

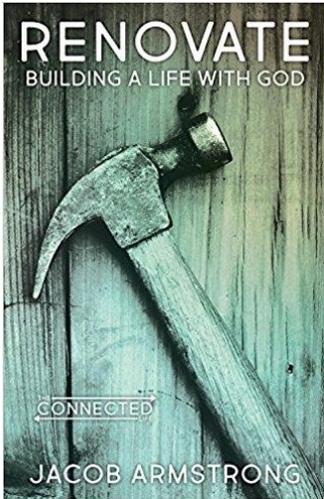
Overbrook United Methodist Church
1005 N Maple St, Overbrook, KS 66524
overbrookumc@yahoo.com
785-665-7345
Website: <http://www.overbrookumc.org>
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/OverbrookUMC>



Open Hearts,
Open Minds,
Open Doors

“RENOVATE – WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE YOU BUILD”

BY HYUN JUNG CHOI



“So I said to them, “You see the trouble that we’re in: Jerusalem is in ruins, and its gates are destroyed by fire! Come, let’s rebuild the wall of Jerusalem so that we won’t continue to be in disgrace.” I told them that my God had taken care of me, and also told them what the king had said to me.” (Nehemiah 2:17-18)

When Nehemiah heard the ruin of the Temple in Jerusalem, he was so sad, and crying and despairing of it. Then he decided to come back to Jerusalem and looked around the site and prayed for it. The walls were torn down, the gates burned, the Temple no longer a holy place of worship. It broke his heart.

Then after examining the city in the middle of the night, finally Nehemiah told somebody. He told them about what God had put on his heart. And do you know what the people said? “Let us start rebuilding (v. 18b).” That’s what they

said. Let’s do it. We’re in. We believe. We are with you! Nehemiah told the people about his crazy dream of renovation and they said, “Let’s us start rebuilding.”

Last week I read a book, “Renovate: Building a Life with God” by Jacob Armstrong. Jacob says in his book, “If you have a renovation on your heart, share it. Tell a friend. But before you start rebuilding, you should know a few things.” Here they are.

Renovation is hard. Here is a question, “What’s easier – a renovation project or a new build?” The answer is that renovation is always harder. “The work that God wants us to do is a renovation, a rebuild. It will be hard, it will take time, and it will require care,” said Jacob.

God is preparing others too. “This isn’t a solo sport. Your personal restoration, the thing God is calling you to, will not be done in isolation. It’s exciting to find out who and through whom God has been preparing... God’s renovation projects always precede us and involve other people. The thing is, we just see a piece at a time. Be assured, though, that the restoration involves more than just you. It’s a community project.”

Renovation requires faith. “If we understand faith as belief in things we can’t see, then renovation is all about faith. To renovate, you have to believe in something that you can’t yet see, or that you don’t see clearly.”

Renovation is all about God’s power. “When you rebuild by yourself – you know, DIY – you get to see how awesome you are. People compliment your hard work and ingenuity. That’s fun for a while.

But when you rebuild with faith, when you hang in through the praying, planning, and examining, then you get to see God's power magnified."

You'll have questions. "Questions are inevitable. Take some time to ponder before you rebuild. Are you struggling to know the next step? Are you trying to see what God is up to? Where do you need to slow down? Whom do you need to tell?"

Are we ready to renovate ourselves and the church? God is good. The call you feel to renovation is real. The hope to change your life is holy. Change takes patience. It takes vulnerability. It takes faith. It's worth it. Amen.

If you are interested in being a "guest" author of Sacred Scribblings please contact church office, 785-665-7345, or overbrookumc@yahoo.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

--**Church Conference** – 2017 Church Conference is **this Sunday, 3:00 pm at Ottawa UMC**. All church leaders are encouraged to attend the conference.

--**Monday Women's Bible Class** – This week's Bible study has been cancelled due to the funeral here at the church on Monday.

--**Electronic Giving** is now available for Overbrook UMC. Go to the church website (www.overbrookumc.org) and click on Online Giving. This enables you to have funds transferred from your checking account directly to the church checking account for your pledge and donations. You can also use a debit or credit card. Questions? Contact J. A. Cordts (785-665-7561) or Shirley Cole (785-665-7661).

--**OUMC Harvest Meal – Saturday, October 21st**. Mark your calendars in anticipation of the first turkey dinner of the season! The sign-up sheet is located by the kitchen door. There are lots of opportunities to help with this fundraiser. Proceeds will benefit the United Methodist Committee on Relief and our Capital Improvement Campaign Fund.

--**Scholarship forms** are now available in the church office for the 2018 spring semester. Forms need to be returned **by November 15th**.

NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

<p><u>Sunday, 10-8-17</u> 9:00 am – Sunday School 9:45 am – Coffee Fellowship 10:00 am – Worship 11:15 am – Church Council 3:00 pm – Church Conference</p> <p><u>Monday, 10-9-17</u> 7:00 pm – Jubilee Belles 7:00 pm – Trustees Meeting</p> <p><u>Tuesday, 10-10-17</u> 2:30 pm – Worship at Assisted Living</p>	<p><u>Wednesday, 10-11-17</u> 1:30 pm – Painting group 3:45 pm – Praise Ringers 5:00 pm – Seekers 6:00 pm – Praise & Worship service 6:00 pm – Youth Group 6:30 pm – Bible study class 7:00 pm – Chancel Choir</p> <p><u>Saturday, 10-14-17</u> 7:00 am – Men's group 7:00 am – TOPS</p> <p><u>Sunday, 10-15-17</u> 9:00 am – Sunday School 9:45 am – Coffee Fellowship 10:00 am – Worship</p>
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