



The Cross

Cross Street A.M.E Zion Church



"A Church Where Everybody is Somebody and Christ is Lord of ALL"

March / April 2019

Volume 23 Issue 02

Memo From God



Effective immediately, please be aware that there are changes YOU need to make in YOUR life. These changes need to be completed in order that I may fulfill My promises to you to grant you peace, joy and happiness in this life. I apologize for any inconvenience, but after all that I

am doing, this seems very little to ask of you. I know, I already gave you the 10 Commandments. Keep them. But follow these guidelines, also.

(Memo on page 10)

Sunday, April 21
6:00 am

Sunrise Easter Service

Sunday, April 21
10:00 am

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 28
10:00 am

196th Church Anniversary

Step Onto The Trail

Regardless of whatever situation you find yourself in, you have the option to look at it in all kinds of ways. The proverbial glass half full, glass half empty analogy may not even be enough. That only proposes that you either have a negative attitude or you have a positive one. To my perspective, it is too narrow. It is not every situation in our lives that lends itself to a positive or negative observation. In some instances, we could find ourselves looking at a situation that is all positive or all negative. And then it could also be just a blessing regardless of what our opinions

(Step on page 11)

Holy Week

The key to many customs and traditions in Lent is what down through the ages has come to be known as Holy Week, the last week in Lent. It has become a tradition to trace the activities of Jesus that led to the cross of Calvary. Holy Week begins with **Palm Sunday** as a reminder of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The people along the roadside waved palms and shouted "Hosanna" the Hebrew word for "save now." (See Matthew 21:1-11, Mark

(Holy week on page 12)

Psalms 51, 91, 23 NKJV

Psalms 51

(To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came unto him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.)

¹ Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. ² Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and

(Psalms page 14)

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From The Pastor's Desk

Dear Members of the Cross,

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

There is much excitement at the Cross as we enter the Lenten Season.

“To grant to those who mourn in Zion— to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.”—Isaiah 61: 3

A faint spirit, the oil of mourning, the ashes of grief—God promises to deliver us from these. What a blessing it is to serve a God who turns the sorrow of grief into a time of praise! The Lord keeps all of his promises.

This coming Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of the Lenten season. On Ash Wednesday, we recall the biblical custom of covering ourselves in ashes. By doing this, we mark ourselves in two ways: as those who are in mourning for our crucified Christ, and as those who are filled with a heart of sorrow for their sins. It's a time of repentance and renewal.

While our Advent celebrations are filled with joy as we remember the birth of our King, Lent is when we focus on the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. It's a time that we participate in fasting and praying. Some fast from television and internet usage. Some commit to prayer and Bible Study. Perhaps you will commit to attending services from now until the glory of Resurrection Sunday.

Whatever your personal preference, Lent can be the time when you decide to let go of old habits and develop a more joyful, Christ-filled way of living. I want to invite you and your family to join us at the Cross as we prepare for a time of tremendous spiritual growth and renewal.

**Faithfully Yours,
Pastor Moses L. Harvill**

Let's Get Radical

This is my church. It is composed of people just like me. It will be friendly if I am. It will do great work if I work. It will make generous gifts to many causes if I am generous. It will bring others into its fellowship if I bring them.

Its seats will be filled if I fill them. It will be a church of loyalty and love, of faith and service.

If I who make it what it is, am filled with these,

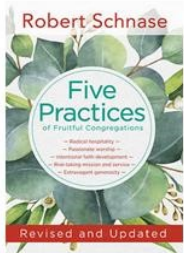
Therefore, with God's help, I dedicate myself to the task of being all these things I want my church to be.

RESET 2018 - 2019 CONFERENCE YEAR

Behold, I will do a new thing .. Isaiah 43:19

- 1. To Refresh**
- 2. To Restore**
- 3. To Start Anew**

Pastor requesting all members to “Join in the RESET” by reading this book and be ready to discuss in September.



Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations

By: Robert C. Schnase

People are searching for a church shaped and sustained by Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity. These fundamental practices are critical to the success of congregations.

COUNT ME IN FOR THE RESET!



Note: You can order the book from the Cross Street church website: crossstreetamezion.org in the virtual Bookstore (Cokesbury).

The fruit of the Spirit abides in us and it is up to us to cultivate it so that we may experience the blessing and the fullness of the Spirit. God is the husbandman...”He prunes, nurtures, waters and protects His own. The indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit will energize and control every faculty of our nature when our will joins the will of God. Then the “beauty of the Lord will be upon us” (Psalm 90:17) and “we shall bring forth fruit unto God” (Romans 7:4).”

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: A REVIEW

“But the fruit of the Spirit is LOVE, JOY, PEACE, LONGSUFFERING, GENTLENESS, GOODNESS, FAITH, MEEKNESS, TEMPERANCE: against such there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22, 23)

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The fruit of LOVE when properly motivated “is pure, far reaching, forgiving. There is no limit to the good that LOVE does. God is LOVE. (I John 4:7)

JOY never fades, it is never destroyed by circumstances, it is unaffected by wealth or poverty, sickness or health. It is found in the presence of God (Psalm 16:11)

PEACE “is a tranquility of mind as a result of a right relationship with God”. The PEACE of God in our hearts challenges sin at every turn and deals with it immediately in order to maintain that right relationship. (Ephesians 2:14)

LONG-SUFFERING means steadfastness of the soul under provocation. It means forbearance and patient endurance of ill-treatment, without anger or thought of revenge. (Colossians 3:12, 13)

GENTLENESS is sweet reasonableness, calmness and graciousness. It calms troubled waters, settles turmoil and heals strife. (James 3:17)

GOODNESS does good to others. It is kindness of heart and good deeds. It may not always be a gentle word, but a stern rebuke done for the good of someone else. (Psalm 33:5)

MEEKNESS disarms the stormy, tempestuous person. The qualities of mildness and gentleness in dealing with others. It is not weak. It is a high quality of spiritual strength. (I Timothy 6:11)

FAITH means faithfulness to Christ and His cause. It manifests itself in being a trustworthy steward of God. It is trust and obedience, belief in God’s word and promises. (Hebrews 11:1)

TEMPERANCE is power, it is strength, having self-control. It means discipline. It provides balance to the Christian’s life. It enables him to praise Him whether in discipline or testing. (Proverbs 11:1) (Information taken in part from World-Wide Keswick publication and Holy Scriptures)

Satan tries to imitate the real thing with an artificial fruit. As you can see, the artificial fruit is very much like the real thing and if we are not careful, we can fall into the trap of expressing limited love, temporary joy, numbness, insensitivity, manipulation, hypocrisy, half-heartedness, false modesty and choosing lesser goals.

THE FRUIT, *The Artificial Fruit,*
The Weed

LOVE, *limited love,* **hatred**

JOY, *temporary JOY,* **sorrow**

PEACE, *numbness, carelessness,* **anxiety strife**

PATIENCE, *laziness, insensitivity,* **impatience**

KINDNESS, *manipulation by kindness,* **pride**

GOODNESS, *hypocrisy,* **evil**

F A I T H F U L N E S S, *half-heartedness,* **infidelity**

MEEKNESS, *false modesty,* **self-seeking**

SELF-CONTROL, *choosing lesser goals,* **lack of control**

(The Fruit of the Spirit, John W. Sanderson)



A Lenten Prayer

God, heavenly Father, look upon me and hear my prayer during this holy Season of Lent. By the good works You inspire, help me to discipline my body and to be renewed in spirit.

Without You I can do nothing. By Your Spirit help me to know what is right and to be eager in doing Your will. Teach me to find new life through penance. Keep me from sin, and help me live by Your commandment of love.

God of love, bring me back to You. Send Your Spirit to make me strong in faith and active in good works. May my acts of penance bring me Your forgiveness, open my heart to Your love, and prepare me for the coming feast of the Resurrection of Jesus.

Lord, during this Lenten Season,

nourish me with Your Word of life and make me one with You in love and prayer.

Fill my heart with Your love and keep me faithful to the Gospel of Christ. Give me the grace to rise above my human weakness. Give me new life by Your Sacraments, especially the Mass.

Father, our source of life, I reach out with joy to grasp Your hand; let me walk more readily in Your ways. Guide me in Your gentle mercy, for left to myself I cannot do Your Will.

Father of love, source of all blessings, help me to pass from my old life of sin to the new life of grace. Prepare me for the glory of Your Kingdom. I ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

THE ARMOR OF GOD

EPHESIANS 6:10-18
"... Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power
Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your
stand against the devil's schemes." v. 10, 11

The Shield of Faith (Eph. 6:16)
Faith is being sure that God will keep His promises. Faith in God protects you when you are tempted to doubt.

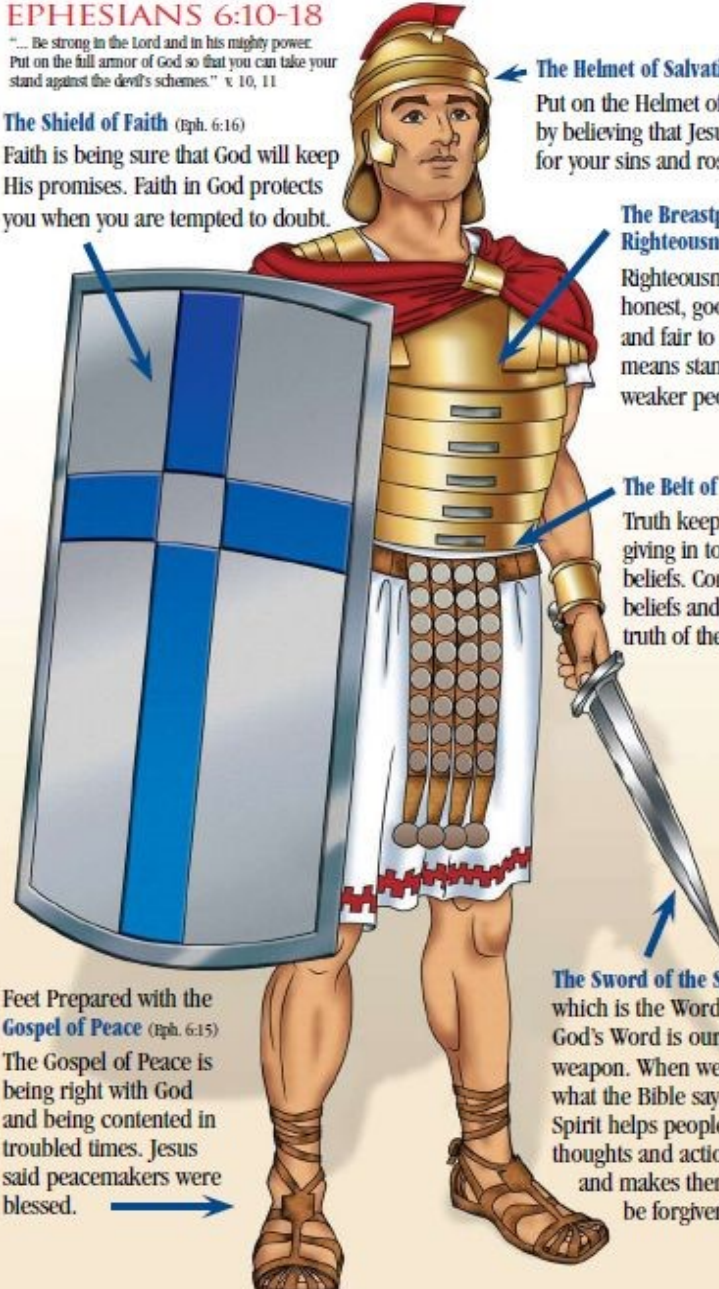
The Helmet of Salvation (Eph. 6:17)
Put on the Helmet of Salvation by believing that Jesus Christ died for your sins and rose again.

The Breastplate of Righteousness (Eph. 6:14)
Righteousness is being honest, good, humble, and fair to others. It means standing up for weaker people.

The Belt of Truth (Eph. 6:14)
Truth keeps us from giving in to the world's beliefs. Compare your beliefs and actions to the truth of the Word of God.

The Sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17)
which is the Word of God.
God's Word is our offensive weapon. When we tell others what the Bible says, the Holy Spirit helps people see their bad thoughts and actions, and makes them want to be forgiven.

Feet Prepared with the Gospel of Peace (Eph. 6:15)
The Gospel of Peace is being right with God and being contented in troubled times. Jesus said peacemakers were blessed.



Ephesians 6:10-20 (New King James Version)

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, ^[a] against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— 19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Read the BIBLE in ONE Year

<p>MARCH</p> <p>1 Joshua 7-9 2 Joshua 10-12 3 Joshua 13-15 4 Joshua 16-18 5 Joshua 19-21 6 Joshua 22-24 7 Judges 1-4</p>	<p>8 Judges 5-8 9 Judges 9-12 10 Judges 13-15 11 Judges 16-18 12 Judges 19-21 13 Ruth 1-4 14 1 Sam. 1-3 15 1 Samuel 4-7</p>	<p>16 1 Samuel 8-10 17 1 Samuel 11-13 18 1 Samuel 14-16 19 1 Samuel 17-20 20 1 Samuel 21-24 21 1 Samuel 25-28 22 1 Samuel 22-24 23 2 Samuel 1-4</p>	<p>24 2 Samuel 5-8 25 2 Samuel 9-12 26 2 Samuel 13-15 27 2 Samuel 16-18 28 2 Samuel 19-21 29 Samuel 22-24 30 1 Kings 1-4 31 1 Kings 5-7</p>
<p>APRIL</p> <p>1 1 Kings 8-10 2 1 Kings 11-13 3 1 Kings 14-16 4 1 Kings 17-19 5 1 Kings 20-22 6 2 Kings 1-3 7 2 Kings 4-6</p>	<p>8 2 Kings 7-10 9 2 Kings 11-14 10 2 Kings 15-17 11 2 Kings 18-20 12 2 Kings 21-22 13 2 Kings 23-25 14 1 Chronicles 1-3 15 1 Chronicles 4-6</p>	<p>16 1 Chronicles 7-9 17 1 Chronicles 10-13 18 1 Chronicles 14-16 19 1 Chronicles 17-19 20 1 Chronicles 20-23 21 1 Chronicles 24-26 22 1 Chronicles 27-28 23 2 Chronicles 1-3</p>	<p>24 2 Chronicles 4-6 25 2 Chronicles 7-9 26 2 Chronicles 10-13 27 2 Chronicles 14-16 28 2 Chronicles 17-19 29 2 Chronicles 20-22 30 2 Chronicles 23-25</p>
<p>MAY</p> <p>1 2 Chronicles 26-29 2 2 Chronicles 30-32 3 2 Chronicles 33-36 4 Ezra 1-4 5 Ezra 5-7 6 Ezra 8-10 7 Nehemiah 1-3</p>	<p>8 Nehemiah 4-6 9 Nehemiah 7-9 10 Nehemiah 10-13 11 Esther 1-3 12 Esther 4-7 13 Esther 8-10 14 Job 1-4 15 Job 5-7</p>	<p>16 Job 8-10 17 Job 11-13 18 Job 14-17 19 Job 18-20 20 Job 21-24 21 Job 25-27 22 Job 28-31 23 Job 32-34</p>	<p>24 Job 35-37 25 Job 38-42 26 Psalms 1-4 27 Psalms 5-8 28 Psalms 9-12 29 Psalms 13-15 30 Psalms 16-18 31 Psalms 19-21</p>

LENT

Lent is the period of time to reflect on the events that led Jesus to Calvary. Its begins with Ash Wednesday and covers a period of forty days (excluding Sundays) culminating with Holy Week (including Passion/Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday). Lent is a time of fasting, sacrifice, and preparation.

Color: Purple (violet or lilac) is the color used to denote royalty, praying, fasting, and penitence. It represents a symbol of the majesty of Christ, and Jesus' humanity, suffering, and fasting.

A guideline given by some money managers is as follows: Give 1/10 (tithe of your income to God). Put 1/10 in savings. Put 1/10 in an emergency account until three months of pay is set aside. Live on the remaining 7/10 with freedom to work towards giving as much as possible to God's work.

Name of God	Meaning	Application
YAH, ORJAH	"I AM" The One Who Is The Self-Existent	God never changes. His promises never fail. When we are faithless, He is faithful. God promises His continuing presence.
YHWH	"I AM" The One Who Is The Self-Existent One	God never changes. His promises never fail. When we are faithless, He is faithful.
ADONAI	The Lord My Great Lord	God is the Master and majestic Lord. God is our total authority.
EL	The Strong One	He is more powerful than any false god. God will overcome all obstacles. We can depend on God.



Sunday School is a Family Affair

8:45 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. We have classes for all ages – 3 to 103
 New Members Class meets at the same time.
 (For Transportation Needs Please call the Church 860-344-9527)

Come Grow with US!

GO AND TELL

Scripture:
 Matthew 28:1-15

EXALT!

Invocation: Speak Lord so that we hear from heaven. Speak through Your word, our teacher, and to each of us. Center our thoughts on You. During this lesson and in the week to follow, let the Holy Ghost energize our spirits for your purpose. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Declaration: Matthew 28:1-15

¹ After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." ⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said,

"Greeting!" and they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

¹¹ While they were going, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests everything that had happened. ¹² After the priests had assembled with the elders, they devised a plan to give a large sum of money to the soldiers, ¹³ telling them, "You must say, 'His disciple came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.' ¹⁴ If this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." ¹⁵ So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story is still told among the Jews to this day.

Affirmation: "May my words and deeds attest to the transforming presence of the resurrected Christ in my heart."

ENGAGE

At the time this lesson is being written, Anchorage, Alaska (where the writer resides) is recovering from a violent 7.0 magnitude earthquake. Its force caused transformers to blow, and many residences and businesses waiter hours to days for days for electrical service to be restored. Several roadways, as well as most stores and schools, were closed due to extensive damage. Every home had at the very least items to fall off

shelves and out of cupboards. Thankfully, there were no serious injuries reported. However, we are now experiencing mild to significant post-traumatic stress because of the nearly 3,000 aftershocks, so far. Many of them have been very strong and lasted several seconds, causing buildings to sway and items inside to rattle. And you never know when an aftershock is going to occur, so unconsciously anticipating its approach every time is a sudden loud noise or slight movement can be very unnerving - even scary. (I've actually felt a few strong ones while writing this lesson!)

The book of Matthew records two powerful earthquakes shaking Jerusalem only three days apart. The first occurs during the crucifixion and death of Jesus. Such unbelievable phenomena occur as a result of that seismic event when the Romans guards at the foot of the cross are shaken to the point that one of them openly acknowledges, "Truly this man was God's Son!" (see Matthew 27:51-54.) three days later, on the day of the Resurrection, as the angel of God descends on earth, there is another earthquake and the men guarding Jesus' tomb feel it. But the "aftershock" that shakes and terrifies them even more is the blinding presence of God's angel seated atop the stone that is no longer covering the entrance of the tomb. And they "because like dead man" (Matthew 28:4).

Share briefly a major life experience that shook you to your core, and the subsequent event that

(Tell on page 9)

Pray for all of our children, teens, young adults in this school years that God's hands will be upon them keeping them from all hurt, harm and danger. Also pray for all of our families, friends, and all of God's children.

(Tell from page 8)

felt like an emotional or physical aftershock.

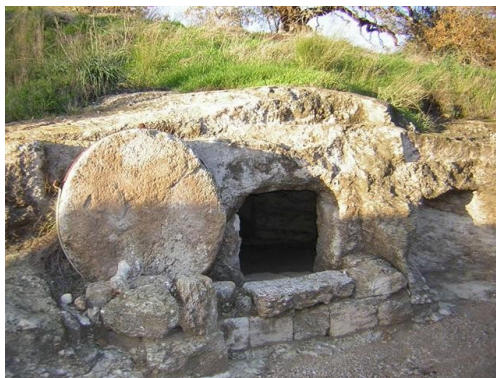
EDUCATE

From the Passion to the Resurrection, Matthew explicitly highlights the devotion of the women who follow Jesus. For example, in last week's lesson, Jesus rebukes the men for criticizing Mary (sister of Lazarus and Martha) after she anoints Him with costly ointment in preparation for His death and burial. Jesus publicly praises her for her precious act of love and devotion (26:6-13). Another instance is when Jesus is arrested and all the male disciples scatter. Peter follows Jesus at a distance and then, each time Peter is accused of being one of Jesus' disciples, he denies ever knowing Jesus. Yet, it is the women who remain present from the cross to the tomb (27:55-56, 61). Rev. Dr. Brian Stoffregen, New Testament scholar, offers the following exegetical insight: We are told that [these women] had 'provided' for Jesus, which could also be translated 'served' or 'ministered to' (diakoneo). This same word is used of the angels serving Jesus after the temptation (4:11) and of Peter's mother-in-law serving them after her healing (8:15). Jesus had said: 'Whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant (diakonos) (20:26b)' and 'The greatest among you will be your servant (diakonos) (23:11)'. It is only angels and women who actually serve Jesus in Matthew. 23

On the day of the Resurrection, the first eyewitnesses to the empty tomb are Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James and Joseph (Matthew 27:56, 61) and the men guarding Jesus' tomb. Each of them feel the same earthquake and observe the same extremely bright angel sitting on the stone that once sealed the tomb (28:1-3). They all realize that the tomb is empty. But the reactions and retelling differ greatly between the women and the men. Upon seeing the angel, the guards become deathly afraid (v. 4). On the other hand, the women are intrigued by the angel's gentle, yet emphatic words, saying, in

essence, "Don't be afraid like those pitiful ones over there, shaking in their boots, who have failed to keep the One who lives among the dead. I've got a divine assignment for you two!" the angel invites them to inspect the tomb and instructs them to proclaim to the disciples that Jesus is risen from the dead (vs. 6-7). As the women, filled with awe and joy, run to share the good news to the disciples, they run into Jesus Himself! He greets them, and they hold Jesus' feet and worship Him - (acts that Matthew may have decided to include so his readers will be assured that Jesus' resurrection was a physical one indeed.) then Mary Magdalene and the other Mary leave to go and testify to what they have seen.

At the same time, the guards are running to report to the chief priests what has happened. Disturbed by their account, these religious leaders convene the elders and agree to bribe the guards with money to change their account about Jesus' resurrection (just like they had offered Judas money to betray Jesus). The guards accept the bribe and falsely report that the disciples came while they were asleep and stole the body from the tomb.



The counter-cultural aspects of the resurrection account must be recognized. The testimony of a woman in the first century was neither respected nor accepted. Women were not even allowed to be witnesses in court. As a rule, the report of a woman carried much less weight than that of a man. So the fact that all four Gospels record women as the first discoverers and proclaimers of the resurrection should be both highlighted and heralded. Society's

prejudice against the testimony of women did not prevent Matthew, Mark and John from documenting the divine commissioning of faithful women to carry the message and testify to the fact that Jesus is risen.

ELEVATE

"There are apparent inconsistencies in the various narratives of the Resurrection and the appearances of the Risen Christ. We do not know enough of the details to be able to reconcile them. But the very variations strengthen the independent witness to the essential fact that Jesus rose from the grave. Let each writer give his own account in his own way. The stone was rolled away not to let the Lord out, but to let the women in to prove the fact of the empty tomb²⁴

Role-play the women's report to the disciples and have them share their joy at seeing the risen Christ. The debrief by having participants tell their own experience of encountering Resurrection joy.

I THINK:

- Discuss reasons why the fabricated story that the chief priests and elders come up with seems self-refuting. (if the guards were asleep, how would they know it was the disciples who stole the body? Why didn't they seek to arrest disciples and retrieve the body?)

VERSE OF THE WEEK:

Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." Matthew 28:10

From The Young People-Adult Quarterly (Ages 18 and up) International Sunday School Lessons for Christian Teaching

(Memo from page 1)

1. QUIT WORRYING

Life has dealt you a blow and all you do is sit and worry. Have you forgotten that I am here to take all your burdens and carry them for you? Or do you just enjoy fretting over every little thing that comes your way?

2. PUT IT ON THE LIST

Something needs done or taken care of. Put it on the list. No, not YOUR list. Put it on MY to-do-list. Let ME be the one to take care of the problem. I can't help you until you turn it over to Me. And although My to-do-list is long, I am after all ... God. I can take care of anything you put into My hands. In fact, if the truth were ever really known, I take care of a lot of things for you that you never even realize.

3. TRUST ME

Once you've given your burdens to Me, quit trying to take them back. Trust in Me. Have the faith that I will take care of all your needs, your problems and your trials. Problems with the kids? Put them on My list. Problem with finances? Put it in My list. Problems with your emotional roller coaster? For My sake, put it on My list. I want to help you. All you have to do is ask.

4. LEAVE IT ALONE

Don't wake up one morning and say, "Well, I'm feeling much stronger now, I think I can handle it from here." Why do you think you are feeling stronger now? It's simple. You gave Me your burdens and I'm taking care of them. I also renew your strength and cover you in my peace. Don't you know that

if I give you these problems back, you will be right back where you started? Leave them with Me and forget about them. Just let Me do my job.

5. TALK TO ME

I want you to forget a lot of things. Forget what was making you crazy. Forget the worry and the fretting because you know I'm in control. But there's one thing I pray you never forget. Please, don't forget to talk to Me - OFTEN! I love YOU! I want to hear your voice. I want you to include Me in on the things going on in your life. I want to hear you talk about your friends and family. Prayer is simply you having a conversation with Me. I want to be your dearest friend.

6. HAVE FAITH

I see a lot of things from up here that you can't see from where you are. Have faith in Me that I know what I'm doing. Trust Me; you wouldn't want the view from My eyes. I will continue to care for you, watch over you, and meet your needs. You only have to trust Me. Although I have a much bigger task than you, it seems as if you have so much trouble just doing your simple part. How hard can trust be?

7. SHARE

You were taught to share when you were only two years old. When did you forget? That rule still applies. Share with those who are less fortunate than you. Share your joy with those who need encouragement. Share your laughter with those who haven't heard any in such a long time. Share your tears with those who have forgotten how to cry. Share your faith

with those who have none.

8. BE PATIENT

I managed to fix it so in just one lifetime you could have so many diverse experiences. You grow from a child to an adult, have children, change jobs many times, learn many trades, travel to so many places, meet thousands of people, and experience so much. How can you be so impatient then when it takes Me a little longer than you expect to handle something on My to-do-list? Trust in My timing, for My timing is perfect. Just because I created the entire universe in only six days, everyone thinks I should always rush, rush, rush.

9. BE KIND

Be kind to others, for I love them just as much as I love you. They may not dress like you, or talk like you, or live the same way you do, but I still love you all. Please try to get along, for My sake. I created each of you different in some way. It would be too boring if you were all identical. Please, know I love each of your differences.

10. LOVE YOURSELF As much as I love me for one reason of Love. Love Me. heart ache when I are very precious you, how can you not love yourself? You were only ... to be loved, and to love in return. Love your neighbors. But also love yourself. see you so angry with yourself when things go to me. Don't ever forget that! created by I am a God It makes My wrong. You

With all My heart I love YOU ... God

Faith, Hope and Love

The best three-point formula for living is in this immortal statement:

And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13

Here are three powerful Spirit Lifters: Faith, the greatest power in this world; Hope, the attitude of expectancy--the best is yet to be; and Love, one of the greatest qualities of all--a heart full of compassion and understanding. Christian love gives deep joy. Let these three shine like stars in your life, and your spirit will be uplifted always.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16

"What Kind of Fruit Are You Producing?"

"Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit." Matthew 12:33

Let us pray, "God, thank You that You have the very best in mind for us. We know that we must go through some uncomfortable pruning, but when we finish, we'll be ready to spend our time with You! In Jesus' name. Amen."

God wants us to spend time doing meaningful things. But how can we tell if what we're doing is really the best way to spend our time? One way to find out is to take an inventory of our life to see where our time is going. It's important how we spend our time, but with whom we spend it. See pruning, may cause discomfort. But pruning is necessary to not only keep healthy growth, but to also make sure that the growth is in the right areas and direction. It may mean we have to prune off some relationships that are not adding value to our life. Our thought process should start with, "How can I make more room in my life for God's best?" God's best is so much greater than anything else that we could ever put our time into. Go through the pruning process to produce all that God has for us; the very best! Amen!

(Step from page 1)
are on it. Still, depending on what your natural tendencies are, you could find a perfectly positive situation to someone else, completely negative to you.

I am thinking of the pristine location of the current Cross Street Church as situated on 440 West Street, and thinking what a blessing it is to be located just on the edge of a state park to the north of us and by a local open space park, the Butternut Hollow Park, to the west of us. Not until recently, there was nothing to be said about the south of our location just flanking the mid Wadsworth and Long Lane, except for the solar farm which is so obvious as soon as you head towards Long Lane. That is until this past summer, when a long, planned multi-use trail came into fruition as a continuation of the existing Wesleyan trail that terminates just as Wadsworth Street meets Long Lane Road.

What a blessing! A huge one at that – and we should make the best we can of it. See, that trail takes off from that busy intersection and heads down south through the residential edge of Long Lane, winding through the meadows which contain the Middletown Community Farm started by the Concerned Parents of Middletown a few years back. The trail doesn't just stop at Long Hill. Thankfully, it winds westwards towards the soccer

fields located on the bend in Long Hill Road. Recently, Liberty Bank opened its corporate offices in this vicinity. That makes a walk on this trail somewhat scenic and less lonesome, too. So, all in all, we now have a total trail of almost 3 miles if you take off from the edge of the Middletown Green next to Main Street and walk up Church Street through Wesleyan to the end of the new multi-use trail next to the soccer fields on Long Hill Road.

Great, I will say. But what are we going to do with all that much of a trail in town? A lot!

I propose we make a concerted effort to pull this off. By we, I am speaking of the local residents. We should team up and **step onto the trail**, like our lives depend on it. Literally, they do, and I am confident that our lives will thank us for it. With the first sign of spring, I suggest as many as can make it, should gather on the church's parking lot. Put on our most comfortable walking sneakers and, as a group, walk the distance of the 440 West Street location to the start of the new trail along Long Lane and do the walking – continuing from there to the end of the trail as described earlier. A brisk, comfortable, leisurely pace will do us so much good. It is well-known fact, universally acknowledged and scientifically documented fact that walking improves general circulation; walking

"Forgive and Move On"

"But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your transgressions."
Mark 11:26

Let us pray, "God, thank You for Your forgiveness. We know that we don't deserve it, but we praise You for faithfully forgiving us. Help us to clear any roadblocks in our path by forgiving others, even as You forgive us. In Jesus' Name. Amen."

No one promised that life would always be fair. People are imperfect; we make mistakes and bad decisions. You may have been hurt by others in the past, but the important part is how you choose to deal with that hurt. See failing to let go and holding on to grudges and anger can only cause harm in your life. So if you want to keep your joy and remove what could become some huge obstacles in your path, decide to forgive others, whether they ask for it or not, just forgiveness. When you forgive, you will find new strength and begin to experience God's explosive blessings, Amen!

Readings by Barbara Perry

strengthens our skeletal frame and joints and muscular structure; walking leads to healthier, longer life; walking lightens mood; walking reduces stress; walking can lead to gradual, streamlined weight loss; walking strengthens mood; walking improves sleep; walking slows mental decline as we age and lowers our risk of senility and so much more. And best of all take it from the bumper sticker that advises to; **'walk more, and stress less'**.

My suggestion is to gather for this walking ritual, once a month, or as frequently as is practical, and to do the round trip trail and return into the church to socialize with either home-made refreshments or whatever we can make on site while meeting and sharing in conversation. In good weather this will be our way of making use of the new trail and also starting a whole new tradition in the city of Middletown, as citizens make the effort to improve their lives and health.

Not only will the glass not be just half full or just half empty, but it will definitely be a blessing just to have it. If you are reading this article in the Cross Street regular journal, you are invited to look for more details. Any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to: Kwame Ocansey on kwame6@att.net.

(Holy week from page 1)

11:1-10, Luke 19:28-40, and John 12:12-19.) Many churches today bless the palms and distribute them in the form of crosses to be worn by the worshippers.



MAUNDY THURSDAY

Maundy Thursday lifts up the event of the Lord's Last Supper that was celebrated in the Upper Room at the time of the

Jewish Passover. It is the basis for the establishment of sacrament of Holy Communion. Historically, the Passover marked the Israelites' departure from Egypt when the final plague was cast upon the Egyptians to smite the first born dead (Exodus). The Hebrews received special instruction to kill a lamb the or goat for each household and to sprinkle the blood on the doorpost and the life of the first born would be spared. Every Jew/Hebrew was required to celebrate the Passover, and the Lord's Last Supper was Jesus' observance of the Passover. However, Jesus brought new meaning to this event as it commemorated Israel's deliverance from Egyptian bondage – all of humanity was delivered from sin.

The Lord's Supper was the last meal that Jesus shared with the disciples before going to Calvary. It occurred on what is called Maundy Thursday. "Maundy" is a variation of the Latin word "mandatum" meaning "commandment" (see John 13:34). The significance of God's love for humanity comes forth in this act because it was and is through Jesus' blood and body that persons are redeemed. Therefore, the new

commandment requires persons to love one another just as God loves all persons. The Latin word "Mundo" means to wash, and some claim this is how Maundy Thursday came into being, since Jesus washed the disciples' feet on that day. Some denominations and congregations still carry out the practice of washing feet before Holy Communion, at least on Holy Thursday.

Yet another tradition credits the name to the word "maund" for basket and the practice of giving baskets of goodies to the poor. Whatever the source, Maundy Thursday is practiced in just about every Christian church with either a love feast or Holy Communion being participated in by all. One cannot but help call to mind the celebration of the feast of the Passover by Jews. Christians celebrate similarly, for this is in remembrance of the Lamb of God who willingly shed blood for the sins of the whole world.



GOOD FRIDAY

Most authors agree that the term "Good Friday" evolved from "God's Friday." It is one the three days that many persons make an effort to attend church, the other being Easter Sunday and Christmas Day. Services in most churches last about three hours since generally, the seven last words of Jesus are used.

The Seven Last Words are:

- ◆ "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." Luke 23:34
- ◆ "Today, you will be with me in Paradise." Luke 23:43
- ◆ "Woman, here is your son, ...Son,

Here is your Mother." John 19:26-27

- ◆ "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani? My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Mark 15:34 and Matthew 27:46
- ◆ I am thirsty." John 19:28
- ◆ "It is finished." John 19:30
- ◆ "Father, into your hands I commend My Spirit." Luke 23:46

More and more today, however, times and length of services are being arranged to meet the working schedules of most parishioners. Good Friday represents the day of that dreadful crucifixion and is not just a day of mourning. It is a day of remembrance of the events of the day, especially the time Jesus hung on the cross. It is appropriate to leave the alter bare and use no liturgical color. However, if desired, black may be used. In many countries, the old practice was (and in some instances still is) not to cook on Good Friday. Rather, one drinks some beverage and eat hot cross buns. Like most other customs and traditions, cross buns have pagan origins. According to Rudolph Brasch, it was part of a pagan festival of bread offered to idols at spring time. Horns were stamped on the buns. This, however became the mark of the cross. It not only was a symbol, but served a practical purpose. When these buns were used in love feasts, it was easier to divide one into four pieces.



GOOD FRIDAY

EASTER

Easter Sunday commemorates the glorious resurrection of Jesus from the dead. It is the other highest point of

(Holy week on page 13)

(Holy week from page 12)

the Christian Year. Thus, joy and celebration engulfs the season as the Christian Church rejoices in the fact of the resurrection and its meaning to the Christian faith, hope, and life. Many wonder why Easter occurs on various Sundays from year to year? Easter does not occur on a set day like Christmas because it is determined by the moon and the seasons in nature. Thus, for most Protestants and Roman Catholics, Easter falls on the Sunday near the beginning of Spring, which is also after the first full moon. Because of the fluctuating cycle, Easter Sunday can occur anywhere between March 22 and April 25. Therefore, Easter is a determining factor in the cycle that sets the beginning and end of some of the seasons. The number of days in the season of advent (four Sundays weeks prior to Christmas), Christmas / Christmastide (from Christmas day to the day before Epiphany-January 6, twelve days), Lent (forty days, excluding the Sundays), and Eastertide (fifty days), are constant seasons in terms of length. The Season After Epiphany, The Season After Pentecost, and Kingdomtide experience the variation from year to year.

Easter has been described as the oldest festival of the church. It truly is the key to Christianity, since it emphasizes the redemption of humans. Note that in the early Christian Church, the word used for

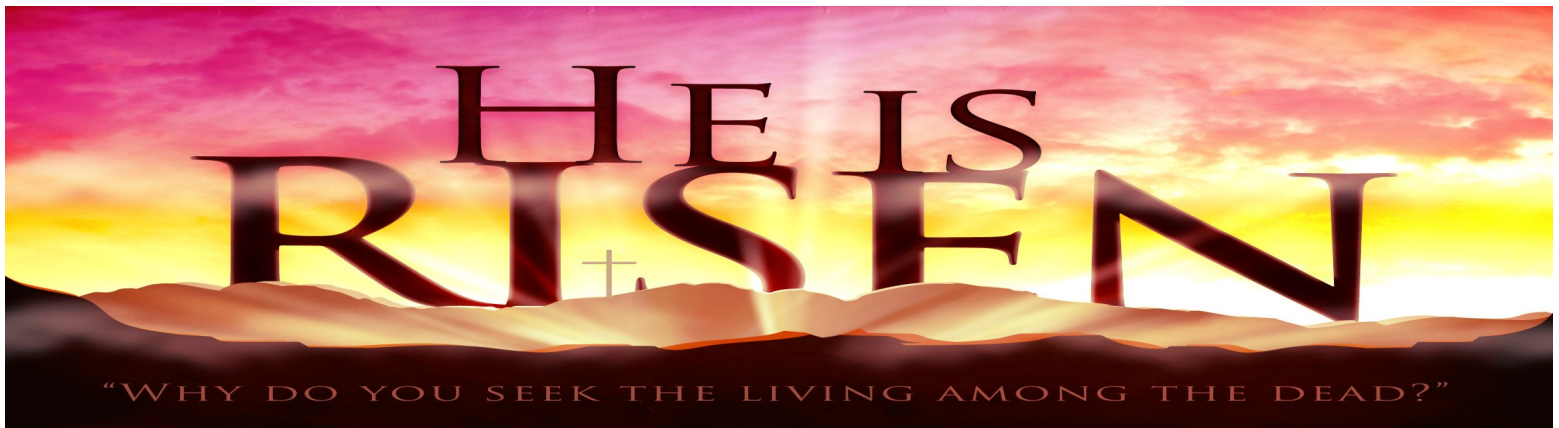
Easter was *Pascha*. This is from the Hebrew word for Passover. The closeness and similarity between the Jewish Passover and the celebration of Lent and Easter should be recalled and remembered. The Jews observed the *Passing Over* of the houses of the Israelites who had the blood of the lamb smeared upon the posts of their houses, by the death angel during their sojourn in Egypt. This was the final plague before Pharaoh agreed to let God's people, the Israelites go. For



Christians, the blood that saves persons from eternal damnation is the blood of Jesus, shed upon the cross at Calvary. Easter, like the word Lent, has nothing to do with the reason for celebrating these occasions. Rather, Easter comes from the name of an Anglo-Saxon spring goddess, *Easter*, whose festival was observed at the spring equinox. Easter is indeed THE DAY of the days in the church calendar. This is the day that celebrates Christ's resurrection from

the grave. Without the resurrection, there would be no Christian Church. This is why many Christians moved their day of worship to Sunday. So, not only is it a day of worship, but a little Easter, when persons remember that Christ rose from the dead. (See Matthew 28:1-7, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-12, and John 20:1-10.)

The observance of Lent would have no meaning if it were not for that victorious first Easter. The crucifixion without the resurrection would not be a victory and would destroy the essence of the Christian faith and God's redemptive act. To be resurrection signifies that something or someone who was dead has return to a living state. Christ's resurrection was a demonstration of that fact and a revelation of God's power over sin and death. Thus, the agony and tragedy of the cross was transformed into a joyous celebration and God's fulfillment of the covenantal promise was affirmed. ALLELUIA! Jesus arose as a "mighty triumph over His foes" and lives forever. The liturgical color for Easter/Eastertide is white, symbolizing purity. Along with white, gold is often used to give emphasis to this most holy day of the church year.



"WHY DO YOU SEEK THE LIVING AMONG THE DEAD?"

ALLELUIA, HE IS RISEN, ALLELUIA, HE IS RISEN!

"Plan to Do God's Will".

"Let your eyes look straight ahead, and your eyelids look right before you". Proverbs 4:25.

Let us pray, "God, help us focus on Your purpose for our life. We want to have a plan everyday to live out our will for our life. Help us to order our days to fulfill our God-given purpose by blessing our steps, God! In Jesus' name - Amen."

Today ask yourself, "Is what you are doing moving toward our God-given destiny? Are you staying focused? Is this your purpose in life, or are you just wasting your time being busy?" Proverbs 4:25 says to keep your eyes fixed straight ahead. Don't look to the left or to the right. Don't be distracted or spend your time and energy on things that are not helping you fulfill your destiny. If you need direction for your life today, ask the Holy Spirit to show you how to order your time and arrange your schedule to accomplish the Lord's will. See In order to fulfill your destiny, you have to know your purpose. You need a plan, and then you must work that plan. You should wake up each day knowing where you're headed, which direction you're taking, and what you are going to accomplish—and then stick with it! Don't allow the distractions and busyness of life get you off course.

Remember, God's plans are blessed, and as you walk in His plan for your life, you will experience His abundant blessing on everything you set your hand to, Amen!

Barbara Perry

(Psalms from page 1)

cleanse me from my sin. ³ For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin *is* ever before me. ⁴ Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done *this* evil in thy sight: that thou mightiest be justified when thou speakest, *and* be clear when thou judgest. ⁵ Behold, I was sharpen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. ⁶ Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden *part* thou shalt make me to know wisdom. ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸ Make me to hear joy and gladness; *that* the bones *which* thou hast broken may rejoice. ⁹ Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. ¹¹ Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. ¹² Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me *with thy* free spirit. ¹³ *Then* will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. ¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: *and* my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. ¹⁵ O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. ¹⁶ For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give *it*: thou delightest not in burnt offering. ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit: a

broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. ¹⁸ Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem. ¹⁹ Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.

Psalms 91

¹ He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. ² I will say of the LORD, *He is* my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. ³ Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, *and* from the noisome pestilence. ⁴ He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth *shall be thy* shield and buckler. ⁵ Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; *nor* for the arrow *that* flieth by day; ⁶ *Nor* for the pestilence *that* walketh in darkness; *nor* for the destruction *that* wasteth at noonday. ⁷ A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; *but* it shall not come nigh thee. ⁸ Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. ⁹ Because thou hast made the LORD, *which is* my refuge, *even* the most High, thy habitation; ¹⁰ There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. ¹¹ For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

¹² They shall bear thee up in *their* hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. ¹³ Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet. ¹⁴ Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. ¹⁵ He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I *will be* with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. ¹⁶ With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

Psalms 23

(A Psalm of David.)

¹ The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. ³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. ⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. ⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever

Joyce Meyer: Promises for your Everyday Life - a Daily Devotional

Experience a New Beginning

“And be renewed in the spirit of your mind.”

Ephesians 4:23

The Bible is filled with stories about people who experienced new beginnings. Moses became a leader after being a shepherd for 40 years. Paul hated Christ until God renewed him and made him the greatest apostle of all time.

When we receive Jesus as our Savior, it is the ultimate new beginning. We become new creatures with an opportunity to learn a new way of living. But the first step to experiencing that new life is believing that it's available to you.

Your Three Best Weapons

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh;” 2 Corinthians 10:3

Through careful strategy and cunning deceit, Satan attempts to wage war against you and keep you in a mindset of defeat. But God has given you spiritual weapons you can use to fight off the enemy:

1. God's word: Receive it through preaching, teaching, reading and private Bible study. Continue in the Word until it becomes revelation of the Holy Spirit.
2. Praise: This defeats the devil faster and more efficiently than any other battle plan, but it must be genuine heart-

Learn to Say “It's None of My Business.”

“Judge not, that you be not judged.” Matthew 7:1

Thousands of things we encounter every day are neither right nor wrong but are simply personal choices, choices that people have a right to make on their own without interference.

The devil stays very busy assigning demons to place judgmental, critical thoughts in people's minds. I can remember when it was entertaining for me to sit in the park or the shopping mall and simply watch all the people go by as I formed a mental opinion of each of them, their clothing, hairstyles, companions and so on.

But the Bible says that it's wrong to judge people this way. We cannot always prevent ourselves from having

Ephesians 4:23 says we must be constantly renewed in our minds and attitudes. It's easy to read about great people in the Bible and think that you are nothing like them, but when you start to think that, you need to renew your mind right away.

Choose to think according to God's Word, not how you feel. Receive His love and experience a new beginning. Life will become so much sweeter if you live with an attitude that says “God is completely changing me from the inside out. He's giving me a new beginning and there are greater things ahead,”

Prayer Starter: Lord, I renew my mind in you. I know that You have a new beginning and a calling for me just like you did for Moses and Paul. I receive it today, believing that You can bring it to pass.

praise, not just lip service or a religious ritual.

3. Prayer: Prayer is relationship with the Godhead. It is communication with God, asking Him for help or talking with Him about whatever is on your heart. To have an effective prayer life, we must develop an intimate, personal relationship with the Father. Know that He loves you and that He wants to help you.

There is a war going on, but God is fighting on your side and has given you the weapons you need. Use them to send Satan running!

Prayer Starter: Lord, thank You so much for giving me the spiritual weapons I need to fight my enemy. With Your help, I know that I can win the battle today!

opinions, and there's nothing wrong with that, but the moment we think there's something wrong with other people because they don't share our personal preferences, we have a problem with judging others. In these situations, I tell myself, “Joyce, it's none of your business.”

Don't let harmful judgements grow in you. Instead realize that God made everyone different and it's ok for people to think differently. And when necessary, tell yourself, “This is none of my business.”

Prayer Starter: God, I don't want to judge or criticize others. When I encounter people who have different opinions and personal preferences than me, please help me to see them through Your eyes and remember that my opinions aren't more important than theirs.

196TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church was founded in 1796 by James Varick. He later became the first bishop. There were incidents of race and color discrimination, including segregation at the Communion Table and Water Baptism in the John Street Methodist Church in New York. There was a strong desire to worship as free men and as children of God, therefore, James Varick and with other members on leaving John Street were organized as the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church .

African: refers to our heritage.
Methodist: refers to our doctrine
Episcopal: refers to our form of government
Zion: refers to our distinction



Rev. Jehiel Beaman



Rev. Douglas Lawrence



Rev. & Mrs. Moses L. Harvill

On December 23, 2007, we rejoice in the miracle on West and Wadsworth Street by opening the doors to the New Cross Street A.M.E. Zion Church.

On April 20, 2008, Cross Street celebrated the 185th Church Anniversary and the dedication Celebration of the New Cross Street A.M.E. Zion Church.

The Right Reverend George E. Battle, Presiding Bishop and Mrs. Iris Miller Battle, Missionary Supervisor was so very thankful that God has afforded us the opportunity to share and participate in this auspicious occasion. Look at what God has entrusted to the members of this Church; to the community in the City of Middletown; to the State of

Connecticut; and especially to the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. My heart and I pray that your hearts cannot fully express the gratitude we feel for how God has provided and for how He has worked through all of us to meet the needs of those we now serve and the many who will come that we will assuredly serve in the future.

WORDS TO LIVE BY

Hang It On The Cross

***If you have a secret sorrow,
a burden or a loss,
An aching need for healing....
Hang It On The Cross***

***If worry steals your sleep
and makes you turn and toss,
If your heart is feeling heavy...
Hang It On The Cross***

***Every obstacle to faith
or doubt you come across,
Every prayer unanswered....
Hang It On The Cross***

***For Christ has borne our brokenness
and dearly paid the cost
To turn our trials to triumph....
Hang It On The Cross***

WASHED CLEAN

READ: Jeremiah 2:13, 20-22

The blood of Jesus, [God's] Son, purifies us from all sin. 1 John 1:17

I couldn't believe it. A blue gel pen had hidden itself in the folds of my white towels and survived the washing machine, only to explode in the dryer. Ugly blue stains were everywhere. My white towels were ruined. No amount of bleach would be able to remove the dark stains.

As I reluctantly consigned the towels to the rag pile, I was reminded of the Old Testament prophet Jeremiah's lament describing the damaging effects of sin. By rejecting God and turning to idols (Jeremiah 2:13), Jeremiah declared that the people of Israel had caused a permanent stain in their relationship with God: "Although you wash yourself with soap and use an abundance of cleaning powder, the stain of your guilt is still before me," declares the Sovereign Lord" (V. 22). They were powerless to undo the damage they'd done.

On our own, it is impossible to remove the stain of our sin. But Jesus has done what we could not. Through the power of

His death and resurrection, He "purifies [believers] from all sins" (1 John 1:7).

Even when it's hard to believe, cling to this beautiful truth: there's no damage from sin that Jesus can't totally remove. God is willing and ready to wash away the effects of sin for anyone willing to return to Him (V. 9). Through Christ, we can live each day in freedom and hope.

Where do you go with your guilt? How might you live differently today knowing that Jesus's death has the power to completely remove the guilt and "stain" of your sin?

Jesus's blood washes away sin's stain.

Ministries, Grand Rapids, Michigan,
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Crises/Emergency: Cell phone 860-754-4606

Cross Street Recovery Ministry the "Hope Line" is in operation 24 hours per day. Please call 860-754-4606 if you, a friend and/or a family member are in need of counseling and/or are in crisis, **PLEASE** dial the "Hope Line". All information will be confidential.

CROSS STREET MINISTRY OF RECOVERY

We can't but through God, all things are possible. How might we pull on God's strength to help each other recover?

Let the spirit of God work for you in a Mighty, Mighty Way

For more information contact:
Church office 860-344-9527.or
Rev. Gregory B. Winborne: Days: 860-616-3834

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

<p>Sunday 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 2nd Sunday Senior Usher Board Meeting (following service) Youth Meeting 1st & 4th Sunday's (following service)</p> <p>Monday 6:00 p.m. Zumba 7:00-9:00 p.m. Bible Study, Eddy Shelter 7:00 Media Ministry (1st and 3rd of month)</p> <p>Tuesday Special Prayer for Pastor Harvill 6:00—7:00 p.m. Prayer meeting and</p>	<p>bible study.</p> <p>Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Zumba 6:00 p.m. Ministerial Staff (1st of month)</p> <p>Thursday 6:00 p.m. Steward Board 7:00 p.m. Trustee Board (2nd of month)</p> <p>Friday Day of Fasting 6:00 p.m. Vision Choir (3rd & 4th of month) 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm Cross Street Recovery Ministry (room 2)</p>	<p>Saturday 10:00 a.m. Pastors Aide (2nd) 11:00 a.m. Security Ministry Meeting (2nd Saturday of month) 12:00 noon Missionaries (2nd Saturday of month)</p> <p>Choir Rehearsals Men - 7 p.m. Monday Women - Tuesday & Friday before 5th Sunday Children - 7 p.m. Friday before 1st Sunday Unity - 7 p.m. Thursday Praise & Worship Choir 7:00 pm Wednesday</p>
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MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

<p>Tuesday, April 2 @6:00 pm Bible Study & Strategy For Growth</p> <p>Wednesday, April @9:00 am Legislative Breakfast @Legislative Office Building 300 Capital Ave #5100, Hartford, CT 06106 **Van will be leaving @ 8:00 am** Please RSVP by March 29, to Rev. Robyn Anderson at: REVRMANDERSON@GMAIL.COM</p> <p>@7:00 PM Prayer Meeting At the church and on the Prayer Line Prayer Line number: (641) 715-3273 Code 861471</p> <p>Saturday, April 6 @9:30 am Lay Council 4th Quarterly Meeting @ Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church 2051 Main Street Hartford, Ct 06141</p> <p>@10:00 am Leadership Meeting Elevating Leaders Expectations Rev. Yvonne Mitto, Presenter All Ministers, Stewards, Trustees, Deaconess, Class Leaders, Team Servants, Board Presidents and Officers</p>	<p>of all ministries to attend. All persons who would like to serve our leaders are invited to attend!!</p> <p>Wednesday, April 10 @6:00 pm Young Adult Fellowship Please Notes: Young Adult Fellowship will be meeting EVERY OTHER Wednesday @6:00 pm ***This meeting will be held off-site. Please see Sis. Melanie James for more information***</p> <p>Saturday, April 13 @9:30 am New England Conference 3rd Check-up Meeting @Mt. Olive A.M.E. Zion Church 82-100 Pearl street, Waterbury, Ct 06704</p> <p>Sunday, April 14 @3:30 pm Family & Friends Day @Blackwell Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church 680-682 Blue Hills Avenue, Hartford, Ct Pastor will be preaching. Men's & Children's Choirs Singing, and Contemporary Ushers serving. Van leaving Cross Street @ 2:15 pm</p> <p>Tuesday, April 16 @7:00 pm Ministers & Leaders Executive Meeting</p>	<p>Thursday, April 18 @7:00 pm Mauudy Thurs Communion Service @Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church 2051 Main Street, Hartford, CT 064141!</p> <p>Friday, April 19 @12:00 pm Good Friday Service @Shiloh Christian Church 693 Saybrook Road Middletown, CT 06457 Pastor will be given Frist Words and Unity Choir will be singing!!!</p> <p>Sunday, April 21 @6:00 am Sunrise Easter Service</p> <p>@10:00 am Easter Sunday Following 10:00 am service Easter Egg Hunt Sponsored by the Young Adult Ministry</p> <p>Saturday, April 27 @9:00 am Hartford District Super Saturday</p> <p>Sunday, April 28 @10:00 am 196th Church Anniversary</p>
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Doxology
Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy. To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.
Jude 24-25



CROSS STREET A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

Organized in 1823

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Sunday School — 8:45 a.m.
Worship Service — 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Moses L. Harvill, M. Div.,
Pastor

Email: mharvill@snet.net

The Rev. Dr. Terry L. Jones
Presiding Elder

Mrs. D. Diane Proctor
Missionary Supervisor

The Right Reverend Dennis Proctor
Presiding Prelate

Ministerial Staff

- Rev. Robyn Anderson-Turner
- Rev. William D. Wilson
- Rev. Ella Frances Perry
- Rev. Karen Nesmith
- Rev. James Battle
- Rev. Myrtle Turner
- Rev. Gregory Winborne
- Rev. Joyce Johnson
- Rev. Earlene Grants
- Sister Felicia Freeman



2018 - 2019
EVANGELIZING - EQUIPPING - EMPOWERING
JOYFULLY SERVING & GIVING

"I am a Christian"

By Maya Angelou

When I say ... "I am a Christian"
I'm not shouting "I'm clean livin'."
I'm whispering "I was lost,
Now I'm found and forgiven."

When I say ... "I am a Christian"
I don't speak of this with pride.
I'm confessing that I stumble
And need Christ to be my guide.

When I say ... "I am a Christian"
I'm not trying to be strong.
I'm professing that I'm weak
And need His strength to carry on.

When I say ... "I am a Christian"
I'm not bragging of success.
I'm admitting I have failed
And need God to clean my mess.

When I say ... "I am a Christian"
I still feel the sting of pain.
I have my share of heartaches
So I call upon His name.

When I say ... "I am a Christian"
I'm not holier than thou.
I'm just a simple sinner
Who received God's good grace, some-
how!

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13 (KJV)

Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom
come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is
in heaven. Give us this day our daily
bread. And forgive us our debts, as we
forgive our debtors. And lead us not
into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom, and the
power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.



Then the Lord answered me and said:
Write the vision and make it plain on
tablets, that he may run who reads it.
Habakkuk 2:2

The Jabez Prayer

And Jabez called on the God of Israel
saying, "**Oh, that You would bless me
indeed, and enlarge my territory, that
Your hand would keep me from evil,
that I may nor cause pain!**" So God
granted him what he requested.
1 Chronicles 4:10 (NKJV)

"God's Word

*For the word of God is quick, and power-
ful, and sharper than any two-edged
sword, piercing even to the dividing asun-
der of soul and spirit, and of the joints
and marrow, and is a discerner of the
thoughts and intents of the heart"*
Hebrews 4:12

Prayer: Forever, O Lord, your Word is
settled in heaven. I bless you because
you have given me rest according to all
that you have promised to me. Not one
word of all your good promises has ever
failed. In light of this truth, I will walk in
your Word at all times.
I love your Word, Father, it is a lamp unto
my feet, and a light unto my path. All of
your words are pure, O God, and you are
a shield to me. Lord God, your way is

perfect, and your Word is tried. You are a
shield and a mighty buckler to me as I
trust in you.

With your Word you made the heavens,
O Lord. all of your promises are yes in
Christ, unto your glory, O God. You have
spoken through your Word since ancient
times, in order to give light to those who
sit in darkness, and you guide my feet in
the way of peace.

Your Word is quick, alive, and powerful,
and sharper than any two-edged sword.
It pierces even to the dividing asunder of
my soul and spirit, and of my joints and
marrow, and is a discerner of the
thoughts and intents of my heart.

Father, I am thankful for your Word, and I
will endeavor to walk in the light of your
Word all the days of my life.

If you were to die today, do you know where you will spend eternity ???

The Cross Street Journal is published Bi-monthly. If you have an article or information for current and future publications the deadline for this information is the Monday after the 2nd Sunday of each Month. **You may submit your information in the following ways:** place the information on a CD (Window format) and leave it in the Cross Street office with Verna Boyce Or, E-mail Ken Simmons (Ken46@snet.net), or give it to him **Praise God!!!**