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THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

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Pastor's Page

SPRING UP TO THE SPRING

NOTE: *This pastor's page message was drafted before the two recent mega Northeasters. Have faith: winter will recede and soon we will be "springing up to the spring."*



The fragrance of spring is everywhere. Heard is the song of the mountain birds hidden during winter. The ridged white snow is not seen now, and this is the moment of our Lord's promised spring. The past days we were worried about and the cold winter that seemed to last forever are gone without trace just as God promised, and everything that God has done is praised. The fragrance of God's presence, like a fresh spring, makes our lives beautiful with warm love. Every day is filled with Him, and this is the moment of our Lord's promised spring.



Spring is beautiful. Everything comes back to life. However, there are some people who still live in the winter. There are people who are still overwhelmed by worries about the past and the future. Their winter seems to last forever. The spring comes to everyone. But everyone does not always enjoy it. It is because some people cannot respond to it for many reasons; ignorance, busy life, current challenges or preferences. The nature calls everyone to Spring's hope and vitality. But not everyone can always respond to the call.

The presence of God is everywhere, like the energy of the spring prevailing over the world. God is calling us to his presence and his grace. The thing is whether we can respond to it or not. We cannot respond to it because we are not aware of God's presence, we are blindfolded by our busy schedules, worries and anxieties hardened our heart or we just do not want to respond. In any case, we need intentionality. I want to call it responsibility which is an ability to respond. Anyway, we need intentionality. I want to call it responsibility which is an ability to respond.

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One day, I was on the way back home. I felt I lost my backpack somewhere. I was a little panicked. After stopping by some places, I turned my car around to the church hoping it was at the office. I ran into the church and looked for the backpack. But I could not find it. I came back to my car and found it on the floor of the passenger seat. The backpack was present right next to me. I was not aware of it because I was too focused on driving or something going on my head. I did not even try to look for it because I was at a loss and I was convinced I lost it. I could not properly respond to the presence of the backpack. I was distracted by many factors. In the first place, when I took it to the car, I had to respond to it and take responsibility. But I just threw it to the floor and forgot it or let myself be distracted.

Spring is coming and we should respond to it. We should spring up to the spring. With our profession of faith, we should respond to God's presence and call. We should spring up to God's love, grace, and his promised spring. We should take responsibility to be God's humble people in the world. I think this is a good season to respond to God's presence because God is all over the places where life is coming back. Let's spring up!!

Ready to spring,
Yountae Kim

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.

THE SEASON OF LENT

Lenten Sermon Series 24 Hours

- Walk with Jesus on his final day
- Sit beside him at the Last Supper
- Pray with him in Gethsemane
- Follow him to the cross
- Desert him. Deny him.



We will explore Jesus's final day. You will experience and understand the significance of Jesus' suffering and death like never before.

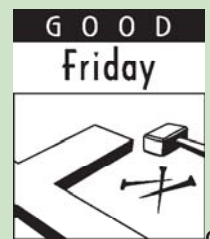
Maundy Thursday 6 p.m. March 29

We will have a communion with our family in faith like Jesus did with his disciples at the Last Supper. The word "Maundy" comes to us as an Anglo-French word derived from the Latin "mandatum," which means "commandment." We will remind ourselves of "the new commandment" Jesus gave us that night: "YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER."



Good Friday Service 7 p.m. March 30

We will listen to the last seven words of Jesus at the cross, sing a song remembering, and meditate on the passion, the love, the goodness, and the grace of Christ. It is music-oriented service.



"At the cross we understand what God means when he talks of loving us, begin to take it in that there is nothing that he will not do, no sacrifice he will not make, no suffering that he will shirk, if only he can help us. 'He loved me,' said Paul, standing upon Calvary and gazing in a stunned way at the cross, 'I who was a persecutor, and a blasphemer, and injurious, and yet he loved me and he gave himself for me.' And with that [Paul's] heart broke, and the old life was gone."
—Scottish preacher Arthur John Gossip, in a 1926 sermon titled "What Happens at Calvary"

History Corner

When A President Came To Prospect By Kathy Dube

To coincide with President's Day, the History Committee presented a program on a significant moment in the history of our church — the visit to Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church (the name by which this church was then known) by President William Howard Taft, our 27th President. Although the talks were delayed a week as a result of adverse weather, both services heard about this event from History Committee members. The History Committee is now under the umbrella of the Worship Committee.



Highlights: On June 19th, 1917, President Taft spoke to the city to help promote the American Red Cross since the United States had entered World War I. Since our church's sanctuary was the largest auditorium in the city at that time, some 1,000 people crowded into the church to hear him speak, and another 1,000 gathered outside to catch a glimpse of the man, great in stature (our largest President, at around 350 lbs in his prime) and office (in 1921, he became the only President to also serve as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States).

Taft's good nature was noted in the special greeting he gave to the many children waiting to see him. He was seated on the platform with Mayor Joseph Dutton, Red Cross Chairman Charles Treadway, Prospect Pastor Dr. L.H. Dorchester, among others. In those days, Bristol Press Publisher Arthur S. Barnes was a member of Prospect, and so events there were well covered in the newspaper.

After a two-minute standing ovation, he reportedly told a few good stories to bring merriment to the gathering. Then, on a more serious note, he alluded to the "ruthless and cruel manner" in which 1,198 lives were lost in 1915 when the Lusitania was sunk off the coast of Ireland by a torpedo from the Central Axis Powers despite the "Rights of Neutrals" accommodation on the high seas. He praised the restraint of his successor, President Woodrow Wilson, the two prior years of the war but said, "It is the moral and political principle that we are defending by our entry into the war."

The Bristol Press deemed his visit a worthy one, referring to the war effort and its support of the Red Cross: "His mission here is a worthy one. Great Harvester that he is, he will find the seed well sown," referring to Bristol's reputation for civic and military deeds. Reportedly, Bristol had more enlisted men in the service of the government, in proportion to its size, than any other city in the state.

Incidentally, a special solid oak chair was constructed in the first balcony of Yale's Woolsey Hall to accommodate Mr. Taft's girth for the graduation of his son. President Taft also was a graduate of Yale. It's described as the best seat in Woolsey Hall in terms of location and acoustics.

ORDER YOUR EASTER FLOWERS

Orders are currently being taken for Easter flowers. These flowers will adorn our altar Easter morning. The cost is \$10 each. For those wishing to take the plants home, they will be available after the worship service on Easter Sunday.

This form must accompany payment. Please submit orders during worship service or to the office no later than March 25. Thank you.



In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Number Requested _____

Given by _____

Middle Ages Group

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- **Save the Dates: Annual Renaissance Dinner Show** ~ Luisa Gladu, Middle Ages Group Chair



The Middle Ages Group is preparing for our Annual Renaissance Dinner Show Fundraiser. The dates this year are Saturday, April 28th, and Saturday, May 5th.

This year's dinner will transport you to the Scottish Isle, for a fun Celtic Fling! Men in kilts, savory food and intrigue will abound. You will feast on a delicious seven-course meal with their majesties and visiting royal guests while being entertained.

Tickets are \$25 for Adults and \$15 for Children 10 and under. To reserve your tickets or a table, please contact Luisa , TheGladus@comcast.net

We look forward to selling out for both evenings and seeing you there.

Remember this is a reserved ticket event. No tickets will be sold at the door. Also, if you would like to help out we are always looking for volunteers. Please let Luisa or Gary Gladu know, by contacting them at TheGladus@comcast.net or (860) 582-8383 or see them during Fellowship Hour.

Finance Corner

- **Stewardship Moment**
From Stuart Brown, the new co-chair of Stewardship with his wife, Carolyn:

Dear friends,

Carolyn and I have been asked to lead the Stewardship Committee for the coming year. It's an exciting challenge for us; there is a lot to learn and it will certainly take time for us to fully understand our role in the church's mission. We believe, though, that we can play an important part in supporting all of the good works that our members do for the church and for our larger community.

We look forward to a great year!

Yours in Christ,
Stuart Brown



YOUTH PAGE

■ Movie Night Held

The Women of Prospect hosted another baked potato/movie night on March 9th. The fare was baked potatoes and hot dogs with all the toppings. The movie selected was "Paddington Bear."



Easter Egg Hunt

■ Calling all Kids!

Prospect United Methodist Church's Easter Egg Hunt!

- Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018
- Outside on our church grounds
- Following 10am Worship
- Please bring your own basket.

We will have separate sections for different ages.

■ Easter Basket Tags

Don't forget to pick up an Easter Basket Tag for our Covenant to Care Adopt a Social Worker program.

PRAYER BOX

Family prayer time is a good habit. Make it fun with this activity for all family members. They can use this special box whenever they have a prayer request.

What you need:

- Shoebox
- Wrapping paper
- Scissors
- Tape
- Stickers, markers, etc. (optional)
- Index cards
- Pencils or pens

What you do:

1. Wrap the shoebox like a present. Be sure to wrap the lid separately so it can be removed.
2. Let the whole family help decorate the box. You can write Bible verses about prayer, draw pictures, glue on pictures or add stickers. Be creative!
3. Put the box in a prominent location of your house. Keep a pile of index cards and pencils or pens near the box.
4. Whenever a family member has a prayer request, he or she can write or draw it on a card and put it inside the box.
5. Family members can share the cards in a prayer circle, or people can take turns praying for all the requests. Throughout the week, family members can check the box for new prayer needs.

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