



Renaissance! Rebirth!

But now, O Lord, You are our Father, We are the clay, and You our **potter**;
And all of us are the work of Your hand.- Isaiah 64:8

After 28 years of ministry I finally got a Sabbatical. For my first half of my Sabbatical, I got to travel to parts of Europe. With Ian I visited Rome, Florence, Venice, Paris, London (Leslie and Rose joined us for Paris & London), Edinburgh, Inverness and Isle of Skye in Scotland, and then finished the trip with Dublin, Ireland—land of my ancestors (the McCaffrey's and O'Keefe's) who immigrated to the USA during the potato famine. Ian especially soaked up Scotland, land of his and Leslie's ancestors--the Douglass clan. Thank you to all of you and to Pastor Mick, as you took care of our church family in my absence!



Photo above: Pastor Dan and Leslie in Paris.

Each location was amazing, and Ian, being a history major, ate it up! Our favorite city for this trip was Florence. In Florence we stepped into the Renaissance of the 15th Century. Florence is where the Renaissance began, and we were inspired! We were inspired especially by some of the key figures of the Renaissance who led the way into scientific and geographical discovery and new forms of art. It was a period marked by a hunger for learning and for trying the new. We stood in front of the Uffizi Gallery with its outside walls lined with the greats of the Renaissance: Giotto, Donatello, DaVinci, Dante, Petrarca, Galileo, and my favorite, Michelangelo. When in Florence we stepped into Piazza della Signoria, a cobblestone square in front of the Palazzo Vecchio (a castle), lined with great statues, even a replica of David where he originally stood, a great fountain, and the grand Uffizi Gallery. We had a Wow moment that almost made us fall to our knees in wonder at the beauty, grandness and history before our eyes!



Photo above: Pastor Dan & Ian "experiencing" the Holy Spirit in Saint Peter's Basilica at the Vatican.

The last few Sundays we have been amidst a series on Renaissance. We talked about rebirth... Renaissance means rebirth! We spoke of the truth that you are all Masterpieces in the making! Created for an eternal future! Let us lean/surrender into the hands of the Master Potter! Amen?!

Isaiah 64:8- But now, O Lord, You are our Father, We are the clay, and You our **potter**; And all of us are the work of Your hand.

For our lifetime, we ARE on a journey of being birthed — of becoming! As we walk through the stages of life we are called, not to stagnation, but to a continual Renaissance to Rebirth!

Renaissance living—is walking the journey of being birthed: Leaning/surrendering into the hands of the master Potter!--the great Artist, the Great Physician, the loving Savior, the "making-things-new" Holy Spirit.

- Cling to, Talk with, and be Guided by God who is molding you into a masterpiece.
- Always keep Learning — Be a lifelong learner!
- Always keep Creating — participating with God in making this world a more beautiful place!

- Be in touch with your Passion, called to make a difference in this world, as God makes you fully YOU, the Masterpiece!

“The glory of God is man fully alive!”-states St Irenaeus in the 2nd Century.

1. Where are you in this journey of Renaissance, of Re-birth, of becoming?
Are you on the edge of a new opportunity or change? And how?
Is it a welcome newness, or a newness born out of adversity?
Or do you feel you are in the Dark Ages—needing inspiration?
Or both?
2. How can you lean into what God is doing? How can you participate in the re-birth?

As I was away, I missed you all deeply, and grew to appreciate even more our wonderful Westview Family.
Thank you for all the love you bring into this world, as you allow Jesus to love through you.
As we each lean into the hands of the Great Potter, May God bless you!

-Pastor Dan
