



# THE PROSPECT TOWER

## Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

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Founded 1834  
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### Pastor's Page

#### IN BETWEEN

#### Happy New Year!!



In the beginning of 2017, I shared with you that the reason January is cold is that God wants us to be alert and awake when we start a new year, especially right after the hype of holiday seasons. The last few weeks were too cold to wake. Sometimes I felt a headache when I went outside. God might have changed his thought. We are entering another new year and new beginning even before the sense of achievement from last year has vanished. We think we have already achieved something, but we are already in a start line. Our lives are always placed in endless repetition between beginning and end.

Paul Tournier, a Swiss physician and author, describes the experience of being in between — between the time we leave home and arrive at our destination; between the time we leave adolescence and arrive at adulthood; between the time we leave doubt and arrive at faith; between the time we leave sin and arrive at holiness; between the time we leave home on Sunday morning and arrive in church with the company of God's people; between the time we leave the works of the law and arrive at Justification by Faith. It's like being a pilgrim: we are on the way; in the middle of a way; we are in the process. So some people compare our lives to a pilgrimage, a journey which is an experience of being in between.

Paul says in Philippians 3:12-14:

*Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal but press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.*



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Paul compared pilgrimage to a race. Paul says he presses on to run the race with perseverance. He has not obtained anything and has not already arrived at the finishing line, but he is not disappointed or frustrated. He is not in a hurry. He is not impatient. He rejects taking a shortcut. He decides to run, just run, just fix his eyes on Jesus. He just keeps walking the road and running the race.

However, the world whispers, "Why bother? There is plenty to enjoy without involving yourself in all that. The past is a graveyard — ignore it, the future is a holocaust — avoid it. There is no payoff for hard work, there is no destination for pilgrimage." So we are sometimes lost or get bored or lose interest or get demotivated.

We are in the new beginning of 2018. Now we are in between 2018 and 2019. We might listen to what the world whispers and follow the current without any effort or might not feel anything new or hopeful. On the contrary. We might keep running toward the goal God has for you. There is a saying that if you feel you are going through hell right now, then keep going. Keep going. It is up to you to choose what to do in between. What is your choice when you encounter a new year full of excitement, wonders, and maybe some surprises and unexpected events?

*In between,*  
**PASTOR KIM**

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## CHARGE CONFERENCE

I want to invite all of you to our Annual Charge Conference.

This will be at the church on January 20 from 2 - 3:30 p.m.

We will celebrate the ministries of our church, worship together, and do some business. It is a crucial opportunity to be a part of church as partners.

See you then.

PK

### **8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion**

A shorter version of the Sunday Service, with Holy Communion, in the Chapel.

### **10 a.m. Sanctuary Service**

Traditional service of worship in Sanctuary with hymns, prayers, sermon, children's and adult choir anthems and solos. Holy Communion the first Sunday of each month.

### **10 a.m. Church School**

Children attend opening portion of service with family, then go to Sunday School classes.

### **11 a.m. Fellowship**

Time of fellowship and friendship with coffee, tea, cookies and conversation in Sessions Hall.



*Eternal God, thank you for bringing us once again to the threshold of a new year. Help us dedicate each day of 2018 to following your will for our lives. Guide us, Lord, in all our decisions and actions, day by day and hour by hour. Help us accomplish all that you desire for us to do, until our mission on earth is finished. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

## Middle Ages Group

### ■ Breakfast with Santa

Luisa Gladu, Middle Ages Group Chair

On Saturday, December 9th, PUMC welcomed some very important guests, Anna and Elsa from Arandale and Santa Claus! Santa took time out of his very busy schedule to come and have breakfast with some very excited children and their families.

The morning started with a very delicious breakfast buffet, including pancakes that were made into reindeer, scrambled eggs, hash browns, sausage, orange juice and coffee.

As we sat down to breakfast we heard a familiar tune playing, "Let It Go" from Frozen, signaling the arrival of Anna and Elsa! They spent time with the children and before the children went on to their activities Anna and Elsa made it snow in Sessions Hall! What we didn't realize is they brought the snow with them as it started snowing outside, thankfully a very light snow fall.

The children and families were split into 3 groups and began their journey consisting of a Magic Show, Story and Music Time, Arts and Crafts and a one-on-one with Santa Claus.

Elf Mart was very busy as the children also shopped for Christmas Treasures.

Santa would like to thank the Middle Ages Group and all the volunteers who helped make the Breakfast with Santa possible and a huge success. He also said that he will make time for us again next year! Anna and Elsa said they would be back as well.

A truly fine time was had by all. After all was said and done, we were able to donate \$960 to the General Fund.

Thank you to everyone who supported this event by purchasing tickets. Also, thank you to two special "angels" who donated money towards tickets. We were able to invite a family with three little girls and another family with one little girl to the breakfast. Both of the moms came up to me in tears and said they could never afford anything like this for their children. Just to see the smiles on the children's faces makes all the hard work worth it.



## Music Ministry

### ■ Exciting Month of Musical Activities

By Heidi Flower, Director of Music

December was a busy month for the musicians and friends at PUMC! Thanks to all of the Carolers who spent an afternoon bringing Christmas cheer to our shut-in members. About 20 church members went Christmas Caroling to 10 home-bound members of our church family on Sunday, December 17th, right after church. It was great to have so many children and adults participating. I know that our carolers had lots of fun, but it is also heartwarming to see the reaction of our friends who we visit. Thanks to all who made Christmas cards for us to deliver and to all the carolers who brought some Christmas cheer out into our world!



The Handbell Choir and Senior Choir worked diligently all season long to present their musical offerings during Advent. I can't be more proud of all that they accomplish. I strive to provide an interesting variety of styles of music. Some are more challenging to master, and their hard work paid off! We still have lots of laughs and fun along the way. Please take a moment to thank the choir members for their good work.

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The Sunday School Christmas Pageant was presented on Christmas Eve morning. "A Night for Dancing" included dancing, solos, narration and of course, singing. Many thanks to all who helped: Sunday School teachers, Christa Zaldivar, education superintendent, parents and of course, the children!



Very special commendations are extended to Ali DeRosier (Matthew), Luke Ashworth (Joseph) and Estelle Franck (Mary) for their lovely vocal solos! Also, grateful thanks to Gary Gladu for helping with amplification, so that all could hear the great work!

Also on Christmas Eve morning, we enjoyed some instrumental performances by Harrison Riker (trumpet), Gianna Zaldivar (piano), Luke Ashworth (bassoon) and Eleanor Riker (oboe). Thanks to them for their contributions.

The Christmas Eve 10 p.m. service had many great moments. Kyle Brazauski played a beautiful piano solo, accompanying the Senior Choir anthem. The handbell choir shared a traditional version of Carol of the Bells. The Fasci family shared their gifts of song! Anthony and Angelina sang a most touching version of "Hallelujah" and Mike ended our candlelight service welcoming the newborn King. Thanks to all!!!



I'm looking ahead to a wonderful year of music at Prospect! Happy New Year!

## Outreach

### ■ Souper Bowl of Caring Celebrates 28 Years of Giving and Serving



It is projected that 110 million people will be tuning in to watch the 52nd Super Bowl game on Sunday, February 4th, while nearly 50 million Americans will be struggling with hunger. Souper Bowl of Caring gives people the chance to help those who are in need and to think of those who do not even have a bowl of soup to eat.

This year marks the 28th anniversary of the first Souper Bowl of Caring, when 22 churches in Columbia, SC raised \$5,700 for local hunger-relief charities. Since then, young people have rallied schools, churches, businesses and community leaders to work together to raise over \$106 million. Like in 1990, Souper Bowl of Caring has remained true to the first collection: 100 percent goes to the charity each group chooses. PUMC donates its collection to Zion Lutheran Church's food pantry.

Please bring your cans of soup or other nonperishable food items to worship on Sunday February 4th!

### ■ Share the Warmth

Every month PUMC brings scarves to a park or a shelter. The hope is that this small act will provide some much-needed comfort to those who need it most over the winter months.



### ■ Family Promise

Host congregations serve as the foundation for Family Promise of Central Connecticut by providing overnight lodging and meals for three to five families (up to 14 people) for one week every two to three months on a rotating basis.

Support congregations are those that may not have the facilities or volunteer capacity to house guests but still want to participate. They provide volunteers to stay overnight at the host church, to prepare meals, or to set up and transport cots.

Prospect United Methodist Church is proud to be a support congregation to our neighbor First Congregational Church.

*Dear Jeanette,*

*Thank all your volunteers for their help this past week with the cereal, gift card, pizza, pasta, meatloaf and mashed potatoes. Your help is invaluable.*

*Thank you for all you do.*

*Sincerely,*

*Donna*

*First Congregational Church*

### ■ Snack Bag Outreach

*Dear Friends,*

*I would like to thank you for your generous donation of snack bags for kids to Meals for the Needy (MFN). We are very grateful and appreciative for you help and continued support for our mission.*

*On an average, MFN is able to assist over 90 families each month by providing them with up to four bags of groceries and fresh produce. Here at MFN's soup kitchen, we serve dinner Monday through Thursday evenings, serving up to 120 meals per night.*

*Meals for the Needy is Bristol's oldest soup kitchen, observing its 35th anniversary of helping those less fortunate in our Bristol Community. Since its inception in 1982, MFN has served over 870,000 meals and has helped countless families.*

*It's the generous support of donors like you that make it possible for organization to exist and continue to help those in need. I thank you again for your continued support.*

*With sincere gratitude,  
Cheryl Yetke*

## Notes of Interest

### ■ Chili Cook-Off

The Women of Prospect will be hosting their annual Chili Cook-Off on January 28th. Calling all Chili makers: Bring your best recipe forward. This is also a potluck Sunday so if you're not a chili maker you can bring in dishes or fixings that would compliment chili. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Jackie Palance, [jampalance@aol.com](mailto:jampalance@aol.com) or (860) 620-4639. Bring on the Chili!



### ■ Book Of The Month

Mary Rogers, Worship Chair

"Angels Among Us: Separating Truth from Fiction" by Ron Rhodes, Published by Harvest House in 1994

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Do you believe in angels? If so, you are not alone. Based on a poll by Time Magazine in 1993, 69 percent of Americans do believe in angels. However, modern day presentations on TV and in magazines have created confusion and misinformation regarding this subject. This book, "Angels Among Us," debunks the modern interpretations and brings us back to the scriptures for a more accurate view of God's creation and purpose for angels. The author covers topics such as "Close Encounters," "What Angels Are Like," "What Angels Do," and "Our Future With Angels." You can find this and many other books in the PUMC Library in the section entitled "Angels".



### ■ Writing Group

On the second Monday of each month, this weekly group will meet in Prospect UMC's meeting room from 6-7:30 p.m. It is for writers of all skills and for those looking to add structure to their writing routine and who don't know where to begin. The group's members write on a variety of styles: essay, poetry, memoirs, short fiction, etc. Come with ideas you'd like to discuss for the group and with some writing you would like to read or to work on while you are there. Anyone is welcome to join. See Jeanette Baker if you have any questions.

## Youth

### ■ Education Highlights

Education Superintendent Christa Zaldivar highlights the many holiday activities that took place during the month of December. The Education Team hosted "Parent's Night Out" on Friday, December 15th. Low-cost child care was provided, including pizza, juice, and snacks. About 15 children enjoyed the movie "All Creatures Big and Small," building with legos, reindeer and wreath crafts, and cookie decorating! Thanks to Chris Kingsbury, Heidi Flower, June Schilling, Patti Fiorillo and Joyce Martin for volunteering their time and energy!

Our Christmas Pageant, "A Night For Dancing," was a wonderful production performed by 16 Sunday School children, playing animals, shepherds, Joseph, and Mary! Our fabulous narrators were Abigael Lowd and Harrison Riker. Our lovely soloists were Luke Ashworth, Ali Derosier and Estelle Franck. Thanks to all children, families, Sunday School teachers, and Heidi Flower for giving their time and talent to this year's performance!

Members of the Education Team also participated in the New Year's Eve party held in Sessions Hall, highlighted elsewhere in the Tower.

### ■ New Year's Eve

On New Year's Eve, Sunday December 31st, about 50 people of all generations gathered together in Sessions Hall for a joyous time together to usher in 2018. Children and adults played a variety of board games, challenged each other to stack the tallest paper cup tower, played balloon ping pong, enjoyed a skittles sorting challenge and towel races, and created clock crafts. We had a delicious potluck spread followed by ice cream sundaes! The event culminated in the ever-popular countdown to the balloon drop complete with noisemakers and glow necklaces! A shout-out to all who helped set up and clean up. It was a great team effort!

# HAPPENINGS AT PUMC



**PROSPECT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
99 SUMMER STREET  
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