

THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

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Pastor's Page

Let's Do It!

No, David! These must be the words I said most often to my son since he was born. I wanted to tell him a lot of other beautiful words. But I often said to him, "No! Do not do this. Do not do that." Later when he was around 2 years old, we went to a bookstore and found a book entitled "No, David." It cracked me up!



Actually we as grown-ups also hear a lot of "No, David" in our society. We have a long list of don'ts. Most laws focus on something we should not do more than something we should do. Without noticing, we come to believe it is good enough not to do something wrong. So we have some "if only" regrets on the things we did but wish we hadn't done.

However, your greatest regret will be the things you didn't do but wish you had. According to social psychologists time is a key factor in what we regret. In the short term, we tend to regret actions more than inactions by a count of 53 to 47 percent. In other words, we feel acute regret over the mistakes we've made. But over the long haul, we regret inactions more than actions, 84 to 16 percent. That doesn't mean we won't have some deep-seated regrets about things we wish we hadn't said or done, but our longest-lasting regrets will be the opportunities we left on the table.

We usually live our life by subtraction — don't do this, don't do that, don't take a risk and you're okay. Life by subtraction is playing not to lose. I understand you do not want to lose and you do not have to regret later. But the problem with that is this: you can do nothing wrong and still do nothing right. Life in faith is more than doing nothing wrong — it's doing something right. It's not just resisting temptation — it's going after God-ordained opportunities. It's going all-in with God. It's playing to win. It's living

POSSIBILITIES

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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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as if the victory has already been won at the cross. And it has. No one knows our God-given potential like the God who gave it to us in the first place! Potential is God's gift to us. Making the most of it is our gift back to God. You do not have to stay in if-only regrets because God will turn your "if only" regrets into "what if" possibility.

It's God who ordains our days, orders our steps, and prepares good works in advance. No matter how many regrets you have, God is the God of second chances. No matter how deep-seated those regrets are, He can turn your "if only" regrets into "what if" possibilities. So I pray you stop living on "if only" and move forward with God-given possibilities in 2019.

Let's Do It!
Yountae Kim

Parsonage Open House



Mission Corner

■ Prayers for Our Missionary

Please pray for Helen Camarce, our Global Ministries Missionary serving in Cambodia, and her family as Helen's husband Benjamin has died. On the right is a photo of Helen and Benjamin displaying a prayer shawl sent by Prospect's Prayer Shawl Ministry in October 2017.



Jill Wilson, who has gone many mission project for the NYAC, says she doesn't have details, "But I do know how much Helen appreciates our support and prayers!"

Prior to Benjamin's death Helen recently communicated highlights of her recent missions work in Cambodia to Jill: "My work seems to be expanding like Jabez' prayer. While a lot of missionaries are retiring and leaving, we will be multi tasking. I was requested to extend work in Vietnam and Thailand, as at the moment they couldn't find the appropriate person for the position.

"Also our ministry is expanding. Aside from giving scholarship to those who are less fortunate young girls and children we are also building dormitories for girls to give them safe shelter so they will have an equal opportunities like the boys had to go to school. We are opening new ministries in Mondulkiri. Evangelization through after-school activities such English, computer and music for children.

"We continue with our community health and agricultural development and we have two Global Mission Fellows who are being immersed in the livelihood and community dev aspects. My work relates to policy making, and internal controls on proper accounting procedures especially on proper reporting and proper use of funds.

"I believe that there is more to just giving. It is also important to relay the value of the gift so they will appreciate it and work harder so they can pay forward and help those who were like them."

"God bless you all."

"For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.-2Corinthians 8:12"

Helen L. Camarce

[Note: Prospect hopes Helen will visit sometime in 2020.]

Stewardship

■ Stewardship Success

Stewardship Chair Stuart Brown extends thanks to “everyone who has returned their pledge cards to the church for 2019. We have had a great response so far, and it looks like we may even exceed the total amounts that were pledged in 2018. Another sign of growth of the church is that many people who have been regular givers in the past but had not filled out a pledge card did so for the first time this year. I believe that this reflects how the spirit and faith have affected so many of us in a positive way, in no small part thanks to our pastor and to the example set by our many members who give of their time and talents to our community.

“I would encourage you, if you have not turned in a pledge card for 2019, it is never too late to do so. The Finance team is always prepared to accept new pledges. If you would like to pledge but have lost your card, please feel free to let me know on Sunday as we have plenty to spare in the church office.”

■ Blessings count

Some years ago, a newspaper profiled the lives of an elderly Christian couple. When the pair was first married, they decided to use their God-given gifts to help others. They focused primarily upon serving through their church and life-care retirement homes.



Overflowing With Thanks

Their love and service down through the years prompted a foundation to honor them for their caring philanthropy. Upon receiving their award, Mr. and Mrs. Davis Illingworth spoke of the motto that had been the guiding rule of their lives: ***“Count your blessings, and make your blessings count.”***

Youth Cook Dinner for Family Promise



Middle Ages Group

By Luisa Gladu, Chair

Another year has passed and we want to thank everyone who made our events in 2018 a huge success: "We rely on so many people to make the Relay for Life Dinner Dance, the Relay for Life Walk, Renaissance Dinners and Breakfast with Santa go smoothly. Last year we sold out the Valentines dance, both Renaissance dinners and we were close to selling out for the Breakfast with Santa at 90 tickets this year.



Funds raised after expenses go to the Prospect General Fund to help the church where needed. We also make donations to various projects or missions that PUMC is involved with. One year we donated tablets to ministry/ missionary students in Africa and the Clean Water effort. Thank you again to everyone and we hope we will have your support again in 2019."

Save the dates :

■ Valentine Dinner Dance

Fundraiser: Saturday February 9th at Lola's Bistro and Grill in Plainville; \$30 per person includes DJ, Dinner, Dessert and Coffee. B.Y.O.B.

■ Renaissance Dinner

Fundraisers: Saturday April 27th and Saturday May 4th. We have begun writing the new script and will start rehearsing in February. There will be sign-up sheets in Sessions Hall for all the positions we need filled. We need cooks, servers, set-up and break-down helpers, runners. It takes so many of us to put the event on but it is a huge fundraiser for the church. If you have any questions, please contact Luisa or Gary Gladu at TheGladus@comcast.net or (860) 582-8383.

■ **Relay for Life:** Friday June 7th, 2:30 p.m. to Saturday June 8th, 8:30 a.m.: Memorial Boulevard Track. We need help to set up Friday morning and afternoon, break down on Saturday morning and bakers for the goodies we sell to raise more money for the American Cancer Society. If you feel like camping, they have fun laps all night to the wee hours of Saturday morning.

■ **Breakfast with Santa:** Saturday December 14th, 8:30 a.m. to Noon. We need volunteers for all sort of elf positions, set-up, break-down, runners, cooks, bringing down the trees then bringing them back up, Elf Mart and Crafts.

It's never too early to think about what you want to do to help. We welcome new members to our group, so come join the fun!

Events

■ Soup and Sandwich Luncheon



Worship Chair Mary Rogers notes that the first monthly soup and sandwich luncheon was a great success on January 16th: "We had 18 attendees who were able to consume three kinds of soup (vegetarian vegetable, corn chowder, and broccoli cheddar) as well as a variety of sandwiches. For dessert we had fresh fruit, chocolate chip cookies and hermit bars. Coffee, tea or juice was available for beverages. The next luncheon will be held at 11:30 in Sessions Hall on Wednesday, February 20th. Each attendee should sign up to bring either soup, two sandwiches cut in half for four half sandwiches, dessert, or a beverage. Sign-up will be available in Sessions Hall the first Sunday in February." You also can contact Mary Rogers, day15lily@comcast.net or call (860) 582-3199.

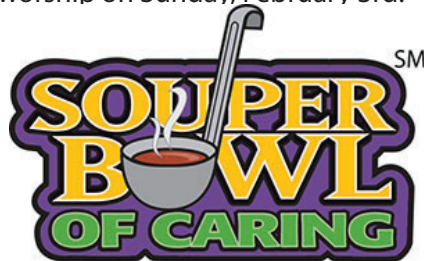
Education Activities

■ Souper Bowl of Caring Celebrates 29 Years

It's projected that 110 million people will be tuning in to watch the 53rd Super Bowl game on Sunday, February 3rd, 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 29th 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 3rd!



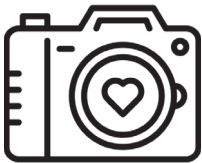
tacklehunger.org

Photo Album

Christmas Pageant



Christmas Caroling



Ugly Sweater



New Year's Eve



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

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