

THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

November 2017

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Pastor's Page



Sunshine Over You

It was a fine and shiny Monday morning. I was on the way to a seminary in Manhattan. I took a subway. It was packed with people on the way to their destinations. Not everyone looked happy. Some people looked annoyed by passengers who stood too close to them. Some people just tried to listen to music coming out of their earphones. A guy held a pole in the middle of the aisle with one hand and was at a loss not knowing where to put his other hand among the crowd of people. Some were just looking outside into the darkness.

I saw a little girl holding her mother's hand in the crowds. I was wondering what kind of world she was looking at now. She might have been looking at all butts, not faces. How did she feel about it? What a "butt-iful" world?? In the crowded train, there was only one spot with plenty of room and peace. It was right next to a homeless person. Nobody wanted to go near him. If you wanted peace in the morning, you had to tolerate the stinky smell. I tried but failed. I chose to stay packed with people. I had to be on that train from 178th to 116th st. It was not a pleasant Monday morning.

Suddenly a light shone into the train and I could see buildings around me. I felt I was running through buildings. Between 125th and 116th streets the train actually goes up from the ground to above the ground. It was 125th street. The sunshine beamed into everyone's face. People seemed to feel a little relieved and soothed. The little girl smiled. The homeless person turned his body and looked outside and closed his eyes as if he tried to enjoy the sun as much as he could. It was amazing! The Sunshine turned everything beautiful and lively. I felt thankful and I believed most people in that train felt thankful for that short period of time. Then the train went under ground again.

I got off the train at 116th St. where my seminary was. I walked up staircases to get on the ground. When I was gradually going up on the ground, I met the Sunshine again. I gradually felt the warmth of the Sun. But this time it was dazzling. I could not open my eyes and could not see

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what was in front of me. I frowned. I must have looked very ugly at that moment. I was little bit annoyed. But soon I realized it was the middle of winter. How blessed it was to get a warm sunshine instead of freezing cold wind in Manhattan! I talked to myself, ' You should be thankful.' Of course Sunshine was a little bit bothersome to the eyes. But that was all. It could not hurt me. It made me frown a little. But that is it. I know it could not harm me or fail me. If I just tolerate the dazzling for a moment, I can enjoy the brightness and warmth. I should be thankful for that.

In November, we will think about what we are thankful for in 2017. We have been through a lot of things this year. We did not always have good things. Bad things happened to us. So it might be very difficult to find out what we are thankful for. Think about Sunshine. It gives warmth and brightness but sometime it dazzles us. But we are always thankful for that, even though a lot of bad things happened and made us feel desperate. But they could not break us. They were dazzling for a moment but we survived. We know they could not harm our soul, because God always has got our back. And we will thrive over what happened to us, because now we are sure nothing can harm us. Nothing can break us. Nothing can fail us.

God always shines over us like Sun. God sometimes dazzles us. But we know God is always with us caring, protecting, nurturing, and sometimes disciplining. Don't you think this is enough reason to be thankful for what happened to us? God will throw a party even in the presence of impending challenges. Are you ready for the party of thanksgiving?

In the Sunshine,
Pastor Kim



Finance

■ Stewardship Campaign Is Live

By Carla Heister, Finance Chair

By now you should all have received the letter that I wrote for the Prospect United Methodist Church 2018 Stewardship Campaign. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, Carla Heister, Stewardship Chair. The gathering of 2018 Pledges will be on Sunday, November 19th.



If you won't be in church that day, please mail your pledges back to the church before Thanksgiving. If you need a copy of the Pledge form, it can be found at the PUMC website: <http://anewprospect.org/committees/finance/>.

I AM YOUR CHURCH ENVELOPE

- I am part of your church life.
- I may be a complete stranger to you, but
- I can help you be a better Christian.
- I like to go to worship on Sunday, for
- I help you to be Christ's partner.
- I am very small, but
- I am the keystone of your church program.
- I am a weekly reminder of your daily blessings.
- I dare you to be as good to God as he has been to you.
- I am only paper, but
- I carry the full gift of a generous heart.
- I am the only pocketbook you need on Sunday, and
- I promise not to be a burden.
- I am your chance to preach, for
- I am a silent sermon of your devotion.

Founders Day

By Kathy Dube

A month-long series of informational talks on the history of Methodism and the history of Prospect Church culminated Sunday, November 5th, in the observance of Founders Day. Founders Day programs were a joint venture of the Worship Committee, chaired by Mary Rogers, and the History Committee, chaired by Vivian Brackett.

The service also featured an All Saints Sunday Remembrance, Kids Praise God song, handball choir, the return of two former pastors, Rev. William Barnes, our pastor emeritus, and Rev. Dr. Dennis Winkleblack, plus District Superintendent Rev. Alpher Silvester delivering the sermon in his first appearance at Prospect.

The service also included photos from our archives of groups dating to earlier in Prospect's history projected on the overhead screen. In addition, several former choir members returned to join our choir for Founders Day under the direction of Heidi Flower.

Highlights of special programs leading up to Founders Day, including trivia questions, can be found in this issue's History Corner.

Prospect In Earlier Days

■ History Corner - By Kathy Dube

During the past month, many of us have attended at least one of the historic programs presented by Vivian Brackett and me on behalf of the Prospect Church History Committee reviewing the history of Methodism in this country and events that led to the start and development of this church. The series was intended to educate newcomers and long-time members alike to the history of our church.

Here are trivia questions from the series of four Sunday programs (watch for answers in a future Tower):

- What church was said to be the "Grandmother" of area Methodist churches?
- When was the first Methodist sermon delivered in Bristol?
- How many members were in the first Methodist "class"?
- What date was our Methodist Church established?
- How many other churches were in Bristol before our church was established?
- Did Bristol welcome early Methodists?
- When was the early church completed?
- Where was it located?
- What was the term given to early Methodist preachers?
- When was the decision made to relocate to our present site?
- What industrialist's conversion to Methodism played a major role in the ...growth of our early church?
- What was the early name of our church?
- What was an additional factor in the growth of the church?
- When was the original Center Street church completed?
- Where was it located compared to the layout of our present church?
- When was the decision made to expand again?
- When was the expansion dedicated?
- What Bristol industrial family funded the costs of both stages of the expanded church?
- What did the congregation do to show gratitude to this benefactor family?



Middle Ages Group

■ Breakfast with Santa

Luisa Gladu, Middle Ages Group Chair, announces, "We are in full Breakfast with Santa mode! Santa has told us he had so much fun with us last year that he wants to come back and have Breakfast with us again and that Anna and Elsa will be joining us too!



"Breakfast with Santa Tickets Are On Sale Now! They will be available in Sessions Hall after 10 a.m. services. The date is Saturday, December 9th, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (Snow Date is December 16th).

4 "Remember this is a reserved ticket event. No tickets will be sold at the door. Tickets need to be paid in full when ordered or within one week of reservation date. This will allow us to be fair to everyone as we usually have a wait list."

Make checks payable to PUMC and in the memo section Breakfast W/Santa. Ticket prices are: Adults, \$15; Children 3-12 years old, \$10; and Children under 2 years, \$5 to cover the cost of the photo.

To reserve tickets please call Tammy Kelly at 860-874-8239 or the church office at 860-582-3443.

Doors will open at 8:30 a.m. for seating and Breakfast will be served at 9 a.m.

If you have any questions about the Breakfast please call Tammy Kelly at 860-874-8239 or email her at tammykelly@gmail.com.

■ Adopt a Tree

We will need some help getting ready for Santa. On Sunday, November 26th, the Worship Committee will begin decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas. We hope to have enough help to bring down the Christmas Trees that we will need decorated for the Breakfast with Santa. We are looking for people to come forward again to "adopt a tree." You pick the theme and decorate it by Sunday, December 3rd. We also have a ton of bulbs and ornaments upstairs that you can use.



Trees up for adoption are for The Sanctuary, Sessions Hall, The Parlor, The Chapel and The Library. Decide on how you want to decorate it. You can decorate it on the 26th or pick a night and have a tree trimming party for your team with hot chocolate & cookies.

You will also need to take your tree down by Saturday, January 13th.

Please let Luisa Gladu know by Nov. 12th if you will be adopting a tree @ TheGladus@comcast.net. Thank you all in advance for your help!

Potluck Luncheon Schedule

- **November 26th** will be the first week in Advent, so we will repeat last year's bring your own lunch and stay and help decorate the church.
- **December**, no potluck luncheon.
- **January 28th**, the Women of Prospect will sponsor a Chili Cook-off.
- **February 25th**, the Education Committee will sponsor Make-Your-Own Pizza as it was so popular last year.
- **March 25th** will be a Soup theme.
- **April 29th** will be a Pasta theme.



Outreach

■ Prayer Shawl Ministry



Janne Workman and other knitters have worked a lot of hours knitting and crocheting prayer shawls. Some 30 shawls were blessed at the October 1st Sunday 10 a.m. service. Many were taken to distribute to people we know and some to people we don't know.

These shawls are created with compassion and the love of knitting/crocheting and have been combined into a prayerful and spiritual practice which reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace, as well as in celebration and joy.

One of these shawls was mailed to Benjamin Camarce, husband of our Phillippines missionary-in-residence Helen Camarce. Benjamin has been ill and the knitters hope this will aid his cardiac care recovery, along with others who will receive the prayer shawls.

■ Family Promise Thanks

Dear Prospect,

We at First Congregational Church cannot thank you enough for the two excellent meals you provided for Family Promise guests. Both were very well received. The gift card enabled us to make purchases needed on a daily basis. We look forward to working with you again.

Sincerely,
Donna and Rob (First Congregational)

Notes of Interest

■ State Your Preference

The church periodically sends out informational notifications via email. If you do not receive these emails, and wish to, please notify the church office at prospectoffice@snet.net and you will be added as a recipient. Also, if you don't already, but would prefer to receive this Tower via your email, please notify the church of your preference.

Education

■ Check Out Our Library

By Mary Rogers

"Did you know our church has a treasure trove in its Library? There is a wide range of books available for loan from multiple versions of Bibles, Bible aids, books about various people in the Bible, prayer books, and even some fiction," reports Worship Committee Chair Mary Rogers.

"In recognition of this, the Education Committee decided to develop a catalog of books available in the Library and to rearrange the books so they are easier to access and find. That project is almost complete. In the meantime, Pastor Kim has asked me to provide a book review (or review of a book series) in the Tower each month. I hope you find these reviews informative and helpful in selecting books to borrow from our Library."

This Month's Book: "Bless the Day" edited by June Cotner, published by Kodansha International, 200 pages.

This is a collection of poems and prayers that touch the heart and soul. The collection is sorted by category with love, faith, hope, courage, forgiveness and compassion as a few of the categories. A sampling of the prayers was given throughout October as the prayer offered by the Lay Leader. A number of our church members stated how the prayer of the day touched them or asked me for a copy of the prayer. This is an excellent book to borrow if you need a lift in spirit or if you need a prayer for a special occasion. You can find this book in the Church Library.

Youth

■ Bible Sunday

Prospect United Methodist Church has a long-standing tradition of giving each third grade Sunday School student a gift of the Holy Bible. The Education Department will mark this faith milestone during 10 a.m. worship service on November 19th.

■ Can Collection Planned

PUMC Sunday School children will be having a "Turkey Trot Can Collection" on November 19th. We will be collecting nonperishable food items for the Zion Ecumenical Food Pantry during coffee hour. Please consider contributing to help end hunger in our local community! Especially needed are soup, peanut butter, jelly, tuna, cereal, canned fruit and vegetables, and pasta. Thank you!

■ Pageant Rehearsal

Christmas Eve, December 24th, is on a Sunday this year! The children will present "A Night for Dancing" at the 10 a.m. service. Please mark your calendars so that all children will be with us to celebrate Jesus' birth. The Education and Music departments will be working on the play during Sunday School each week, so please make every effort to have good attendance!

More information will follow!



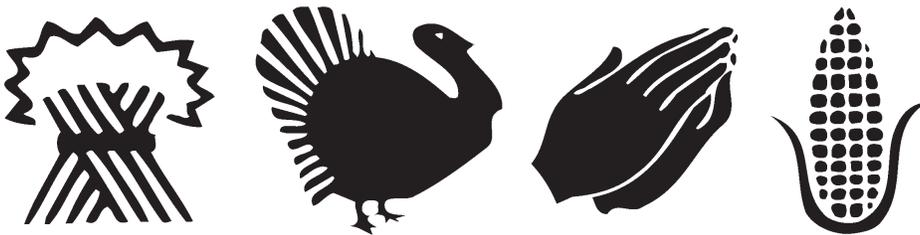
Thank you again!



GIVE THANKS TO GOD

God gives us many blessings every day. How can we thank him?

Directions: To complete the Bible verse below, follow the code and fill in the blanks.



A=1, B=2, C=3, D=4, E=5, F=6, G=7, H=8, I=9, J=10,
 K=11, L=12, M=13, N=14, O=15, P=16, Q=17, R=18,
 S=19, T=20, U=21, V=22, W=23, X=24, Y=25, Z=26.

“ _____ will _____
 _____ ’ _____ name in _____
 and _____ with
 _____ ”

9 16 18 1 9 19 5
 7 15 4 19 19 15 14 7
 7 12 15 18 9 6 25 8 9 13
 20 8 1 14 11 19 7 9 22 9 14 7

Answer: "I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving." Psalm 69:30, NIV

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