



THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

October 2017

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Pastor's Page



Being Built Together

It seemed that busy summer was over. But warm weather returned and I am so glad I did not take out the air conditioners in the parsonage! Life got back to its normal rhythms and cycles. Children went back to school. Jobs went back to the routine. I believe normal things accumulated make a great history. You are making your history and so is our church. In 1834, four methodists in Bristol got together to worship and serve God. That is the beginning of the history of our church.

Since then, every member of our church has done normal things, which is what we should do as Christians and people of God. Of course, I believe our church has done great things for our community, but ordinary things and practices made our history. So I want you to listen to what apostle Paul says to churches.

Apostle Paul tells us Jesus is our peacemaker who has made the two, one, and destroyed the barrier — the dividing wall of hostility. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, And in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross. Through the cross of Jesus Christ, the blood of Jesus Christ, the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, we were reconciled to God and to each other. There are no walls any more to divide us. Through the faith in Christ, we can restore trust in the honesty of others. We can become one new humanity, one body: Prospect UMC.

Paul also declares that as a church we are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household. It means that we are family under the same father. We might have been strangers to each other, we might have been aliens to each other like intimidating, aggressive, ugly. But in Jesus Christ, by the Grace of Christ, we became a family. We are a church!

"Built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone."

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Paul describes Jesus as a chief cornerstone. A cornerstone is the first stone set in the construction of a masonry foundation. It is important because all other stones will be set in reference to this stone. So it determines the position of the entire structure. We as a church are founded on the cornerstone. our salvation, our relation, our trust in other's honesty all are based on Jesus Christ; his love and his sacrifice. We love each other and we serve each other not because we are good persons or we have good personality, but because we are loved and we are saved by Jesus Christ. It is because God's love is working within us. We can trust each other not because we are trust-worthy enough to deserve the trust, but because God decided to put his trust on us through Jesus Christ.

"In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually[b] into a dwelling place for God.."

Paul continues to tell that a church is jointed together and built together to become a holy temple, the dwelling place God lives by spirit. We are connected and joined together. Actually we are more related to each other than we are aware of. Even if you do not talk much with people or you feel you don't have friends here in church, we are deeply connected and related to each other. We are made to be. God established the church as an organic faith community. I looked up in a dictionary that "organic" denotes a relationship between elements of something such that they fit together harmoniously as necessary parts of a whole. That is what the Bible talks about church. A church is a relationship between God and people and between people and people. Attending a worship service doesn't make us a church. The connection with God and with people makes us a church.

If there is anyone who feels disconnected, not related, something is going wrong among us. If we are not jointed together, we are moving far from being a holy temple, a church. So we need to look around us, check if there is anyone isolated and invite them into relationship. Being connected or being related doesn't mean we should like everyone. I don't like my hands because my fingers are short and ugly. There are a lot of wrinkles. But I love it, because this is my body, this is me. We cannot like everyone, because we are all different. But we can love them, because we are a family, we are the body of Christ. We are a part of the body of Christ. You might think you are not noticeable and not important in a church. But remember you are a necessary part of a whole. Without any one of you, a church cannot stand. You are a part of a church and at the same time a whole, a church itself.

This kind of organic relationship and interconnectedness with God and people has sustained our church for the last around 183 years since the initial small gathering. We have stood together as a church, as one body of Christ under God's love revealed through the cross of Jesus Christ. We have become God's dwelling place. All the people who have gone before us have built this church brick by brick. Everyone has brought their bricks to build our church strong. That is our story. We are not only Christian people, we are also church people. We are not only committed to Christ we are also committed to the body of Christ.

The History Committee is going to share our church's story with us every Sunday during October. We are going to celebrate our church's foundation and story all together at the 10 a.m. service on November 5th. Our new district superintendent is invited and will preach at the service. You are all invited to celebrate our church's history and making history. Bring your bricks!

Under Construction
Pastor Kim



Cornerstone -A cornerstone harkens back to God's pronouncement in Isaiah 28:16 that he "has laid as a foundation in Zion . . . a precious cornerstone." Ephesians 2:20 declares that Jesus is the cornerstone of the household of God. The letters IHC and XP are abbreviations for "Jesus" and "Christ" in ancient Greek.

Finance

■ On Being Good Stewards -

By Carla Heister, Finance Chair

What have we learned about stewardship? What have we taught our children and grandchildren? What have they taught us?

These are fundamental questions in our faith journey. Stewardship is about what we receive as well as what we give. Recently, the children of our church set an example for the rest of us. They gave and through them we received shared blessings. The Zaldivar children, Gianna and Victoria, recently set up a lemonade stand with the proceeds going to hurricane relief. At the church-wide tag sale held in late September, the Sunday School children sold popcorn and lemonade with the proceeds going to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief).

R. Paul Stevens states, "We're trustees of talents, gifts, time, treasure, and the culture and values in the society around us." It is a holistic view of the ministry/ stewardship of the church. Stewardship is ministry and ministry is stewardship.



All of us at PUMC will all soon be receiving a letter reminding us of our shared stewardship and we will be asked to make a commitment for 2018.

Please, everyone, respond to this letter.

What have we been called to "take care of for a little while"? The earth, surely. Perhaps a congregation, a business, a neighbor in need, a volunteer or an employee. A child, who may need less care — or different forms of it — as time goes on. We don't own these people and things. God invites us to be stewards of them, to care for them, to use wisely and value these precious gifts ... and someday, to pass them on to others.

Faith in Action

This year in America, more than 2.5 million children & their parents will experience homelessness.

Family Promise is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that organizes congregations, social service agencies and community members into volunteer coalitions called Affiliates that provide emergency shelter and wraparound services to homeless and at-risk families.

Their affiliate program provides a way for faith communities to work together to help homeless families stay together. In most traditional shelters, men and women are separated; fathers cannot stay with mothers and young children.

Family Promise of Central Connecticut is an affiliate that officially opened its doors on March 5th. They have a network of 11 host congregations and 7 support congregations.

Host congregations serve as the foundation for Family Promise of Central Connecticut by providing overnight lodging and meals for three to five families (up to 14 people) for one week every two to three months on a rotating basis.

Support congregations are those that may not have the facilities or volunteer capacity to house guests but still want to participate. They provide volunteers to stay overnight at the host church, to prepare meals, or to set up and transport cots.

Prospect United Methodist Church is proud to be a support congregation to our neighbor First Congregational Church.

We had our first volunteer opportunity in September when we provided two dinners for the guests.

Stay tuned for details on how you can help or ask Jeanette Baker for more details.

Worship Committee

■ **Worship Committee Updates**

By Mary Rogers, Committee Chair

Founders Day

Founders Day will be celebrated during the 10 a.m. service on November 5th. In the weeks leading up to Founders Day, the History Committee will give us some historical facts about our church. Founders Day will include anecdotes and historical displays about our church. We have special guests coming on that day, including District Superintendent Alpher Silvester. We will have refreshments following services.

Mercy Center Retreat

Members of Prospect were invited to a Retreat at Mercy Center in Madison on September 9th. Eleven people participated including Pastor Kim. In addition to a number of bonding exercises, we discussed five primary elements of church activities, the results of which were presented by Pastor Kim to Church Council. The group was served a lovely lunch and given personal time to enjoy the wonderful facilities. We agreed the Retreat was a great success and plan to return again next Summer. We hope you will be able to join us then!

Summer Service Survey

The Worship Committee recently met with Pastor Kim to review the results of a survey on summer services and decide how to handle the worship service during Summer of 2018. The decisions below were based on the majority vote for the questions asked.

In addition, there were comments/suggestions made by individuals that we may try out:

1. One service in Sessions Hall at 9 a.m. unless there is a special occasion such as Baptism, then service will be held in the Sanctuary.
2. We will continue to have new songs in the services (both summer and regular). We will add a hymn at the end of the service after the Benediction in the Summer Session.
3. We will not pass the collection plate in the summer but will have it near the door for people to drop off their offerings.
4. Based on general comments, we may have a service at Rockwell Park next summer with a church-wide picnic following the service.
5. We will have communion every Sunday during the summer, but once services resume in September, we will return to the customary communion the first Sunday of the month during the 10 a.m. service. We may have communion at other times during a month on special occasions.

■ **Middle Ages Holiday Plans**

By Luisa Gladu

With the temperatures in the 90's it's hard to imagine that winter is around the corner and the Holidays will be here sooner than we think. The Middle Ages Group will be putting on the Breakfast With Santa on Saturday, December 9th, and we need your help!

We need kitchen elves, serving elves, clean-up elves, set up and break-down elves, and of course the group leader elves. If you would like to help please contact Luisa Gladu at TheGladus@comcast.net

There will be a sign-up sheet in Sessions Hall as of Sunday, October 15th.

We will also be doing the Adopt-A-Christmas Tree decorating again this year. The plan is to have the trees decorated after Thanksgiving and up before the Breakfast with Santa.

If you would like to sign up to decorate a tree we have the following trees to set up and decorate for Christmas. The theme is yours to choose. We have ornaments that you can use or you can make or bring your own. Any questions, please see Luisa Gladu:

- Sanctuary Tree
- Chapel Tree
- Sessions Hall Tree
- Library Tree
- Parlor Tree



Thank you in advance for your help!

Prospect In Earlier Days

■ History Corner - By Kathy Dube

Photo Courtesy of Faith U.M. Church in North Haven, from which Pastor Haaf retired in 1991.



The September Tower's "History Corner" included a guessing game on the previous baby born to a Prospect pastor before Alisha Kim joined the Kim family this summer. This guessing game was suggested by my brother, Pastor Emeritus William Barnes.

I admit this is a bit of a trick question, for this individual was never a Senior Pastor at Prospect and his photograph is not in our Historic Gallery. But he was our full-time Associate Pastor from 1955 to 1958: the Rev. Eugene Haaf. The baby, a boy named Richard, was born to Pastor Haaf and his wife, Jacqueline on Sept. 25th, 1957. Pastor Haaf served as associate pastor during the tenures of Rev. Arthur Tedcastle followed by Rev. Eugene Fowler.

It seems appropriate to bring up this trivia question in light of our October series on Prospect and Methodist history. The series will culminate in the Founders Day celebration on November 5th. Unfortunately, nobody came forward with a guess to this trivia question. Here is information on the Haafs as reported by Pastor Barnes:

"I talked with Gene (and Jacquie) Haaf for the first time in at least a decade, in order to get the info you're looking for. He is now 91, and other than some deafness sounds in pretty good health. Jackie is 89, suffers from Parkinson's, but also sounded pretty good over the phone.

"The more we talked, and as they gradually figured out who I was, they reminisced about this, that and everything, including our wedding in 1957 co-officiated by Gene and Rev. Paul Dubois.

"They loved the idea of the 'guessing game' on who was the last Prospect pastoral family to have a baby while serving in Bristol. It was their first son, Richard, who she was carrying at our wedding, who was born at Bristol Hospital on Sept. 25, 1957. He has lived most of his adult life in The Netherlands, near Rotterdam, Gene said. They have five children altogether: Richard, David, Paul and twin girls, Donna and Beth, who both live in North Haven where they were born while he was pastor there.

"He was Associate Pastor at Prospect from 1955 to 1958, working with Art Tedcastle for a year and then with Gene Fowler. He then served at Richmond Hill: Trinity in Queens, NY for 5 years; Hampton Bays, NY for 7 years; and North Haven, CT for 21 years until retiring in 1991.

"He said that they lived in an apartment that the church rented from a Mrs. Hanrahan. He couldn't remember anything more about her or the specific address. So that was the 'parsonage' of the Associate Pastor,

which was his official title. They live in Whiting, NJ."

A subsequent email from Pastor Haaf adds more information: "In addition to Richard's birth, my wife, Jacquie, was the first Registered Nurse to (help) open the then novel out-patient clinic, via Dr. David Hershey (a long-time member of Prospect Church along with his wife), the birth doctor of Richard, and the little known relative of the Hershey's Chocolate family. We lived in a rental apartment on Grove Street adjacent to where Dave and his wife lived on the side street. I made a small cradle, in the basement of that house. I think (son) Paul and Lynette have it."

"Our twin daughters, born in Southampton, LI, also live in North Haven near Faith United Methodist Church, Clintonville Road. We retired from that church in 1991 after serving it for 21 years. It was from there we moved here in New Jersey, because we moved near Jacquie's widowed mother."

"Share our blessings with any who may remember us from the 50's, especially Bill Barnes. God bless you all!" Gene and Jacquie Haaf, Bristol, Ct 1955 -1958."

Notes of Interest

■ Church Member Honored

Bob Montgomery, a PUMC member frequently seen sprucing up our gardens, was tapped to be the 2017 Mum Festival's "Hometown Hero." Retired from the Bristol Public Library, Bob is co-founder of the Bristol Sports Hall of Fame, past president of the Bristol Historical Society, chairman of TEAM Bristol, member of Salvation Army Advisory Board, City, Bristol's official City Historian, member of Bristol Tramps Sports Reunion Committee, member of American Legion and Korean War Veterans Association, volunteer at PUMC who is also involved in veterans' programs. He's also a member of the Turn The Town Teal Committee.



Bob has received numerous honors for his volunteerism including induction into the Bristol Sports Hall of Fame in 2015; roasted by Korean War Veterans Association at Legion Hall in 2017; Bristol Tramps honoree 2002; recipient of the Humanitarian Award from Bristol Boys and Girls Club in 2013; and Chamber of Commerce Spirit of Bristol Award 2014. He was Volunteer of the Year, Bristol Historical Society, 2005; given Certificate of Appreciation from Franco American War Veterans 2009. He was the 2010 award recipient of City of Bristol in 2010, and given a ceremonial key to the City; In 2014 he was recognized by Chamber of Commerce.

Congratulations to this very busy man and volunteer, **a member of PUMC since 1959!**

Hike at Tory's Den



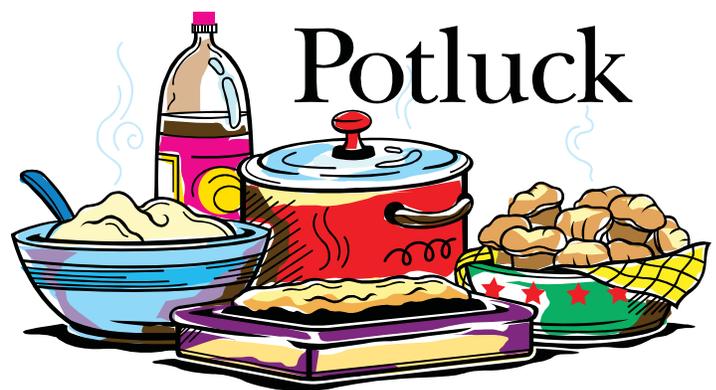
■ Potluck Luncheon Schedule

The Worship Committee announces the following schedule for Potluck Lunches this year, which will start in October:

- **October 29th**, the theme will be Macaroni and Cheese. Make your favorite macaroni and cheese recipe or bring a salad or desert or some other item that goes well with macaroni and cheese.
- **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.

2018:

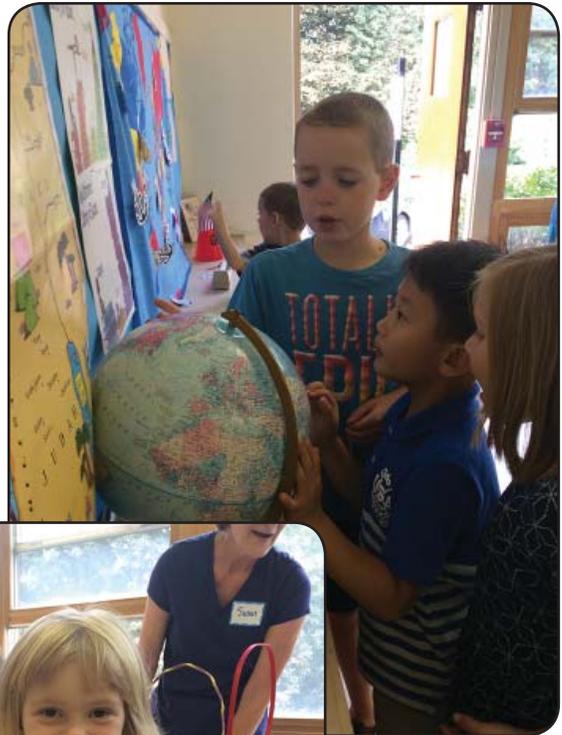
- **January 28th**, the Women of Prospect will sponsor a Chili Cook-off.
- **February 25th**, the Education Committee will sponsor Make-Your-Own Pizza as it was so popular last year.
- **March 25th** will be a Soup theme.
- and **April 29th** will be a Pasta theme.



Youth

■ Sunday School Starts

Sunday School is off to a great start, reports Education Superintendent Christa Zaldivar. Fifteen children registered for Sunday School and participated in fun games and special crafts at our Deep Blue Adventure Party, held on September 15th. She adds, "We are so grateful to the congregation for providing a potluck luncheon for everyone to enjoy. Also, extra thanks go out to the Education Team for preparing a wonderful experience for us all!"



7

■ Collecting For UNICEF

On Sunday, October 29th, during fellowship hour, our Sunday School students will be dressed in their Halloween costumes and trick-or-treating for UNICEF in Sessions Hall.

UNICEF is an organization that works in cooperation with governments and non-governmental organizations to save and protect the world's most vulnerable children, working to ensure child rights and providing health care, immunizations, nutrition, access to safe water and sanitation services, basic education, protection and emergency relief.



We are asking for the congregation's help in collecting loose change. Please bring as much loose change (or dollar bills) as possible, to help our children fundraise!

Thank you!!!