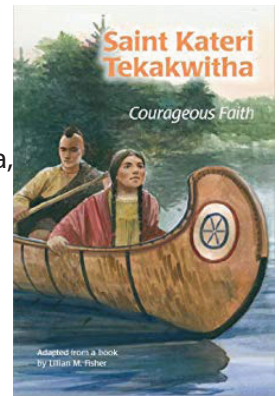
When Snow died, he experienced the promise of Scripture: "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Revelation 2:10, NRSV).



History Corner

■ Pretzels and Christianity Part 2

History Corner continues the history of Kateri Tekakwitha, adopted by the Pretzels for God (PFG) movement as the “patron saint of pretzels”: From atlasobscura.com: “Born in 1656 to an Algonquin mother and Mohawk father in what is now Auriesville, New York, Kateri Tekakwitha was among the first documented Native Americans to convert to Christianity. But while PFG identified ‘the Lily of the Mohawks’ as ‘a model of true peace in the world,’ the choice to make her the patron of pretzels likely had less to do with the pretzel’s spiritual promise than it did with founder Marlene McCauley’s belief that her prayers to Tekakwitha had cured her young son’s severe hearing loss.



“The association proved timely. Although the process for her beatification began in 1932, it wasn’t until 1980 when this major step towards sainthood was finally proclaimed by Pope John Paul II, just a few years after the heyday of Pretzels for God. Five years later, McCauley even met the Pope in Rome and urged him to canonize Tekakwitha, giving him a taped performance of her traveling Kateri Tekakwitha-themed puppet show. With Tekakwitha watching over them, Pretzels for God propagated the Christian symbolism of the pretzel, emphasizing its value as a symbolic food to be eaten during Lent. They formed committees, posted articles in the bulletin of every diocese, and thoroughly courted the media. Groups organized pretzel bake sales and pretzel necklace workshops, after which believers would wear them as a symbol their faith. They pushed the pretzel as a Lenten food, and devised a ‘Ceremony of the Pretzel,’ complete with a ‘pretzel prayer’ for Ash Wednesday.

“But the meaning of the pretzel hadn’t always been Christian. Food historian William Woys Weaver, who has heavily researched the baked good, says the pretzel’s Christian origins are fabricated. ‘There is no documentation whatsoever for the invention in 610 of the pretzel by a monk,’ he says. The pretzel’s origins actually predate Christianity by hundreds of years. Their twisty shape is a symbol of Sirona, the Gaulish goddess of spring and the sacrificial rites associated with the harvest. While the PFG saw the Holy Trinity in the holes of the pretzel, Weaver says the pretzel’s form is ‘a votive symbol of a triplicate noose, the type used to hang three people at once, since three deaths were considered more potent than one.’

“Despite the medieval reinterpretation of a pagan symbol into a Lenten one, the pretzel’s origin story was actually devised much later, according to Weaver. ‘This monk myth emerged during Prohibition to deflect the negative

association of pretzels with beer, saloons, and bars, since it was a free snack given out to entice customers to buy beer or hard liquor,' he says. Though it's unclear who originated the monk myth in the 1920s, Weaver notes that the National Pretzel Bakers Institute heavily promoted it during the mid-20th century, circulating the legend as fact in their magazine *The Pretzel Baker* and on television spots 'complete with little statues of a monk.'

"Though McCauley saw her beloved Kateri Tekakwitha canonized as the first Native American saint in 2012, the PFG was somewhat less successful. Just as suddenly as it had arrived on the scene, showing up in local news coverage from Minnesota to Pennsylvania, the PFG seemed to fade away. It's survived today only by the Ash Wednesday Pretzel Prayer, which begins, 'We beg you, O Lord, to bless these breads which are to remind us that Lent is a sacred season of penance and prayer.'"

Notes of Interest

■ Lunch Bunch

The Nurture Committee sponsors a luncheon in Sessions Hall at 11:30 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. An average of 14 to 18 people attend and enjoy delicious home-cooked food. The March pasta meal was a great success. April's theme is. ?? We hope you will join us. If you are interested in participating, you can sign up in

Sessions Hall or call the office @ (860) 582-3443

■ Book Review for April

~Mary Rogers

"Magnolia" by Ginny Aiken published by Heart Quest in 2000, 275 pages. "Heart Quest brings you romantic fiction with a foundation of biblical truth. Adventure, mystery, intrigue, and suspense mingle in these heartwarming stories of men and women of faith striving to build a love that will last a lifetime." In this particular story a 29 year-old man is working hard to overcome a painful past through his belief in God being there for him. He meets a young woman who has also suffered a painful past but does not have the belief in God to support her. They meet through a working relationship which is full of strife and distrust.

Mission Corner

■ Easter Baskets for Covenant to Care

Prospect Church members responded to a request from our Covenant to Care Adopted Social Worker with

the donation of Easter baskets for different ages. Easter Baskets were brought to Sessions Hall by April 7, where they were picked up for delivery to children in time for Easter. June Schilling was in charge of this outreach.



Kids Corner

■ Family Movie Night

The Education Team is hosting a Family Movie Night on Saturday April 13th at 6 p.m. Movie selection is TBD ... please stay tuned! Hot Dogs, Baked Potatoes with all the fixings, Popcorn, Other Snacks, and Drinks will be provided. Guests are welcome to bring chairs, blankets/sleeping bags, and pillows! Please sign up in Sessions Hall by April 7th. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Kingsbury at orin2376@yahoo.com.



Prospect United Methodist Church

EASTER EGG HUNT

FREE EVENT
JOIN US ON
APRIL 21, 2019

*Bring a basket to collect eggs and enjoy
a fun event for the entire family!*

After 10 a.m. service!

The poster features a vibrant illustration of a yellow Easter bunny running through a field of green grass and white daisies, carrying a small woven basket. Several large, colorful Easter eggs (blue, green, yellow, and purple) are scattered around. The background shows a bright blue sky with white clouds, a rainbow, and a few butterflies. The text is arranged in a clear, festive layout with large, bold letters for the main title and date.

Pretzel Sunday



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