

THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church
A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

May 2017

Vol. 78, NO. 5

Pastor's Page

Sounds Of Music And Church

I remember the first time I went to a classical music concert. It was performed by an orchestra. Thanks to my mom, I easily got to know classical music. When I was young, she played classical music CDs on my bedside. I fell asleep while listening to the music. In addition, my uncle was a classical music freak. He knew everything about the music. Whenever I went to his house, he played music with his violin and told me "the behind story" of it.



I enjoyed it and liked it. However, I had never been to a real performance in a concert hall. It was my first time to be there. You can imagine how excited I was. I was looking around the huge hall. There were a lot of people. Then the orchestra came in and sat in their seats. I took my breath. The hall became silent. I could hear a pin drop. I was excited and ready to listen to a beautiful piece of Beethoven. I expected they would play the music right away.

However, unlike my expectation, they started tuning. It was noisy and chaotic. It sounded unorganized and unprepared. I was confused, and asked, "Why are they doing this in front of audience? They are not prepared enough? Is there something wrong?" Then, suddenly, the noise subsided. The concert hall became silent again. After seconds the music came out. Boom!! I felt catharsis. At the moment, disorder turned to order. A chaos turned into a beauty through silence. It was like a creation. Then I realized the tuning is a part of performance. Since then tuning has been one of my favorite parts of orchestra performances.

I believe a church is an orchestra. We as a church are doing orchestral work. We have many different instruments. We play different notes, but play together to make a beautiful music of God. However, right before performing a great piece of music, we need to tune our instruments. Maybe we are in the middle of tuning right now. The tuning is going to be very noisy. It might sometimes sound chaotic and time-consuming. So we just want to skip that part. But we have to remember that tuning is a part of the performance. We need it! When we notice some off tunes during our performance, we cannot do anything but stop the play. Or you can tune during other's playing, but it does not look good or proper.



We need tuning. I think all meetings, all conversation, and all communications are a sort of tuning. Yes, they are likely to be noisy. But it is necessary to perform thorough music. (I do not think we can play perfect music because we as humans are not perfect. But I believe we can play all together music close to perfection as long as

(Cont. to Page 2)

Prospect United Methodist Church

Founded 1834
99 Summer St., Bristol, CT 06010

The Rev. Yountae Kim
Pastor

Rev. William S. Barnes
Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Robert E. Rhodes, Jr.
Minister in Residence

Heidi Flower
Director of Music & Organist

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

E-Mail Addresses:
pastorpumc@snet.net
(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

we are all serious about it and listen carefully to each other's notes.) It is also necessary to remember we are making a music together. We are not competitors. We are in this together.

So I want you to make sounds! You might not like your own sounds. You might think none of people around you listen to your sounds. But we need every sound to make the music of God. Every sound is precious. During a tuning time, everyone in an orchestra should make their own sounds to make sure they are in a same tone. Yes, it must be loud and noisy.

Most of all, you need to listen to your sound first. You might not like the violin, because it is whining. You might not like symbols, because it is frightening. You might not like contrabass because it is too big. You might think they sound out of tune or you might want them to shut off their sound. However, one thing we should not overlook is that we might be the one who is out of tune. During a tuning time, listen carefully to the sounds first and check if our sound matches with the sound of the first violin, Jesus Christ. Then listen carefully to the sounds of others and tune yourself to others. Check if you sound harmoniously tuned with the first violin and other instruments.

Another amazing aspect of tuning in an orchestra performance is that nobody says "you are out of tune." They just listen and tune themselves. Making their own sound, listening to other sounds and tuning themselves. That is what is happening during tuning.

I am praying that our church, Prospect, play wonderful and heavenly music after noisy tuning. So please remember we are performing together. We are making beautiful music together. Our purpose of doing this is making a great music of God to the world. God bless you with his fantastic music!.

Making my own sound during our tuning,
Pastor Kim

Mission Corner



■ Mission Trip To Nicaragua

The New York Annual Conference (NYAC) is organizing a Volunteers in Mission (VIM) team going to Nicaragua in August. Jill Wilson plans to attend, and invites others to join her. The opportunity is open to anyone in the Conference. Jill, who has led or participated in many other mission trips, is happy to be a resource if anyone wants more information. The flyer from the Conference, in part, states the following:

“For the past few years, a number of us have been blessed to be part of a mission team to Nicaragua. Once again this year, the New York Annual Conference is organizing a Volunteers in Mission (VIM) trip to Nicaragua to work with Acción Médica Cristiana, a mission agency that is supported in part by the United Methodist Church. The dates of the trip are August 4-13.

“Last summer, our VIM team helped lay the foundation for a bridge that will enable the AMC Model Farm Community of Nueva Jerusalén to safely cross their river. This year our project with AMC will again be in the Matagalpa region, and the Matagalpa Field staff are considering different projects. Our goal is to raise \$4,000 towards whatever project they determine is most necessary and helpful.”

Requirements for the trip are:

1. Passport, which must not expire within six months of our trip. (Some websites say 3 months, some say 6. To be safe, have 6 months remaining.)
2. Volunteer In Mission Training Course (within the past three years).

Immunizations and malaria prophylactic medication are not required, but team members should always visit a travel clinic and visit the State Department website (www.travel.state.gov) for recommendations about travel to Nicaragua.

First timers and people of all ages, high school (with parental consent) and up, are welcome to join us! No prior experience is necessary, nor is the ability to speak Spanish, but the conditions can be hot and physically demanding so be sure you are cleared medically and up for the challenge.”

The approximate cost for the trip is \$2,100. This covers international airfare and travel fees, and all in-country costs for meals, lodging, transportation, translation/guides, orientation and tourist activities, trip set-up prior to arrival, and personal insurance from the Volunteers in Mission.

The deadline for applications is May 30th. If you have questions, contact Jill Wilson.

■ Health Kit Collection Time

Health Kits are collected annually by all churches in our New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church as a tangible mission outreach program. May is the time to bring your kits to church.

Health Kits are collected and taken to Mission Central to be distributed by the United Methodist Committee on Relief in the event of a disaster (last year our Conference sent over 4,000 kits).

Our contributions help keep them stocked. Bring yours to Sessions Hall by June 1. Health kits provide basic necessities to people who have been forced to leave their homes because of human conflict or natural disaster. They also are used as learning tools in personal hygiene, literacy, nutrition, and cooking classes.

Here are details on Health Kit materials:

- 1 hand towel;
- 15 x 25 inches to 17 x 27 inches . . . kitchen, cleaning, and microfiber towels not acceptable;
- 1 washcloth;
- 1 comb, sturdy and longer than 6 inches (no pocket combs or picks), rattail combs and combs without handles are acceptable with a minimum of 6 inches of teeth;
- 1 metal nail file or nail clippers (no emery boards);
- 1 bath-size soap, 3 oz. and larger sizes only (no Ivory or Jergens soap due to moisture content) do not remove from original packaging;
- 1 toothbrush, adult size only in original packaging;
- 6 adhesive bandages, ¾ inch to 1 inch-size;
- Common household Band-Aids;
- 1 plastic bag, one-gallon size sealable bag only;
- \$1 to purchase toothpaste.

Assembly Directions: Set the \$1 for toothpaste aside to be included in a separate envelope. Lay out the hand towel flat on a table. Lay the washcloth flat in the center of the hand towel. Place all remaining items on top of the washcloth. Fold over the sides of the hand towel to cover all of the items. Fold over one end of the hand towel so that it covers all of the items. Grasp the bundle of items tightly and roll over the remainder of the hand towel tightly. Place the tightly rolled bundle in the plastic bag. Remove as much air as possible and seal the bag.

Important Notes:

- All items must be new.
- Do not wash any of the items as they will be considered used.
- Please remove all packaging, unless otherwise specified.
- All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Due to the fact that strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items.
- Do not include any personal notes, money, or additional material in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.
- UMCOR is now purchasing toothpaste in bulk to be added to health kits before shipping to ensure that the product does not expire before they are sent.
- Do not put single dollar bills in each kit. Collect all money for toothpaste and shipping, then place it in a separate envelope and send along with the kit donations.



UMCOR does require that the source of manufacturing be removed from the kit contents. For example, if an item in a kit has a stamp that says, "Made in the USA" or "Made in China," that stamp must be removed, covered or blacked out.

If you have questions, contact Jill Wilson.

Middle Ages Group

■ Renaissance Dinners Return

By Luisa Lady, Middle Ages Chair

In April and May PUMC opened its doors to guests for our Annual Renaissance Dinners. On Saturday, April 29th, we entertained 85 guests and on May 6th, we had a total of 102 guests! Both evenings were wonderful as they were filled with food, songs, dances, magic and intrigue, sponsored by the Middle Ages Group.



Sessions Hall was transformed into a 16th-Century Great Hall. The Spring Feasts were in honor of our reigning King who invited his loyal subjects for a feast to celebrate the long-awaited Spring. Alas, both evenings did not start out well as his Queen decided to stand him up and not come to the festivities, which put the King in a “steaming rage.”

He decided to take it out on his Royal Court and it was up to the Royal Courtiers to entertain and cheer his majesty up. The Lord Sheriff, who was moonlighting as The Lord of MisRule, tried to keep both evenings going and we think he did a great job.

The Middle Ages Group has been very proud to bring the dinners to PUMC. They open up our church to the community; we are able to bring laughter and fun to many and they are our biggest fundraisers for the church. All profits go into the General Fund.



We would like to thank everyone who made this production possible. The time and effort put into the dinners is massive and everything you have done is appreciated. We also would like to thank some of our “angels” who made a donation towards the expense of the dinners.

We have already begun working on next year’s script and we hope that if you did not get a chance to come this year you will next year. We look forward to next year’s festivities!

Youth Page



■ Easter Egg Hunt

On Easter Sunday, 20 eager children scrambled across our church grounds in search of their share of Easter eggs to fill their baskets! Many thanks to Chris Kingsbury for his generous donation of filled eggs. Also, thanks to all the children and families for helping to make this a fun event!

■ Summer VBS News

"Hero Central" Vacation Bible School for Pre-K to 5th graders will be held Monday, July 10th to Friday, July 14th. Children are invited to participate in a week of free activities, to include Bible storytelling, games, science, snacks, mission, and music! To register, please visit <http://2017.cokesburyvbs.com/prospect>. For more information, contact Christa Zaldivar, cjw02@hotmail.com or (917) 386-8599.

■ Hike/Picnic At Sessions Woods

All are invited to a Hike and Picnic at Sessions Woods, 341 Milford St., Burlington, on Saturday, June 3rd from 10 a.m. to noon. The Education Team is sponsoring the event. Please bring your own picnic lunch.

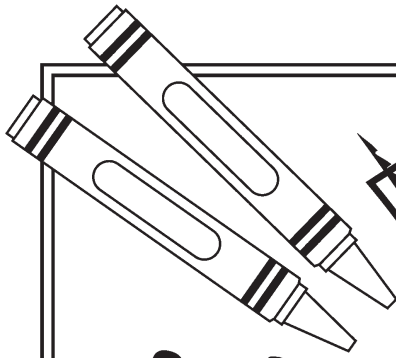
■ Beginning ... and beginning again

During the coming weeks, as you or loved ones celebrate graduation, remember it isn't a closed door, an end or a farewell. Instead, it's an entryway threshold, a beginning, a hello — and one of many such opportunities that mark life.

"God wants us to know that life is a series of beginnings, not endings, just as graduations are not terminations but commencements," writes Bernie Siegel. "Creation is an ongoing process, and when we create a perfect world where love and compassion are shared by all, suffering will cease."

Of course, we can "create a perfect world" only by letting God guide our actions. So, dear graduates, may you partner with God to meet suffering with love, kindness and compassion through all the new beginnings of your life!





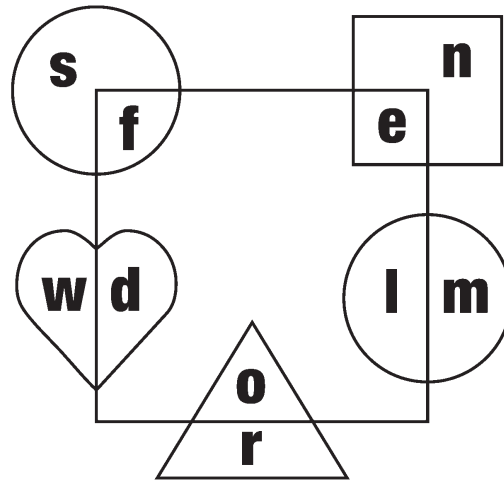
PUZZLE

GOD CARES FOR YOU!

Jesus tells his followers not to worry about their daily needs.
What example does he give of God's care for his creation?

Directions:

To complete Luke 12:27 (NIV), match the shapes under each blank with the letter shapes shown to the right.



“Consider how the wild _____
grow. They do not labor or spin.

Yet I tell you, not even _____
in all his splendor was _____

like one of these.” Luke 12:27, NIV

Answer: “Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.” Luke 12:27, NIV

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

Dated Material - Please Do Not Hold

Return Service Requested