



THE PROSPECT TOWER

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

March 2016

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Pastor's Page

I have sent a letter to Bishop Jane Middleton requesting that I be appointed to retired status at the next New York Annual Conference session in June. That means that I will leave Prospect United Methodist Church at the end of June. I have thought about this for some time and have determined that, given my health, this would be a good time to make a change in my life.



One of the great strengths of the United Methodist Church is the appointment process. Prospect UMC will not be without a Pastor. At the beginning of July, a new Pastor will arrive in Bristol who will continue the important work of Christ in the community. I pledge my support to make this transition a smooth one.

As I reflect on my ministry in Bristol, I am grateful for many things. Your support while Terri went through her chemo was, and is, deeply appreciated. I have formed many friendships that I will always treasure. You have invited me into your lives, often at your most vulnerable moments, and I thank you for your trust.

Soon, Terri and I will head off to our home in Pennsylvania. We are a little apprehensive — change is always a bit unnerving. But as we move on, please know that our prayers for you and our love will remain.

Grace and Peace,
Bob Sorozan



Prospect United Methodist Church

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Holy Week and Easter

Holy Week and Easter are almost upon us. This is a very special and important time in the life of the church. Listed below are our worship opportunities to deepen your faith and experience the power of God's love in Jesus:

Palm/Passion Sunday, March 20th: We will distribute Palm Branches, remember the celebration of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, and be reminded of the reason why he had to go there.



**Monday through
Wednesday of**

Holy Week, March 21th - March 23rd:

The Chapel will be open from 8 to 8:30 a.m. for anyone who wants to come in and pray. The Pastor will be there if you want to receive communion.

Maundy Thursday, March 24th: There will be an Agape Service at 7 p.m. to recall Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples.

Good Friday, March 25th: Informal time of prayer and a communion liturgy in the chapel. Informal prayers will take place from Noon to 12:30 p.m. and Communion liturgy at 12:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday, March 27th: We celebrate the resurrection of our Lord on March 27th. You are invited to an interfaith Easter Dawn service on the Federal Hill Green. Please watch the church bulletin or call the church office for the exact time. We will have one service at 10 a.m. There will be special music during the service.

Small Groups

■ Relay For Life Event Announcement

Team Prospect United Church once again will participate in the Relay for Life, scheduled for Saturday, June 11th, at Bristol Eastern High School. According to team captain Luisa Gladu, "Our team is currently ranked #3 out of 22 teams. We have reached our goal and we are hoping to exceed it and be in the top 3 for Bristol this year!"



"We Relay to honor those in our lives who are survivors of cancer and we Relay in memory of those who lost their battle but are our inspiration. The Relay for Life walk benefits all kinds of cancer. You will see all different color ribbons represented. The Relay walk also celebrates survivors and caregivers, and we a luminary lap honors all those who have passed."

The event will start at 2 p.m. Saturday and end at 8 a.m. Sunday morning. According to Luisa, "We bring food, we laugh, we cry and we support each other. Please consider donating towards our team to help us win. Our event organizers have given us a very 'interesting' challenge (see below):

Teams were challenged, starting March 1 through St. Paddy's Day, to raise the most money for bragging rights and private team access to its own Porta Potty.

"There would be no more sharing and waiting in line! I know our team would love our very own Porta-Potty! (I never thought I'd type these words)," Luisa said. "We would appreciate your help."

Please go onto www.relay.acsevents.org you can locate our team by zip code 06010 or team name, Prospect United Methodist Church and make a donation.

■ Renaissance Dinners Postponed

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Middle Ages Group is postponing the Renaissance Dinners scheduled for May 7th and 14th.

Luisa Gladu, chairperson of the Middle Ages Group, reports, "In the past few months we have lost many key people who helped us make this event a success. We have asked for help and unfortunately only a handful of people came forward.

"The Renaissance dinners are a huge undertaking: it takes a small army of people to make them go as smoothly as they do. In the past we had been blessed to be able to raise between \$2,000 and \$4,000 for PUMC and it truly saddens me that we won't be able to do so in May.

"We will regroup and discuss a possible date later in the year or in the spring, should we have the adequate help necessary to make the dinners happen. My hope is that we will be able to rally individuals to help so that we may be able to donate to the General Fund.

"Thank you to everyone who did step up to help and for your time in writing the script and rehearsing. Also, thank you to those who volunteered to cook, work the back room staging area and help out in general."

Mission

■ New Mission Experience For Wilsons

Prospect's Jill Wilson, a veteran of international mission trips, accompanied by her husband, Chris, traveled to Bolivia in February to chaperone 17 Youth Ambassadors from the New York Conference. The program, geared to 15- to 18-year olds, has sent youth ambassadors to various locations for the last 12 years. They go during a break from school around President's Day in February, and can only participate once.

The 17 youths come from various churches in the different districts. The team leader was Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie, Conference Mission Coordinator. The other chaperone was Sara Flores, Missionary in Ecuador, but originally from Cochabamba, Bolivia. She was planning coordinator and translator, and met the group when they got to Bolivia. The group left on February 13th and returned on the 21st.

"As always, the purpose of a mission journey is to share God's love and power, and in this case, expose the youth to faith within a different culture," Jill

says. "Every mission journey is different from the last. Chaperoning 17 Youth Ambassadors to Bolivia is a very different experience. Seventeen ethnically, culturally, and socially different young people with only their Methodist roots in common formed the latest team from the New York conference to go on a mission journey. The team met twice prior to travel, to meet each other, and prepare for the journey ahead. The youth were eager and excited. I believe their parents had more trepidation than they did."

She continues, "For nine days we traveled, ate, worked, slept and worshiped together. Our primary tasks were literal church construction (tying rebar together), making/ mixing concrete and Vacation Bible School with 50 kids each day. As a chaperone I found myself doing a lot of watching, rather than doing. I observed the young people as they bonded with each other, became comfortable with unusual activities and shared God's love with the indigenous people in Bolivia. We were blessed to spend 5 days with the Quechuan people in Cochabamba, Bolivia.

"The radical hospitality by the host church and the host people left me with the biggest impression. Their greeting at the airport with song and flowers, their daily concern about our food and comfort and their shared times at the work site was not how we Americans typically experience daily life. We should take lessons!"

As our young people focused on what the Quechuan people had rather than what they did not have, they quickly respected and began to envy the Bolivians. They observed true community living. Shared meals, shared child care, and shared work based on complete and total love and trust in their Lord was what they witnessed. Most wished to stay when it came time to leave.

"A chaperone's task is simply to make sure they have a safe and meaningful experience. Of course I worked to make that happen, but it was not really work. I enjoyed the experience through the inexperienced, naïve, open-minded, flexible, enthusiastic, energetic, and willing youth. Although I came home quite tired, I came home excited that there are young people in the US who will step out of their comfort zone and share God's love in a culture of people totally different from themselves. We really do serve a living God as evidenced by the transformation that occurs in everyone on a mission journey."

Bolivia



Save The Date

■ For Ubuntu Mission

A mission opportunity open to all will take place on Saturday, April 30th, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Prudence Crandall Center, 594 Burritt St, New Britain.

Entitled “Ubuntu Day of Service,” the event is sponsored by the CT District United Methodist Women who have ‘adopted’ Prudence Crandall Center as one of its local mission projects. “Ubuntu” is a Zulu word that captures the concept “I am human because you are human.”

It recognizes that each person is part of a community, and describes a coming together of God’s people to celebrate God’s presence and prompting to act on behalf of our neighbors. Those participating will be helping to paint the children’s playroom in the center.

If you are interested or have any questions about this opportunity, please speak with Susan Powers.



■ CT District Conference

The CT District Conference will be held April 10th at the West Hartford UMC, 1358 New Britain Ave., from 2 to 4 p.m. All are welcome and urged to attend!

■ Bishop’s Day at the Connecticut District



Bishop Jane Allen Middleton

Theme: A More Excellent Way in Ministry

Location: Nichols United Methodist Church 35 Shelton Road Trumbull, CT 06611

Date: Saturday, April 16, 2016

Clergy: 10:30 a.m. to Noon

Lunch: 12 – 1 p.m.

Laity: 1 to 2:30 p.m.

There will be a time for presentations and dialogue.

**PROSPECT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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