

THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

October 2019

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Pastor's Page

Welcome All

"Welcome all" are very encouraging and comforting words but also very challenging words. While we were voting on our welcoming statement, I got a question from my friend, "Why are you doing this? Do you want to make your church look good? Is that is the purpose of it?" I knew that was not the purpose of it, but it was difficult to say no because my friend's suspicion will become true if we do not follow and do not live out "welcome all" in our daily life. The statement should not stay as a statement. We should not stop at celebrating. We should give it flesh. We should embody it. We should rub it into our skin. In order to do that, we should look into what it really means when we say "welcome all."



Welcome is more than saying "Hi" when you see a stranger. It is more than saying "the door is open. Just come and I will willingly and gladly receive you. It is up to you to come or not." Actually this is not really welcoming, I think. Welcoming is assertive, not passive. It is not saying, "I welcome all. But stay where you are. I will stay where I am." Welcoming is staying for a while with them where they are. Welcome originated from old English, Wilcume. Wil means 'desire' and cume means 'come'. So welcome means desiring someone to come. Welcome is a very active verb. It is a desire and a want for someone to join in us. It is not like 'ok you can come to this place but I am not going to deal with you. You and me are too different to be get along. Just stay away from me.' That is not welcoming at all.

Now we officially and publicly say we are welcoming all. Then we should desire one another to come and be a part of this community and family. It is not just letting others to be a part of our life but also



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actively inviting them into our lives. I want to challenge you. Do you really welcome one another?

All! The word 'All' has been differently defined according to different contexts. There was a time when All did not include women and children. I guess we all had different definitions of All. So "Welcome All" might be differently interpreted by the context you are in. Your "All" must be influenced by your context. There might be a invisible circle or boundary in your all. Some of you might have a specific group of people in your mind when you say welcome all. Of course our welcoming statement is also influenced by the context the situation we are placed in right now. But in order that our welcoming all and our statement can stay as genuine and sincere, we should go beyond our context and go beyond our circle and boundary.

Welcoming Statement! Our welcoming statement should be applied to every context and every relationship in our lives. For the reason, I want to challenge you, "Who is in your all?" "How wide is your circle"? Does your all have those who you are fond of, those who are like you ... agree with you ... think like you ... live like you...? Does your all include those you do not get along well with? Do you have those who wronged you in your all? In your all are there those who are so different that bother you so much? Can you

welcome those who do not agree with your all? We should make all our effort to widen our circle, our boundaries and our all.

Our welcome knows no boundaries. We mean it. We welcome all!!

*All Means All,
Pastor Kim*

■ Celebrating Our Welcoming Statement

Prospect Church celebrated the finalization of a Welcoming Statement on Sept. 30th at both the 8:30 and 10 a.m. services after months of work by a Core Team of the Church Council. Susan Powers, a member of the Core Team, explained the process of assessing the best Welcoming Statement before reading the statement:

"After the Special Session of General Conference in February of this year, Prospect's Church Council discussed how we, as a church, would move forward. I have spoken with you - others have as well - about the steps to be taken."

"A Core Team was formed whose task was to write a Welcoming Statement for Prospect. Church Council completed a Congregational Assessment determining Prospect's overall temperament when considering controversial subjects. The result showed us that we should proceed at a moderate pace which I believe we did. "

“One-to-one confidential conversations were conducted, 78 in all. These revealed that approx. 86 percent of the 78 favored allowing same-sex marriage in the church and that approximately 85 percent favored the ordination of LBGTQ candidates.”

“A brainstorming session was held to which everyone was invited. The goal of that session was to write a draft of Prospect’s Welcoming Statement. That draft was sent out via blast email for feedback. Feedback was received and some changes to the draft were made. A congregational letter was mailed along with ballots to every church member and to active constituents.”

The Core Team’s task is complete and today we are celebrating!”

**Prospect United Methodist Church
Welcoming Statement**

September 5, 2019

We, the congregation of Prospect United Methodist Church of Bristol, Connecticut, welcome everyone. We affirm the dignity and sacred worth of every person because we all are created by the same loving God. Called by the Holy Spirit to share a ministry that reflects God’s grace, love, and justice, we embrace and honor all who seek to participate in the ministries, leadership and life of our church.

We celebrate the diversity of God’s creation and gifts. We strive to respect and support persons of every race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religious background, physical and mental ability, family structure, age, economic circumstance, and level of education.

We recognize that there are differences among us and believe that we can love alike even though we may not be alike or think alike. We proclaim this statement of welcome to all who may have known the pain of exclusion or discrimination in the church and in society. We invite all people to join us in our faith journey as we grow together in love, understanding, and mutual respect.

Our welcome knows no boundaries. Whether you are here for the first time or the thousandth time, we want you to feel safe, at home and know you belong. If you are just passing through, we hope that our worship and fellowship will provide you with food for the journey.

History Corner

■ A Pioneering Deaconess At Prospect ~Kathy Dube

Few active at Prospect Church have known of the contributions of a deaconess, but the job of Deaconess is technically in the UMC Book of Discipline, as is the mail counterpart, a Home Missioner. Deaconess is a non-ordained ministry in some Protestant churches providing pastoral care, especially with regard to other women. In the early 20th Century, Prospect benefited from a pioneering Deaconess at this church, Carrie H. Reynolds.



The front page of the Prospect Tower for February, 1950, had the headline: "Prospect Church Sustains Loss In Death Of Its Deaconess Emeritus." The subhead was "Carrie H. Reynolds Gave Life Service to Methodist Work." Carrie was born Carrie Hutchinson on Feb. 22, 1894. Her parents, Henry and Mary Wooding Hutchinson, were active members of Prospect. In June of 1898 she married Rev. Richard H. Reynolds, a native of Cornwall, England. After marriage they resided in Woodbury where he was pastor until illness forced him to resign. Despite moving to Alamogordo, N.M., he died there in June, 1901.

Carrie Reynolds felt compelled to carry on her husband's work through the Deaconess program. Following stints in Stamford and Brooklyn, NY, she was called to Prospect in 1911 by Rev. Ernest Richardson, the only former Prospect pastor to later become a Bishop. She served Prospect for a quarter century until a disability prompted her resignation in 1936. She was named Deaconess Emeritus upon her retirement.

During her tenure she assisted pastors in myriad ways. A testimonial at the time of her retirement described her work, in part, as follows: "No grief among our parishioners has been so intimate or so heart breaking that she has not been close at hand to help assuage it and no joy so spontaneous as to exclude her from sharing it." A Bristol Press Testimonial said of her passing, "Carrie Reynolds is gone but her work in this city will long be remembered, and those who were privileged to know her will revere her memory for many years to come."

Middle-Ages Group

■ Middle Ages Group Event Dates

Luisa Gladu, chair of the Middle Ages Group, said the group is gearing up for Breakfast with Santa planned for Saturday, Dec. 14th: "Santa has told us he had such a great time last year that he is looking forward to his annual pancake breakfast at PUMC. Anna and Elsa are looking forward to it as well. We'll need elves to make this happen so please contact Luisa or Gary at TheGladus@comcast.net to let us know if you can help."

The group's most ambitious fundraiser is the Renaissance Dinner planned for two successive Saturday dates in the spring, April 25th and May 42nd. Luisa explains, "It's a huge fundraiser for our church and we hope we'll have the help needed to put them on. For more information on what's needed please talk to me or Gary or email us at TheGladus@comcast.net. We raised over \$5,000 in 2018 and we'd love to top it for 2020."

The Middle Ages Group also donated towards helping a family at Christmas and towards the Family Fun Pack this summer for a family in need. The goal is to reach out and help whenever we can and hopefully raise some funds for the General Fund.

"We're looking forward to our future projects and we thank you all for your support."

Worship Notes

Please note that October 20th is Laity Sunday with the theme "What My Church Means To Me" and that November 3rd is Founders Day.

Our Faith in Action

■ Covenant To Care Back-to-School Back Pack Drive

Thanks to the generosity of PUMC members and friends, our adopted social worker, Aleks, received 31 backpacks, school supplies, and uniforms for its Back to School drive. She was very appreciative according to June Schilling, our Covenant to Care liaison, who thanks everyone who donated!



**Education is a powerful
tool to break the cycle
of poverty.**

Youth Corner

■ UNICEF

On Sunday, October 27th, 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!!!

\$1.00

can provide safe water to a child for more than 2 months

\$3.00

can provide 7 packets of therapeutic food

\$5.00

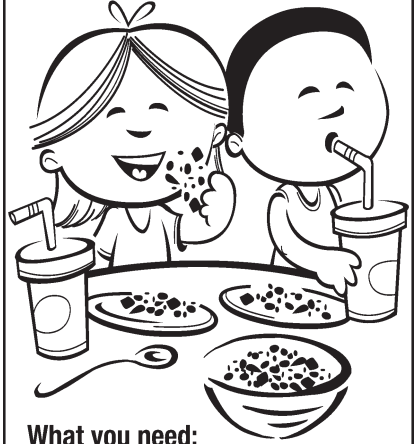
can provide a pack of 10 notebooks to a student

\$7.00

can provide a cold child with a warm fleece blanket

HARVEST * Trail Mix *

This portable snack combines favorite fall flavors.



What you need:

- 1/4 cup maple syrup
- 1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 2/3 cup pecan pieces
- 1/3 cup roasted pumpkin seeds
- 1/3 cup almonds
- 1/4 cup raisins
- 2/3 cup dried fruit (any)

What you do:

1. Microwave syrup, spices, seeds and nuts for 30 seconds at a time, stirring frequently, until mixture thickens.
2. Spread the mixture on a baking sheet lined with wax paper. Let cool and harden.
3. Break the candied nuts into chunks. Combine with dried fruit.
4. Store in airtight container.

Rally Day Photos



Prospect United Methodist Church

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