

# THE PROSPECT TOWER

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Prospect United Methodist Church

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February 2020

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## Pastor's Page

### Growing Christian Community Of Faith And Action



On January 13, a group of bishops and leaders developed and announced a separation plan for the UMC, which was titled "PROTOCOL OF RECONCILIATION AND GRACE THROUGH SEPARATION". Then all news media started talking about the impending separation of United Methodist Church. New York Times headlines read "United Methodist Church Announces Plan to Split Over Same-Sex Marriage". I think it is the nature of news media making things dramatic to draw public attention.

But the headline is very tricky. The plan is one of the proposals headed to the 2020 General Conference that will be held at Minneapolis, Minnesota this coming May. All proposals will be discussed and voted at the General Conference. United Methodist Church did not make any decision yet. UMC did not make any announcement on separation. A group of bishops and leaders proposed a plan to the General Conference. It should be discussed at the coming General Conference. So until then nothing is going to happen. We do not know what is going to happen and we do not have to do anything at this point. (If you are interested in other plans and news concerning General Conference, please go to UM News website, [www.umnews.org](http://www.umnews.org).)

However, we will continue to grow as a Growing Christian Community of Faith and Action. We as a living church are meant to grow. We are meant to flourish, not just to survive but to thrive, not just to exist but to explore and expand. We will continue to take care of and nurture one another so we can grow mature in faith to the fullness of Christ. We are Christian. We are driven by the love of Christ. The love of Christ is compelling us to worship, pray, serve, and share. Without



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# Prospect United Methodist Church

Founded 1834  
99 Summer St., Bristol, CT 06010

The Rev. Yountae Kim  
Pastor

Rev. William S. Barnes  
Pastor Emeritus

Heidi Flower  
Director of Music & Organist



*We want to hear from you. Please  
email, or phone with any concerns  
or suggestions.*

Phone: (860) 582-3443  
Fax: (860) 582-9224

E-Mail Addresses:  
prospect.yountae@gamil.com  
(information meant only for the pastor)  
prospectoffice@snet.net  
(all general information and information  
necessary for the Church Secretary.)

Website:  
<http://www.anewprospect.org>

Editor: Kathy Dube  
Layout: Jeanette Baker

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the love of Christ, whatever we do, no matter how good it is, is nothing. The love of God is compelling us to move forward. We are a community. We are one body of Christ. We are unique, distinctive, irreplaceable, and unrepeatable in our individuality but we are molded into a special unity: one body. In one body, each part has its own unique function but is organically connected with other parts of the body to compose one body. So a part of body hurts, whole body hurts. One member of church suffers, the whole church suffers.

In that sense, you are a part of the church and at the same time you are the church. We are a church of faith and action. You have faith, then you cannot keep it from expressing itself through action of love. Christ's love evokes a corresponding love in us. Faith through which we are saved is not mere intellectual understanding, or religious rituals to follow, but a life-transforming committal. Our faith is supposed to change our life, purpose, relationships, and actions. This is who we are as Prospect UMC. We do not know what is coming in our way, but we know we will continue to be a Growing Christian Community of Faith and Action as Prospect UMC has been.

*We Are Prospect UMC,  
Pastor Kim*

## History Corner

### *Possible History Of Name "Prospect"*

New members often inquire about the history of our church name, specifically the word "Prospect" in Prospect United Methodist Church. A question from Steve Oakes, a lay leader and fairly new member the church, prompted History Corner to ask our Pastor Emeritus Rev. William Barnes for his theory.

"Way back when we did the 100th anniversary of the opening of the sanctuary building, springtime 1994, I remember reading somewhere a comment, probably by

benefactor J. H. Sessions, that when the decision to move from West Street was being considered, due to the rapid growth of the church, the property on the corner of Summer and Center Streets across from the new High School was being considered most favorably because of:

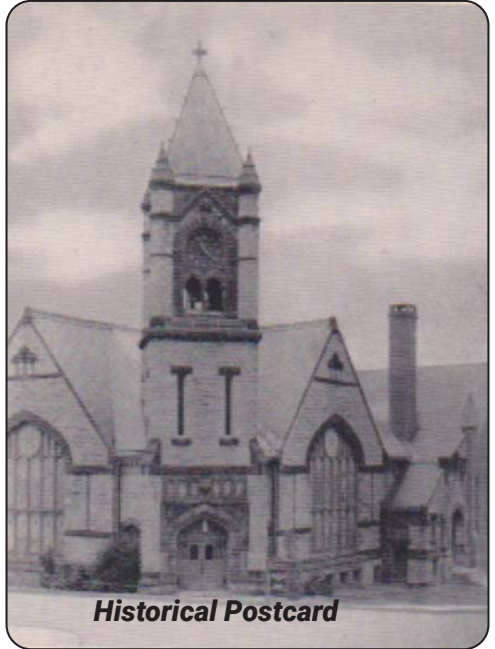
"the site's beautiful prospect looking to the west down the hill."

"Thus, when the new church was constructed there, beginning with what is now roughly the Sessions Hall building, in 1891, followed three years later in 1894 by the present Sanctuary building adjoining — the new name given to it was

"Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church."

"I do not pretend that this is an accurate quote, but back in the records I know that I read something like it. Maybe the History Committee can find the real reference."

*[Editor's Note: The new High School mentioned in the first paragraph is the school building that presently houses the Bristol Historical Society, just up the street from Prospect UMC.]*



***Historical Postcard***

# Middle Ages Group Update

By Chair Luisa Gladu

"On December 14th we held our Annual Breakfast with Santa. It was truly magical! Sessions Hall was turned into Santa's Christmas Rustic Lodge, with a towering Christmas Tree in the center of the hall.

"Our doors opened at 8:30 a.m. and Santa Elves were very busy seating guests. The children were excited and at 9 a.m. a delicious hot breakfast buffet was served, fluffy scrambled eggs, crisp hash browns and sausage and pancakes that our "elves" helped turn into reindeer pancakes with M&M's and pretzels.

"As breakfast was being enjoyed Anna and Elsa made their entrance. The children were excited and the chorus of "Let It Go" resounded in the hall. Anna and Elsa then went to their Frozen Throne Room to get ready to welcome the children and they were so happy to see that Olaf was waiting for them.

"After a few minutes the sound of jingle bells and reindeer on the roof was heard; Santa was here! He told the boys and girls he was excited to be with us again and couldn't wait to talk to every one of them. He then went off to his office and got ready to greet the boys and girls.

"Once Santa was settled into his office and workshop our Head Elves came out and spoke to their teams. They were ready to go on their magical journey, with an interactive Magic Show, a fun Arts and Crafts project, Story and Music time and of course time to visit with Queen Elsa and Princess Anna from 'Frozen' and of course their one-on-one visit with Santa to have their photo taken.

"Santa magically turned our Parlor into his North Pole Office, with tons of mail from children all over the world, pictures of Santa's reindeer team and elves as well as Mrs. Claus decorated the cozy office space. Santa's desk had some 'naughty' lists on it. Thankfully it was not from any of our boys and girls.

"Elf Mart was open throughout and a good time was had by all."



## 2020 SAVE THE DATES

### Annual Renaissance Dinners



"Saturday, April 25th and Saturday, May 2nd. This year's theme: The Queen Rules! Tickets will go on sale in March. Plan now for a fun evening of good food, fun and intrigue.

### Relay For Life

June 6th and 7th in Norton Park, Plainville.

"Join us as TEAM PUMC walks in memory of and in honor of those we love. No one fights alone and we are a small but mighty team. We will have our "Patisserie" selling the finest gourmet cupcakes and treats with our flavored coffee and tea. This year's event is being combined with Plainville's and Norton Park is a lovely location.

### Annual Breakfast With Santa

"Saturday, December 12th. Tickets sell out quickly so mark your calendar. Create wonderful, magical memories at this annual event."

## Music Corner

### ■ Choirs Seek New Singers, Ringers

If you like to sing or just have a general interest in music, Prospect Music Director Heidi Flower extends an invitation for new singers and bell ringers. Both choirs would welcome new members.

"It's never too late to join one of our choirs here at



**Music Ministry**

Prospect UMC! Speak to Heidi or any choir member for more details. Kids Praise God (KPG) is for any children in Kindergarten and above. We meet each Sunday morning before worship at 9:40 in the music room. Because of our limited time, the children are given a CD with the songs so they can practice at home. KPG usually sings an anthem each month.

"Senior Choir is open to anyone from high school on up! We meet each Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. in the music room, and again on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. Not only do we bring joyous music to our worship each week, we also have a lot of fun!

"Handbells meets each Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary. We also have a great deal of fun learning our music. We aim for playing once a month during worship service."

# Faith in Action Corner

## ■ Days For Girls Update

Carol Rivard, coordinator of the Days For Girls project at Prospect UMC, announces, "We received a letter from headquarters congratulating us on our successful fundraiser. Because of the support of the congregation we were able to clear \$880 from the pie sale. A huge thank you to everyone. We will continue our mission of supplying components of the kits to the Chapter in Orange , CT.

"We will be meeting the third Saturday morning of every month, 9:30 a.m., in the meeting room at church. With the exception of September and October we will be making pies again! If you are interested in seeing what we are doing please feel free to contact me or the Prospect office.

"Thank you so much for your support. It really changes lives all around the world."

## ■ Christmas Gifts Update

June Schilling, Prospect's liaison to Covenant to Care, thanks all who donated Christmas gifts: "I'd like to thank everyone who took a tag and brought in gifts. We were able to provide 29 gifts through our partnership with Covenant to Care for Children. Our adopted social worker was very grateful when she picked up the gifts on December 15. Again, thank you so much for your generosity! Thank you so much."



## ■ Souper Bowl of Caring

Sunday School Students are proud to announce that our "Souper Bowl of Caring" collection, yielded \$345! We are so very grateful for our congregation's generosity. Thank you all so much! As planned, we will be presenting each of the 3 local agencies: Family Promise, Agape House, and Zion Lutheran Meals for Neighbors, with a \$115 Price Chopper Gift Card! Thank you again for your support!





## Youth Corner

### ■ Education Happenings

All are invited to a "Make Your Own Taco Party" on Sunday, Feb. 23rd in the PUMC Downstairs dining room following the 10 a.m. worship service. Tacos, meat and toppings will be provided. If participating please sign up by Sunday, Feb. 16th, and bring a dessert to share.

### ■ Children's Reading Challenge

Mary Rogers, Worship Chair, announces a reading challenge for children: "In an effort to encourage our children to read, the PUMC Library is offering to all our children a reading challenge of 10 books between now and the end of March. It's expected that the books read will be age appropriate.



"This month we have added 40 books to the Children's Section: 14 picture books and 26 chapter books so the children will have a large selection from which to choose. Also, it's not required that the books read come from the PUMC library.

"All children are eligible to enter. The younger ones may need assistance with reading. At the end of the challenge, the participating child will receive a certificate and a prize."

### ■ PROSPECT'S NURSERY CARE

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee has revised the church's Nursery Care Guidelines and Policies. Copies of the booklet are available in the nursery and on the church's website. It is recommended that all parents using the nursery for their child(ren) either pick up a copy in the nursery and read it or read it on the website.

These are some highlights

- hours are 9:45AM to 11:15AM – (care as early as 9:00AM for children of choir members)
- care for infants to toddlers (newborn to 3 years of age)
- staff (2 adults-at least age 18-at all times-screened including background checks)
- parents or guardians must sign their child(ren) in and out
- new parents are asked to complete a brief information form
- volunteers may assist the staff with activities; any volunteer is asked to follow the directions of the staff

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee would like to have a list of any church members who are CPR and First Aid certified. Their names will be available in the nursery in case of emergencies. If you are certified in CPR and/or First Aid and would be willing to be on that list, please see Susan Powers.

**PROSPECT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
99 SUMMER STREET  
BRISTOL, CT 06010**

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