

April 2018

Pittsburg CoB

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Pastor: Ken Oren

John 20:24-29NRSV

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." ²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

FROM THE PASTOR:

In this world of smart-phones and instant news - it is far too easy to trust in what we hold in our hand. Like any good advertiser, the source tells us how badly we need what they have for us. And because it comes from a "trusted-source," we believe.

How can we sort out what is real and what is false?

Thomas had been with Jesus and the disciples for three years. He saw the miracles and walked with his brothers - but even so, in the time of crisis, he did not believe.

Although he did many miracles, Jesus did not have real power until he sacrificed himself on the cross and rose again.

Because he obeyed to the end, he gained eternal power. And he sent the Holy Spirit to set us free from doubt. This is the power that changed Thomas. This is the power that is available to each one of us. After the cross, timid men were willing to give their lives to bring the message forward to us. It tells us not to look at what men have to say, look to the message of the cross. Pastor Ken



Larry Harter brought two messages on Psalm 23 while I was out of town. Thanks Larry for a job well done!

Sunday 9:00 am - Sunday School
Sunday 10:00 am - Praise and Worship

- - - CALENDAR OF EVENTS - - -

- Mar 28 **No Wednesday Fellowship/Bible Study**
- Mar 29 Thursday 6:00 pm
Joint Love Feast and Communion
At Painter Creek
- Apr 1 **Easter Sunday**
7:00 am Sunrise Service
Followed by carry-in breakfast
Then Egg hunt
9:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am Easter Service
- Apr 1 **No Concert of the month due to Easter**
- Apr 4 Wednesday 7:00 pm
Fellowship/Bible Study - Life of David
- Apr 18 Wednesday 7:00 pm
Pittsburg board meeting
- Apr 25 Wednesday 6:30 pm
Kairos cookies due - collection and boxing
For weekend distribution (26th - 29th)
- May 6 Sunday 6:00 pm
Concert of the Month
Salem Quartet
- Jun 3 Sunday 6:00 pm
Concert of the Month
Fresh Spirit Ladies Trio
- Jul 1 Sunday 6:00 pm
Concert of the Month
Sojourner Quartet

**APRIL
BIRTHDAYS &
ANNIVERSARIES**

- 8 Jordan Midland
- 16 Kim Kessler
- 17 Danny Dendler
- 20 Carol Goubeaux
- 21 Jared Hatch
- 23 Tara Zimmer
- 24 Clifford Hoblit
- 27 Rodger Hamilton

Note:
If we have not listed your
birthday or anniversary,
please contact the Pastor
so we can correct the list.

Castine Area Food Bank
Food item for April
is Cereal



Brody
shows off
his new
driving
permit.

**Concert of the month
for April
No Concert**



In a skit about
Psalm 23, the sheep
love their good
shepherd.



In a skit about
Psalm 23, the
sheep listen to
the voice of the
shepherd.

The moment you wake up each morning, all your wishes and hopes for the day rush at you like wild animals. And the first job each morning consists in shoving it all back; in listening to that other voice, taking that other point of view, letting that other, larger, stronger, quieter life come flowing in. C.S. Lewis, Sermons.com

Gracie Allen played the scatterbrained wife in a comedy team with her husband George Burns. Once, Gracie called in a repairman to fix her electric clock. The repairman fiddled with it for a while and then said, "There's nothing wrong with the clock; you didn't have it plugged in." Gracie replied, "I don't want to waste electricity, so I only plug it in when I want to know what time it is."
That's an apt description of many of us. We save our religion for a rainy day. We go about unplugged and wonder why our lives are so devoid of power. How sad. Christian faith is not something to be plugged in when it is convenient or when it is necessary. The Christian life is lived daily. There is a cost involved.
King Duncan, Collected Sermons, www.Sermons.com

The story is told of a little boy and his father. They were walking along a road when they came across a large stone. The boy looked at the stone and thought about it a little. Then he asked his father, "Do you think if I use all my strength, I can move that rock?"

The father thought for a moment and said, "I think that if you use all your strength, you can do it."

That was all the little boy needed. He ran over to the rock and began to push on it. He pushed and he pushed, so hard did he try that little beads of sweat appeared on his forehead. But the rock didn't move - not an inch, not half an inch.

After a while, the little boy sat down on the ground. His face had fallen. His whole body seemed to be just a lump there on the earth. "You were wrong," he told his dad. "I can't do it."

His father walked over to him, knelt beside him, and put his arm around the boy's shoulder. "You can do it," he said. "You just didn't use all your strength. You didn't ask me to help."

The world in which we live tells us that it is all up to us. It tells us that we have to be strong and independent. It tells us we can't and shouldn't count on anyone or anything else. And yet, what faith tells us and what Jews and Christians have known forever is that we have a ready resource in God, strength for those who ask.

Donald M. Tuttle , Sermons.com

Form our adopted missionaries, Nate and Ivy Cheeseman:

In February the local Thai community held a celebration of the recently completed Northern Thai New Testament. Pastors and church leaders from a variety of denominations met to praise God together. We were privileged to attend.

Often when I join a cross-cultural worship service, I hear translated lyrics of old familiar hymns.

While I personally enjoy hearing hymns in other languages, I've often wondered how meaningful it is to the locals. Do they feel fully engaged worshipping God in a musical/cultural style that is foreign to them? This service did not have many elements that felt familiar to my church background. High school boys danced while beating out a rhythm on a large suspended drum. Thai women danced slowly and gracefully with long flowing dresses. The songs were in a style of music unlike anything I've ever heard at a worship service. Seeing worship of Jesus in a culture so different from my own was beautiful. Same God. Different style of showing adoration.

As we joined the celebration, I kept thinking how I wished each of you could be there. You have been a part of the larger team that God has used in bringing His Word to so many people in Southeast Asia. We thank God and we thank you for the ways you've let Him work through you.



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If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, please contact the Pastor at pitsburgcob@yahoo.com



Noah McCabe leads the congregation in inspiring worship.



The Pitsburg Players, the Williams children, read through a skit, helping the congregation see the message from a different angle. Thanks for your help!