

# THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

December 2019

Vol. 80, NO. 10

## Pastor's Page

### The Light Of The World

Lines! They're everywhere this time of year. There is a line of traffic to get into the parking lot to do Christmas shopping, and a line of people to make purchases. Our kids wait in line to see Santa, and we wait longer than usual to treat ourselves to that special holiday latte. In our 21st century celebration of Christmas, we get a lot of practice in waiting.



In a strange way all of this waiting fits the Christian calendar. The Church sets aside the four weeks before Christmas as a time to prepare for the coming of our long-expected Messiah. This season called Advent is an opportunity to focus on how God came to us in history in the person of Jesus, comes to us in the present, and will come again in the future.

Yes, Christmas is one of the most special times in the life of the Church and Christians. It is the season of preparation as we await the coming of Jesus, Our king, not just a baby in a manger. Even though God chose to come to earth as a baby, we know that as he grew, he really did become the Light of the World and king of kings and lord of lords.

Christmas is more than a birth of a new baby. The joy and the excitement should be greater than that of holding a newborn baby. Christmas is the day when our darkness is driven out by the light of the world and when our salvation was embodied in a human form. "Merry" is not enough to describe this historic event. Maybe it should be "Breaking Darkness" Christmas or "Upsetting The World" Christmas.

He it is  
who gave  
himself  
for us  
that he might  
redeem us  
from all  
iniquity...

TITUS 2:14, NRSV



(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

Heidi Flower  
Director of Music & Organist



*We want to hear from you. Please email, or phone with any concerns or suggestions.*

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

E-Mail Addresses:  
prospect.yountae@gamil.com  
(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

(Cont. from Page 1)

It's not hard to still see darkness and pain when we look around our world, our community and even in ourselves, but we hope you'll join us this Christmas Season as we celebrate and remember ... that there really is light in this world, real hope and his name is Jesus.

*"Lightening the World Christmas,"*  
Pastor Kim

## Stewardship Corner

### ■ Season of Thanksgiving Stewardship Moment

Stuart Brown, Stewardship Chair, reports, "Thanks to everyone who has returned their pledge cards for the 2020 campaign. If you have not yet made your pledge for next year, it is not too late to do so. Please see Stuart Brown if you have misplaced your pledge card or if you need a new one for any reason. Your pledges help our church plan its budget for the year to come."



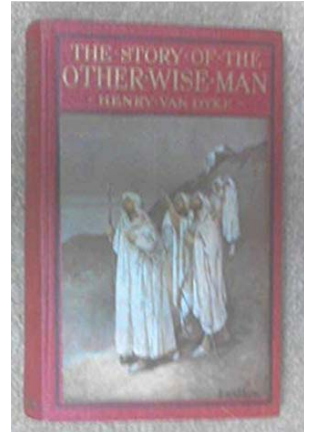
**Christmas Eve Services will be held at 5 p.m. and 10 p.m. on December 24th. Both times will feature candle lighting.**

## History Corner

### ■ “The Story of the Other Wise Man”

~Kathy Dube

*[Editor's Note: Since the Advent Season started at Prospect UMC December 1st with the “Wonder of a Star” message and the service concluded with the hymn “We Three Kings,” it seems a good opportunity to re-run the History Corner article on “the Story of the Other Wise Man” by Henry van Dyke.]*



We commonly assume there were three Wise Men, or Magi, following the star and searching out the Christ Child when he was born. Plus, the hymn spells out the three gifts of the magi. But the Bible really doesn't specify how many there were. A Christmas novel first published in 1895 by Henry van Dyke explores the legend of a fictional Fourth Wise Man, who searches for the Christ for much of his adult life.

During his search, he performs numerous acts of charity and gives away the treasures he was going to offer to the infant Jesus. After 33 years, the fourth Wise Man, a Persian named Artaban, is still a pilgrim and arrives in Jerusalem just in time for the crucifixion of Christ.

As the on-line encyclopedia Wikipedia relates: “He is then struck in the head by a falling roof tile and is about to die, having failed in his quest to find Jesus, but having done much good through charitable works. A voice tells him ‘Verily I say unto thee, Inasmuch as thou hast done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, thou hast done it unto me.’ (Matthew 25:40)[4] He dies in a calm radiance of wonder and joy. His treasures were accepted, and the Other Wise Man found his King.”

The power of the story led to many theatrical, movie and TV dramatizations over the years. Even today the novel has resonance and is worth reading. As the author related prior to his death in 1933: “I do not know where this little story came from — out of the air, perhaps. One thing is certain, it is not written in any other book, nor is it to be found among the ancient lore of the East. And yet I have never felt as if it were my own. It was a gift, and it seemed to me as if I knew the Giver.”

Verily I say unto thee, Inasmuch as thou hast done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, thou hast done it unto me.’ (Matthew 25:40)[4]

# Faith In Action

## ■ Thanksgiving 2019 At Prospect

For the past couple of years, Carolyn and Stuart Brown have hosted a Thanksgiving dinner in the downstairs dining hall of Prospect for family and friends of the church. This year, our church once again opened its doors for people from Prospect, but for the first time, the church hosted guests from Brian's Angels. About 22 people came from Brian's Angels, and about 20 people who are members or family and friends from Prospect came.

Stuart said, "The event was a great success thanks to all of the people in our church who donated to the meal. There were also countless people from our church who volunteered their time and talents on Wednesday night and Thanksgiving day. Thank you to everyone who made this happen!"



# Misc Notes

## ■ Library

In January we will have a reading challenge for all congregants (including small children who need parents to read to them). This will be a bit different from our previous children’s reading challenge so watch for the details in the bulletin and email blast!

## ■ Winter Tower Schedule

This will be the last issue of the Tower before the Winter Issue, which will combine January and February into a Winter Tower.

Any timely news before the Winter Issue is published can be an email blast or insert in the Sunday Bulletin.

December is a really busy time in all of our lives, so if there are opportunities for photographs to run later in the Winter Issue and on our Facebook Page, [anewprospect.org](http://anewprospect.org), please take the opportunity to post your photos later!

Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year to All!

Kathy Dube, Editor  
Jeanette Baker, Layout

## Order Your Poinsettias

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



This form must accompany payment. Please submit orders during worship service or to the office no later than December 22. Thank you.

In Honor of	
In Memory of	
Number Requested	
Given by	

## Youth Page

### ■ Star of Wonder Pageant

*By Education Superintendent  
Christa Zaldivar*

"You might wish upon a star, catch a falling star, recite starry-eyed poems like 'star light star bright, the first star I see tonight'; you might sing songs about twinkling stars, have stars in your eyes, thank your lucky stars or utter strange, cultural phrases like 'my stars and garters.' Each of those have their place in culture, lore and history, but there's only been one time in all of history where one could actually see and be witness to the Star of Wonder, the star that helped mark the miraculous birth of our Savior.



"Join the Prospect United Methodist Church Sunday School kids, as they present, Star of Wonder, a heavenly Christmas musical. Along the way you'll meet such bright luminaries as Superstar, Shooting Star, Lucky Star, Falling Star, Rock Star, and the North Star as they anxiously watch the biggest announcement in history unfold—the birth of Jesus!

"All are invited to the Sunday School's Annual Christmas Pageant, which will be performed on Sunday, December 22nd, during the 10 a.m. worship service. We hope to see you there!"



***All are invited to come ring in the New Year - 2020! Bring your family and celebrate the New Year with PUMC!***

**Date:** Tuesday December 31st

**Time:** 4pm-6pm

**Place:** Sessions Hall

**Cost:** Free!

**\*\*Please bring a dish to share (appetizers/ hors d'oeuvres) \*\***

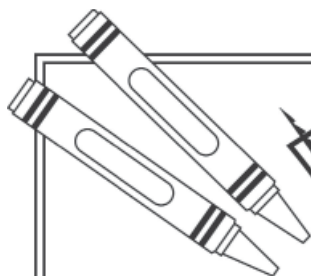
**Party Includes:** Food, Drinks, Make-your-own-ice-cream-sundae, Crafts, Games, and More!

Special "Ball Drop" at 6 pm

(Activities are geared towards PreK-5th grade, however, all are welcome!)

If you have any questions or to RSVP by 12/27, please contact Christa Zaldivar [cjw02@hotmail.com](mailto:cjw02@hotmail.com) or 917-386-8599.





# PUZZLE

## Born king of the Jews

Matthew 2:1-2 says that after Jesus was born, wise men came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?"

Complete the puzzle to discover what they found in Bethlehem.

*Directions: In the grid below, draw lines by starting at the first number in each list and stopping at the last.*



★ ★

16-17	28-17-6	61-50-39	8-7-18	106-96-85-97-107-106	42-41-52-63-64-53
3-14-25	36-47-58	104-105-106	38-49-60	89-100-111-123	107-108-109-120-130
2-3-4	5-16-27	19-18-29-30	69-79-89	80-92-103-104	125-135-134-124-123-133-134
40-51-62-39	37-47-59	105-95-84-96		124-125-126-127-128	69-80-91-102-103
				129-130-142-141-129	141-140-128-129

•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143

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

**Dated Material - Please Do Not Hold**

**Return Service Requested**