

The Old, Rugged Cross



We have passed through the seasons of Christmas and Epiphany, and are now facing the long, slow march through Lent toward Easter. To prepare us for that journey, we will be entering into some intentional patterns of corporate worship in order to shape our souls to receive the beauty of the cross as it rises against the backdrop of human sin and death.



I have a brother who lives in Lawrence, so my family and I frequently travel south out of Saint Joseph in order to visit his family. As we go, we pass by a large hill (referred to as a mountain) which serves as the footstool to a large, white cross. The cross sits at the apex of the hill, set in bold relief against the sky, and is presumably meant to proclaim the Christian faith of owner of that property, and to invite consideration of the One who met death on a cross some two thousand years ago. I wonder, as we pass by, what someone unfamiliar with Jesus would think, if they saw this large statuesque letter 't' atop the hill. Would they ask someone to explain it to them? What would they be told? That it was an ancient Roman torture device used to publicly shame and execute criminals? That it was such a dehumanizing and agonizing way to die because it was useful to deter future rebellion? That crosses were located at the gates of cities in order to warn visitors of the consequences of inciting insurrection against the governing forces of the land?

I wonder if they'd realize that decorating our hilltops, homes, necklaces and journals with crosses is akin to hanging up a picture of a gallows on the walls of our living rooms. I mean to shock you a bit with that idea because the cross is shocking. We've modern-

And though we know that Resurrection comes next, I want to encourage us to anticipate sitting in that space, and silence, of Good Friday and Holy Saturday. In the shadow of the cross, the followers of Jesus, fearing what will become of them if this is what happened to Jesus, run away. They gather in a secluded, secret room. They mourn and weep for what they have lost.

They lost Jesus, the one they expected to fix everything that was wrong in their world. All the betrayals they felt, the oppression put on them by Romans, the shame of their own sin, their failures to love their neighbors. They were afraid that their greatest hopes had come to nothing. How could the Messiah win, if He was dead? What they missed, and what we often miss, is that it is precisely through dying that the Messiah wins. As man, Jesus fully experienced the suffering of humanity, being betrayed, beaten, falsely accused, lied about, tortured and even killed. As it says in Hebrews, we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with us. Jesus experienced the full weight of human sin, but without contributing any of his own sin and culpability into the equation. He simply received the hatred, slander, violence and rage of humanity. And it killed Him. But it is precisely this injustice committed against Jesus that breaks the power of sin and death over us. It is a monument to our shame, as spiritual participants in the crowd, calling for the death of God. ...Continue page 2



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It is also the ground of our hope, as Jesus humbles himself to the point of death so that He can defeat it for us. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us

I would love to invite you to engage with the dual reality of the cross through song via our intergenerational (all-ages) choir. We will be shaping our voices into an arrangement of *The Old, Rugged Cross*, because the center of this piece contains an invitation into the grand, mysterious exchange: the life of the beloved, divine Son given for the life of shameful, lost sinners. When we by faith give Jesus ownership of our life and identify with Him in His death, His resurrection likewise becomes our

resurrection, the hope of glory. The tension of the tragedy and beauty of the cross is the energizing force of the Gospel for the believer, and one that you can help promote by contributing your voice to the choir, or by singing along with us on Easter Sunday. If you are of a mind to join, please note that we will have practices at 2:30 in the afternoon on March 19, March 26, and April 2, with one more Easter morning. Please contact the church office if you would like to participate.

In Christ,

Henry K.



PIR Leadership Retreat

Elizabeth Dean

Elders, Deacons, Trustees, and staff participated in a Leadership Retreat February 24th and 25th.

Dave Bolander led a discussion Friday based on Nehemiah. Nehemiah's leadership started with prayer. Proceeded with planning, and godly leadership. He often offered to God "Arrow prayers" such as Nehemiah 2:4 "The King said to me, What is it you want?" Then I prayed to the God of heaven, and I answered the King. "We were encouraged to do the same. Saturday, Tom Jameson from PIR Ministries, led a discussion on "Cultivating a Culture of Ministry Health." He defined culture as, "the way of life that defines a group.

Signs of unhealthy ministry culture include isolation/burnout, unresolved conflict, moral compromise, disunity/factions, and leadership entitlement. He urged us not to put the pastor on a pedestal and to encourage outside the church friendships for the pastor.

Signs of growing culture of ministry health include trust that starts with Christ, clear values, Listen well and talk less, invite healthy conflict, and experience leadership as a joy not a burden. Our goal is to build a vibrant church where Christ shines and a resilient church where grace, humility are evident. The growth of our members as disciples is our goal not numbers of members.

Finally, where to begin? He encouraged collaboration, which is high freedom and high vision. What better place to start than prayer to the God of heaven and a pot luck dinner and more conversation.

Two references he mentioned are; 1) A Church Called TOV by Scot McKnight and Laura Barringer; 2) The Resilient Pastor Leading the Church in a Rapidly Changing World, By Glenn Packiam.



Brookdale Church will watch the TV Series "The Chosen" Wednesday nights thru the Lenten Season.

"The Chosen" is a television drama series created, directed, and co-written by Dallas Jenkins. The series is based on the life of Jesus Christ and follows the stories of his disciples and their interactions with him. It is the first multi-season series about the life of Jesus, and it has gained a strong following since its release.

The series is unique in that it is crowdfunded, meaning that it is financed by its fans rather than a network or studio. This has given the creators more creative freedom and control over the content of the show.

The first season of "The Chosen" was released in 2019, and it was followed by a second season in 2021. Both seasons consist of eight episodes, with each episode running approximately 45 minutes. The series has been praised for its high production values, strong performances, and its focus on character development and relationships.

One of the key aspects of "The Chosen" is its emphasis on portraying Jesus as a relatable and human character, rather than an idealized and distant figure. This has been a source of controversy for some viewers, but it has also been praised for its authenticity and realism.

Overall, "The Chosen" has been well-received by audiences and critics alike, and it has become a popular and influential representation of the life of Jesus in modern media.

Valentines Day Luncheon

Our Senior Adults enjoyed a Valentines Day Luncheon on Valentines Day at noon. They had a Delicious variety of homemade soups, freshly baked rolls, and delightful desserts . Following lunch they played a Valentines Day themed Not so Newlywed Game to liven things up.





*Come one, come all on a woodland tea party adventure!
Wear your favorite dress and bring your favorite forest animal.
It will be so much fun to explore and enjoy a sweet treat in the woods.*

BROOKDALE CHURCH INVITES YOU TO...

A Woodland Tea Party

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FLOWERS, TREATS, CRAFTS, BIBLE STORY

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Session Meeting Summary-February 21, 2023

Discussed the resignation of Henry Kritikos as Director of Youth and Worship. A task force was appointed to address the best way to meet those responsibilities when the resignation becomes effective on May 31, 2023.

There are one or two potential candidates for the Transitional Pastor that are being considered for an interview. Please pray for this process.

Approved the celebration of communion for Sunday, March 5, 2023.

Received report from Elders Ann Weston and David Bolander who attended the Presbytery meeting on January 27-28, 2023.

Session considered a request from Women's Ministry to set up a Church Decorating Team.

Leadership retreat for Elders, Deacons, Trustees, and Staff will be held on February 24th-25th in Fellowship Hall.

Next Scheduled Meeting March 21, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

February Birthdays

Birthdays

March

- 1 - Deborah Birr
- 2 - Nadia Corcoran
- 3 - Mike O'Donnell
- 6 - Teresa Fetter
- 8 - David Bolander, Diane Dudik, Mike Seever
- 9 - Chance Dahle
- 14 - Jill Blazer, Connie Decker
- 15 - Don Weckerlin
- 16 - Zachary Decker
- 18 - Ellen Beier

- 20 - Troy Hague, Kristen Schaeffer
- 22 - Delores Hendrix, Doug Walley
- 23 - Vickie Bartelt, Mel Hagan, Kai Nightingale
- 27 - Julia Beier
- 29 - Scott Nelson, Xavier Taylor
- 31 - Owen Jones, Rick Thornton

April

- 1 - Kristin Lemon

Family Notes...

To our Brookdale family,
Thank you so much for the care you have given us during the time of Ed's Mom's death, and everyday.
We are so glad to be a part of the Brookdale family-Ed and Donna Smith

Thank you for the plant for Darold Trautman. He will be missed but he is at peace now
-Matt and Susie Thrautman

Care Portal

Sue Bolander



Four years ago, Brookdale Church joined CarePortal to help meet needs in our community. What is CarePortal? First and foremost, CarePortal exists to help vulnerable children and families. Requests submitted through CarePortal come from caseworkers at government child welfare agencies or other child-serving organizations approved by CarePortal to vet needs.

CarePortal is a technology connecting platform that brings the needs of hurting children and families in our community to our attention. Caseworkers uncover the needs. CarePortal makes local churches and community members aware, giving us a real-time opportunity to respond.

Over the last four years, Brookdale Church's involvement has helped 130 local children by meeting 34 requests, 20 requests over the last 12 months. Nationally, CarePortal has served over 179,266 children by meeting 70, 385 requests.

Our help with CarePortal is a step towards bringing the beauty of the gospel to the Brokenness of life.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30 Men 10:00 Women 1:00 SALT 5:30 Dance Fit 6:00 Supper/The Chosen	2 9:30 Bible Study Fell.	3 6:30 Mens Bible Study	4 10:00 Dance Fit
5 Communion 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6:30 Youth Group	6 10:00 Women's Bible st.	7 6:30 Mens 5:30 Dance Fit 5:30 Personnel 6:30 Deacons	8 6:30 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Women's Bible study 11:00 Dayfimers 5:30 Dance Fit 6:00 Supper/The Chosen	9 9:30 Bible Study Fell.	10 6:30 Mens Bible Study 2:00 Book Club	11 10:00 Dance Fit
12 Taking Easter Lily Orders 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6:30 Youth Group	13 10:00 Women's Bible st. 2:00 Women's Bible st. 5:15 Finance	14 12:00 St. Patrick's Day Luncheon 5:30 Dance Fit 6:00 Trustees	15 6:30 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Women's Bible study 5:30 Dance Fit 6:00 Supper/The Chosen	16 Haven House Food Kitchen 9:30 Bible Study Fell.	17 6:30 Mens Bible Study	18 10:00 Dance Fit 10:00 Tea Party
19 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6:30 Youth Group	20 10:00 Women's Bible st.	21 5:30 Dance Fit 6:30 Session	22 6:30 Men's Prayer Break-fast 10:00 Women's Bible study 11:00 Dayfimers 5:30 Dance Fit 6:00 Supper/The Chosen	23 9:30 Bible Study Fell.	24 6:30 Men's Bible study	25 10:00 Dance Fit
26 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6:30 Youth Group	27 10:00 Women's Bible st. 2:00 Women's Bible st.	28 5:30 Dance Fit	29 5:30 Dance Fit 6:30 Mens Prayer Breakfast 6:00 Supper/The Chosen	30 9:30 Bible Study Fell.	31 6:30 Mens Bible Study	



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bring the beauty of the Gospel
to the brokenness of life.*

