



# THE PROSPECT TOWER

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Prospect United Methodist Church

*A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action*

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June 2019

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[Editor's Note: As Pastor Yountae Kim is pursuing Clinical Pastoral Education Credits this summer for an eight-week period in the chaplaincy office of St. Francis Hospital in Hartford, his Pastor's Page will not be included in this Tower. Instead, here is a history lesson on "the Apostle" of Methodism, Jesse Lee, with an accompanying article on the ties of our Pastor Emeritus, Rev. William Barnes, to two churches with a unique heritage in the development of Methodism in New England.]



## **Methodist Milestone Observed By NYAC**

June 17th, 2019 was the 230th anniversary of the first sermon preached by Jesse Lee, regarded as the "Apostle of Methodism" for opening New England to the teachings of John Wesley. Many Methodist churches in New England trace their roots to Jesse Lee and two Connecticut churches are named for him, Jesse Lee UMC of Easton and Jesse Lee UNC of Ridgefield, both established in 1989.

At the recent NYAC Annual Conference held early in June, the Commission on Archives and History celebrated the 230th anniversary of Jesse Lee's first sermon in New England, preached in Norwalk, CT, under an apple tree on June 17th, 1789. The Archives released a pamphlet on the pioneer of Methodism at Annual Conference.

The pamphlet states that Jesse Lee, born in Prince George County, VA, in 1758, "was a charismatic individual, standing more than six feet tall and weighing 250 pounds. He traveled with two horses, riding one and leading another so that he always had a fresh mount. Lee had a deep sonorous voice, speaking with authority and assurance as he delivered his gospel message. Despite his prominence, there are no contemporary portraits of Jesse Lee. No painting. No print. No likeness."

He had minimal education but became an accomplished singer after attending singing school. At the time he joined a Methodist Society in 1774, there were said to be only 100 Methodists in the still young country. He first preached in a traveling circuit through Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina

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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  
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or suggestions.*

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(Cont. from page 1)

for five years, but in 1780 he was drafted into the Revolutionary War. Lee, a pacifist, refused to bear arms, and instead did service work and preaching, before an honorable discharge after three months of service.

He made a strong impression on Methodist pioneer and Bishop Francis Asbury after meeting him in 1785. After preaching in Norwalk, he helped form circuits on both sides of the Connecticut River. Heading to an annual conference in New York City in October 1790, Lee wrote in his journal: "It is now sixteen months and eight days since our last Conference; and in this time, I have traveled several thousand miles, and preached in six states, and in chief part of the large towns in New England. In most places I have met with a kinder reception than I could have expected, among persons holding principles so different from mine, ..."

Impressed with his zeal, later in life Bishop Asbury said of Lee, "The time was, when if I said in the Conferences, I want a Preacher to go to Boston or Maine, Jesse Lee would respond, 'Here am I; send me.'"

Lee died in 1812 while attending a camp meeting in Hillsborough, MD. More background on Jesse Lee is at NYAC Archives: <https://www.nyac.com/jesse-lee-230th-celebration>.

## ■ Unique Ties to Both “Eldest Churches” in New England

Prospect’s Pastor Emeritus, Rev. William Barnes, served as pastor of Jesse Lee United Methodist Church, Easton, which is in Fairfield County near Bridgeport, from 1968-1977. During his time there the History and Archives Committee of the Annual Conference declared that the Easton Church was the “Oldest Methodist Church in New England,” having been founded as a Methodist “society” in September, 1789, as a result of Jesse Lee’s preaching there that summer. The folks at Easton were rather proud of the designation and frequently used the term, “The Oldest Methodist Church in New England” in their literature and publicity.



To the chagrin of the Easton church and its Historical Committee, however, the designation did not go unchallenged. Because the Lakeville United Methodist Church, in the Lakeville section of Salisbury in the northwest corner of the state, also laid claim to being the “Oldest Methodist Church in New England,” having been founded three months earlier, they claimed, in June, 1789, “During the Lifetime of Methodism’s Founder, John Wesley,” as the signboard in front of the church proclaims.

Lakeville’s historical committee traces its church’s founding to the preaching of another well-known early Methodist itinerant preacher, George Whitefield, who was also an emissary of American Methodism’s first Bishop, Francis Asbury, and who founded churches mostly in communities along New York’s Hudson Valley. During springtime, 1789, Whitefield briefly visited and preached in northwest Connecticut, including in Lakeville.

Ironically, during the early years of Pastor Bill’s retirement, he was invited to serve as Interim Pastor at the Lakeville Church, a position he filled from 2003 to 2008. So he has been the pastor of both of the churches claiming to be the “Oldest Methodist Church in New England.” To the question that his colleagues sometimes put to him asking which of the two claims is correct, he generally responds, “it depends on where I am asked the question!”

Pastor Bill looks forward to filling in for Pastor Kim at the service on Sunday, July 28th, 9 a.m., and hopes to see many Prospect friends that morning. He will speak on some of this interesting Methodist history and on that of Prospect Church as well, in his sermon, “Hearts Strangely Warmed — Our Methodist Heritage.”

# Church Council

## ■ PUMC's "Way Forward" Project

*~Mary Rogers, Council Chair*

In light of the United Methodist Church's Human Sexuality policy debate, members of Prospect UMC's Church Council are in the process of interviewing members at large to give church leaders guidance on how to proceed with our own policy.

Interviews for "The Way Forward" started in mid-May and are expected to be completed by July 18. Be patient if you have yet been interviewed urges Mary Rogers, who chairs the Church Council. Below is our expected schedule for working on the issue of a human sexuality policy:

### WAY FORWARD CALENDAR

- **May 16** — Council Meeting, select names for conversations;
- **June 20** — Council Meeting, complete at least half of the conversations;
- **July 18** — Complete all conversations;
- **July 29** — Monday, 7 p.m., Subcommittee Meeting;
- **August 3** — Saturday, 10 a.m., Statement Task Force Meeting Brainstorming; (Anyone interested is welcome to attend this session or the following Sunday session.)
- **August 11** — Sunday, 10:30 a.m., Statement Task Force Brainstorming Meeting;
- **August 12** — Monday, 7 p.m., Subcommittee Meeting;
- **August 18** — Sunday, Exploratory Survey Sent Electronically;
- **August 25** — Sunday, Responses due to survey;
- **September 8** — Sunday, Mailing of Proposed Statement and Voting Ballots;
- **September 22** — Sunday, Final Ballots Due;
- **September 29** — Sunday, Celebration Day.

Anyone with questions may call Mary Rogers at (860) 582-3199.

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## ■ Pastoral Coverage

This summer Pastor Kim is doing an Internship at St. Francis Hospital, for a period of eight weeks. The internship began the end of May and will continue to the beginning of August. If you need assistance during this time, please contact the church office, (860) 582-3443 or one of the Lay Leaders, Mary Rogers (860) 582-3199, Jeanette Baker (860) 620-7104, or Steve Oakes (860) 986-0261. We will be happy to assist you in any way we can.

## Mission Corner

### ■ U.M.ARM.Y Returns To Asbury UMC

U.M.ARM.Y (United Methodist Action Reach out in Mission by Youth) is returning to Asbury UMC in July. U.M.ARM.Y is a connectional mission/ministry enabling youth and adults to experience Christian growth and leadership development through service to others. U.M.ARM.Y has been serving our communities nationwide since 1979 and is celebrating 16 years in the Northeast.

Gina Grubbs, Northeast Regional Director, will bring the mission/ministry to Asbury UMC July 14-20 and to Wethersfield UMC August 4-10: "A big thank you to our host churches Asbury and Wethersfield UMC churches or welcoming us in with their gracious hospitality," she said.

Asbury UMC is hosting U.M.ARM.Y for a second year in a row. Four to five members of Prospect UMC have requested assistance with yard work, basement cleaning, and painting. The work teams can range in age from 12 to adult.

Each day starts with a brief devotional service and each evening ends with contemporary worship along with other evening activities. Prospect UMC will be the location for the Community Celebration Night where the teams and homeowners will have a celebratory dinner together on July 18th.

### ■ The Fight Against Hunger

*Dear Reverend Kim,*

*We would like to express our sincerest thanks for your congregation's generous donation of filled lunch bags for the children we serve. The food that you provide allows us to serve our families with age[appropriate] meals and snacks, which the children absolutely love. Your donations help to supplement the food that we provide to families, which reduces the financial burden faced by the mothers and fathers that serve every single day.*

*On behalf of the Village, we want to thank you and your congregations for your donations and your continued work enhancing the lives of the people who need it most.*

*Warmest Regards,  
Lynn Webber, Program Manager  
Justin Kolosky  
AmeriCorps VISTA*



## Middle Ages Group

### ■ PUMC Supports Relay for Live Team - Luisa Gladu , Team PUMC Captain

Team PUMC did it again! Our small but mighty team participated in the Bristol Relay for Life that was held June 7th, at Memorial Boulevard Track and we rocked it! PUMC cancer survivor's also carried the banner along with other fellow survivor's to start the event with the Survivor Lap.

Our Team ranked #5 out of 18 teams. We have raised a total of \$3,736.70 for the American Cancer Society and surpassed our goal. We are now listed as a Silver Team which is a huge step up from last year.

The Middle Ages Group sponsored the Bakery donating the funds to purchase baking goods and supplies. The bakery did exceptionally well this year bringing in \$653 towards our team goal.

A very special thank you to my husband Gary for always supporting me in this event and for organizing the setup and breakdown of the bakery for the Relay with Steve Oakes, Cliff Schilling, Scott McNeal, and Sean Burke.

Thank you to Scott and Cheryl McNeal for baking and running the beautiful bakery, and to Eleanor Riker, Laura Taylor and June Schilling who also baked some snacks and treats.

Thank you to our small but mighty team who came and walked laps

raised money: Kathy Benoit Barkan, who comes every year from Rhode Island to be part of our team, Jackie Palance, Laura Taylor, June Schilling and Sylvia Oakes.

And to thank you to everyone who donated towards the team, to those who came out to support us by buying a treat and walking some laps. Our motto is Calories Don't Count At Relay! That helped the bakery out quite a bit.

We look forward to next year, remember no one fights alone! Thank you!

## Notes of Interest

### ■ Heartsaver Course

Church members interested in attending a Heartsaver CPR/AED course to become certified or refresh their certification have the option to do so thanks to a fundraising event held at PUMC two years ago. Please contact Carolyn Brown (NcLucey71@aol.com) to obtain a list of summer dates for the Heartsaver CPR/AED courses at Bristol Tunxis EMS in Bristol. The cost is \$70. Please provide your receipt to Tim Krauss for reimbursement.





## Vacation Bible School “ To Mars and Beyond”

We invite all children to Prospect United Methodist Church’s “To Mars and Beyond” Vacation Bible School, where kids will enjoy an interactive, energizing, Bible-based good time as they explore where God’s power can take them. They will become Voyagers



and discover how to serve God and God’s mission for their lives. After a high-energy Opening Assembly time, Voyagers make their way to the Bible Story Station. Interactive Bible lessons reveal Power Launcher (key learnings) to equip them for an active life with God. Your Voyagers will also discover our Vector Verse (Bible memory verse), Ephesians 3:20 - Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us! Students will expand on their discoveries by singing new songs at the Music Station, exploring the wonders of creation at the Science Station, playing games at the Recreation Station, and enjoying tasty treats at the Snack Station. Along the way, the Voyagers will hear about our mission project and respond to a call for action!

The adventures are intended for pre-k to grade 5. To be a part of all the (free) excitement at To Mars and Beyond, contact

Christa Zaldivar at 917-386-8599 or  
email [cjw02@hotmail.com](mailto:cjw02@hotmail.com) or  
visit the church’s website at  
<https://tmab.cokesburyvbs.com/prospect>

The fun begins Monday July 8th and ends  
Friday July 12th from 6:00-7:45 pm at Prospect  
United Methodist Church, 99 Summer St.  
Bristol, CT 06010.

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

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