



THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

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Pastor's Page

"Daddy, I really love this house."

This is what my older son, David, said the first morning when we woke up at the parsonage. He ran through the house going up and down, and then came to the conclusion: moving to a new house is a very exciting and refreshing experience, except for packing and unpacking boxes. David does not care about the other unpleasant part. Maybe that is why he could jump to the conclusion more easily and faster than my wife, Sophia and I. Now we are truly enjoying the house. Not only the house, we are slowly but steadily falling in love with the people, the church, the city and everything here. However, we still have a dark force at the basement. The other day Sophia asked me to unpack the "Pandora's Box" in the basement.



While unpacking moving boxes, I came across a little piece of jigsaw puzzle (this is not the first time). I was looking at it for a while figuring out where it came from. No matter how hard I studied it, there was no way to find out what the piece was for. For me it was meaningless. It was piece of paper. So I decided to throw it into a garbage can. David just came out of nowhere. I think he had been watching me from somewhere. He picked up the piece of paper from the garbage can and said to me, "I knew it. I knew you were going to throw my puzzle away again. You must have thrown the piece of puzzle I asked about the other day (if you heard my sermon on July 17, you know what this means). This piece is important to me to complete whole puzzle. Without this little piece, I cannot finish the puzzle."

He knew the big picture so he knew how important the little tiny piece was. However, I could not know the importance because I did not know the big picture.

Looking into our life, we might be at a loss. We have lived for a decent amount of life, but we do not feel our lives were fruitful. Especially when a storm of life tries to blow us away, we tend to panic or be pessimistic because our life seems to be little and meaningless. Our life looks like a piece of puzzle. We try to figure out the meaning and the purpose of it studying and looking into it. The result is not always good. Sometimes it just looks meaningless. We often come across a simple, but hard-to-answer question, 'Why?' We will never know what the it can do, or what it can make complete, until we can see it through big picture. We can find true meaning and value of life through the big picture like my son knew the meaning of the little piece of

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Prospect United Methodist Church

Founded 1834
99 Summer St., Bristol, CT 06010

The Rev. Yountae Kim
Pastor

Rev. William S. Barnes
Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Robert E. Rhodes, Jr.
Minister in Residence

Heidi Flower
Director of Music & Organist

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

E-Mail Addresses:
pastorpumc@snet.net
(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

paper. The purpose and meaning of our life can be completed and understood only when it is understood in relation to the big picture. Like a puzzle, our lives may be in progress but God helps us put the pieces together to see the bigger picture.

It is also true with a church. If we look into only ourselves or other individuals (especially flaws or mistakes), we cannot understand the importance of each individual. We cannot figure out the purpose and meaning of us as a part of a church. We have to see ourselves through the big picture as a church. We have to try to see the value of every individual and every event in our life and church's life through the lens of God's work as a whole. Then we can come to a thought that we are a part of a church and also a church itself in the sense that without any of us, we cannot stand as a whole. Every person in Prospect is very important and an indispensable part of Prospect to make it complete. Without you, church is always missing something like my son's unfinished jigsaw puzzle. None should be considered as unnecessary or useless!

As you already know, this is my first full-time senior pastorate, which means it is my first time to work on a puzzle as a whole. But I am also a piece of a jigsaw puzzle. Only I am privileged to be in a position to see more of the big picture of Prospect U.M.C. than you do. So I need your help to see and guess the big picture more clearly. I need you to complete the puzzle PUMC. We are still missing pieces. You might be one of them. Without you, PUMC will be always incomplete. Please come and make the puzzle complete!

Blessings,
Yountae Kim

Getting To Know Pastor Yountae Kim

By Kathy Dube

The new church year will be an exciting one for both Prospect Church and the Rev. Yountae Kim, our new pastor: It's our first trans-cultural pastorate and Pastor Kim's first full-time senior pastorate.

Rev. Yountae Kim, who in previous churches went by the nickname "P.K.," for Pastor Kim, was born in 1975 in Wonju, South Korea, a small city near Seoul, the capital. An only child, his father, also from Wonju, is a former banker who now runs a peach orchard. His mother from the city of Chooncheon, is an elementary school teacher and was a big influence on his vocational interests.



Sophia and Yountae Kim with their children, David and Daniel.

He notes the threat of belligerent North Korea is something all South Koreans live with, but they accept it as the way life is and don't fret about it constantly.

He thought he would become a professor or public servant of some kind, working in government. But he admits, "College life (at Seoul National University) didn't start well. I was excited, but not stimulated enough. I wasn't ready for it."

He was raised a strict Presbyterian, which meant drinking and smoking were a sin. Popular music and movies were frowned upon. Understandably, college was a new world with freedom for too many pub visits. By his 3rd and 4th years, "I had to stand up for myself." He still socialized, but refrained from the excessive drinking.

Pastor Kim graduated with an education degree, and decided to be an educational counselor. "I believed in the Gospel and wanted to help people. I thought of educational counseling."

He first studied at a seminary in South Korea, and worked as a children's minister for three years. In addition, Pastor Kim became attracted to the theology of John Wesley, founder of Methodism.

Three years after receiving his education degree, he decided to enroll at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. "I was a bit scared at first. I had just gotten married (to Jihye Jang, who goes by the name of "Sophia"), and my parents had no idea I wanted to emigrate," he admits. Sophia was more adventuresome than he is, he admits, with the move to a new country and culture.

His original goal was to complete a joint divinity/doctoral program at Union Seminary, but it had been eliminated. He earned his master of divinity degree in 2008 at Union Seminary, after which he worked at two different churches before coming to Prospect: six years at a Methodist church in New Hyde Park on Long Island, followed by three years at a Korean Methodist church in Poughkeepsie, in the Hudson Valley of New York.

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Getting used to the history in the Northeast was an eye opener for Pastor Kim, because history in South Korea is so recent and constantly undergoing renovation. Although South Korea is very Americanized, he had never met Jewish, Islamists, or Gays in his homeland. "Here I made many new friends. I thought, 'Wow, it's so nice.'" He likes both Korean and American food.

Pastor Kim expected to stay at smaller churches, and says he was shocked to get the call to come to Prospect. What he has seen so far of the church is that it is old but well managed and well organized, adding, "I'm impressed with the volunteerism."

Moving to Bristol is not only an adjustment for Pastor Kim and his wife, but also for their young children, David, 4, and Daniel, 2. "David is good at speaking both Korean and English," he says, "But Daniel is confused."

Sophia Kim also graduated from a seminary in South Korea, and has worked for a church as an associate pastor in charge of education. Since coming to the U.S., she has worked as a director of a program for children and infants.

In addition to speaking his native tongue and English, Pastor Kim speaks a little French. He loves basketball, soccer, American football and baseball, but as for the latter, won't divulge what team he roots for currently. He got attracted to American football because he was fascinated by Tiki Barber's rush plays. He loves history of all kinds and tinkering with Legos to make robots.

One of his primary goals is helping to grow the church by attracting previous members who have left for one reason or another back to Prospect!

■ World Communion Sunday Collection Planned

Around the globe, countless gifted and qualified people face financial obstacles that hinder them from preparing for the vocation God has given them, especially youth and young adults. For ethnic students who will be the first generation in their families to attend college, or for those people of color who haven't historically had access to resources that make higher education possible, the road toward education has often been unwieldy.



On October 2, World Communion Sunday, your giving helps to provide scholarships for national and international graduate students whom God has gifted to learn and to serve. You can donate through a special collection to be taken that Sunday or by sending checks to: GCFA, P.O. Box 340029, Nashville, TN 37203.

You can read more about World Communion Sunday and the impact of your giving through the following link: www.umcgiving.org.

■ Relay For Life : Team PUMC Rocks

By Lisa Gladu, Team Captain

This year's Relay for Life, held on Saturday, June 11th, went very well. The theme was "Waving Goodbye To Cancer" and the event organizers decided on a Caribbean beach theme. Team PUMC did not disappoint as we went with a "Pirates of the Caribbean" theme. A very special thank you to my husband Gary, who agreed to set up our Pirate Ship. It takes him at least six hours at home to get the Pirate Ship ready to travel to an event. We were blessed that when we got to Bristol Eastern on Friday, the day before the event, Scott McNeal and Jerry Rivard came to help us set up the Pirate Ship and the Pirate Patisserie Bakery. We prayed the wind and rain would hold off.



Mother Nature decided we needed some cold, windy, rainy weather on Saturday morning but it didn't stop us from getting ready for our Relay. We put up some pop-up tents, our chairs and prayed for sunshine. Our "angels" in heaven were watching over us, because at 1 p.m the sun started shining and it started warming up.

The opening ceremony was at 2 p.m. and we were blessed with very nice weather the entire afternoon and evening as well as Sunday morning. We know as we walked that track in memory of our "angels," they were smiling down at us. This is one of the reasons we Relay, to honor the memory of those who lost their battle with cancer.

PUMC's Pirate Patisserie Bakery was a hit. Scott and Cheryl McNeal set up a wonderful bakery with their homemade goodies, flavored coffees and teas. They raised \$375 which was divided between the two of them for their Relay donation.

Our Private Porta Potty that we won was the envy of all the "Relayers." We had a bit of fun with it. The event chair gave us a lock and key for the Porta Potty. We put the key on a license plate- sized "Pirate Parking Only Sign." Thank you to Melissa Brown for our Lysol Wipes and Hand Sanitizing Wipes.

Our team members were ever present on the track. We tried to have someone walking on the track every hour of the event. We were especially proud of Laura Taylor, who not only came to Relay but walked 10 laps after having had her chemo treatment earlier in the week. That's 2 1/2 miles! Terry Sorozan was our all-time lap winner this year as she walked five miles. I am proud to count these ladies as my fellow Survivors! Terry, Laura and I were among 60 fellow survivors, along with our caregivers who attended the Survivor Dinner. The youngest survivor this year was 18 months old!

Gary and I camped out for the night. I did one lap at 3:30 a.m. along with 10 other people on the track! I can hear my mother saying, "Luisa, you are crazy". My mom, my hero lost her battle with cancer May 20 2015, is my reason to Relay. I honor her memory by fighting the good fight!

Team PUMC raised \$3,318.43, which earned us the rank of #6 out of the 35 teams. I can't thank everyone enough for their dedication to this event. Each year we get stronger and raise more money for cancer research. All the funds we raise stay in our area.

Ask any of our team members why we Relay: It's so we can put an end to cancer! We Relay for those we lost, their memory and strength stays with us. We Relay to honor those going through their battle and to give them support! We Relay to honor our survivors. We Relay to thank our caregivers!

I am honored to be the Team Captain of Team PUMC. Our 2016 team members were Michelle Cornish, William Cudjoe, Gary Gladu, Samantha Lowd, Cheryl and Scott McNeal, Barbara O'Neil, Jackie Palance, Carol and Jerry Rivard, Stacey and Wes Rochelle, Bob and Terry Sorozan, Laura Taylor and Susan Thayer,

A very special thank you to Bud Funk, Gerry and Sam Lee, Jerry Rivard, Stacey Rochelle and Marlene and Tyler Way, who came on Sunday morning at 8:30 a.m. to help us break down. It was amazing to have so much help and it was truly appreciated.

And finally thank You to one and all for your support and donations for our Relay for Life team. We could not have done it without you.

Music Ministry

■ Calling Singers And Ringers

Prospect's Senior Choir will meet for the first time this fall on September 7th at 7 p.m. in Room 208. Senior Choir is comprised of anyone Grade 8 and above, according to Music Director Heidi Flower: "We meet each Wednesday evening at 7 for rehearsal to prepare an anthem to be sung during Sunday's worship service. We also meet at 9 a.m. on Sunday mornings to go over the anthem and serve as music leaders during worship service. Our rehearsals are filled with singing, laughter and good fellowship." All are welcome!

■ Kids Praise God

As its title suggests, Kids Praise God is an opportunity for all children to become involved in music at PUMC. Any child is welcome to join us. We meet following Sunday School and work to prepare a song to be showcased during worship each month. The children also prepare a Christmas pageant, and a Children's Day presentation each spring.

■ Handbells

Prospect Tower Bells also meets each Wednesday evening at 6 p.m., and strives to play once a month during worship service. Our rehearsals are light-hearted and fun! Reading music is not required, but is helpful. The first rehearsal for Prospect Tower Bells will be September 14th.



Youth Ministry

■ The Deep Blue Adventure Party Starts Church School

The beginning of the new Sunday School year is nearly here! Sunday, September 18th, is our Deep Blue Adventure Party (formerly known as Rally Day), Superintendent Christa Zaldivar announces! On this date, parents will fill out registration forms and meet the Sunday School teachers.



During our 10 a.m. worship service, children ages 3 and up are invited to participate in some fun activities and games at the party. Sunday School classes at Prospect Church will begin on Sunday, September 25th, during the 10 o'clock worship service. In addition to nursery care for children ages 6 weeks to 3 years of age, there will be one-room Sunday School classes this year for Pre-K through the 5th Grade.

If you have any questions about our programs or would like to serve as a volunteer, please contact Christa Zaldivar at cjw02@hotmail.com or (860) 845-2016.

■ 36 Children Had "Surf Shack" Fun At VBS

A very successful "Surf Shack" Vacation Bible School attracted 36 children the week of June 20th-24th. Our church library, adjacent to Sessions Hall, was transformed into a Surf Shack and each night of the week, from 6-7:45 p.m., we had 18 adult volunteers, 5 enthusiastic youth volunteers, and 36 eager children involved in entertaining Bible story drama, beach-themed science



experiments, tasty snacks, cooperative games, and interactive songs. We also had a mission emphasis in which we collected hundreds of contributions and books for the Snack Packs that PUMC puts together for Zion Lutheran Soup Kitchen. We're already looking forward to next summer's "Hero Central" Vacation Bible School, so if you're interested in participating, please be sure to contact Sunday School Superintendent Christa Zaldivar at cjw02@hotmail.com or call (860) 845-2016! Many thanks to all the adult and youth volunteers who contributed their time, energy, and talent!



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

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