



THE PROSPECT TOWER

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

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Pastor's Page

"But be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all the things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father."

Ephesians 5:18b-20



The next two months will go by so fast that you'll get motion sickness! We have to go shopping. We have to make hotel and airline reservations. We have to dig out our Mother's cucumber salad recipe, or else there will a major faux pas when our family sits down to one of several emotionally straining dinners! Ahhhhhhhhhh!

You do get the point. Holiday seasons, including Thanksgiving and Christmas, are what we make of them. We have the power to make them enriching and life giving. Or, we have the power to turn them into a Quentin Tarantino movie. It really is our choice. What do we do, and how do we react to the people around us, when the holidays come around?

I am not going to preach, but I do want to remind you about human nature. As far as I know, only one person is perfect and that is why we have a holiday in his name on December 25th. As for the rest of us, we all have flaws which in a strange way give us hope. During the holidays, people can let little things blow up into monstrous proportion. If you have real questions about your family's saneness, don't worry — they're probably normal. It's okay to have your doubts, but relax and give God a prayer of thanksgiving. Forgive people for their mistakes and love them even when they are at their unlovable worst. Treat the people in your life as a gift from God and their imperfections and quirks become insignificant.

I'm going to tell you something and please don't get upset: you're probably not perfect. It really is ok — everyone who knows you has known this for years! You don't have to be the perfect host or cook, or decorator, or conversationalist, or cleaner, or dog walker, or bottle washer, or whatever! God created you and you just have to trust that God knew what he was doing when he did. You don't have to be Martha Stewart for the holiday season, just be yourself and enjoy the holidays.

Holidays sometimes take on lives in and of themselves. Human beings can lose sight of the really important things and focus on the trivial. During the next few months, focus on the things that really matter. Focus on the blessings you received in your life. Focus on the love of friends and family. Focus on the gift of life itself. Focus on the love that God has for all of his children, even those who are imperfect.

Grace and Peace,
Bob Sorozan

Prospect United Methodist Church

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■ Thanksgiving Interfaith Service

The Bristol-area Thanksgiving Interfaith Service will be held at Prospect UMC this year. It will be held on November 26th, at 7:30pm. We will welcome people from many different religious faiths, including Muslim, Christian and Jewish believers, to our sanctuary. A reception will follow. There are many things to be thankful for, including living together with other faiths in tolerance and acceptance. Come and join with your neighbors as we lift up our prayers in praise.

■ An ancient stewardship message

Jesus talks frequently in the Gospels about giving and sharing our material goods — and he wasn't the first in Scripture to do so.

A thousand years before Christ's birth, King David prepared to hand over the kingdom to his son, gathering tons (literally!) of gold, silver and other materials for Solomon to use in building the temple. Revealing his take on stewardship, David prayed: "But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand" (1 Chronicles 29:14, NIV).

■ A Job Well Done

For approximately 10 years PUMC has enjoyed hosting DCF's Covenant to Care for Children's (CCC) Annual Foster Children's Christmas Party. Now, due to a significant increase in the number of families in DCF's caseload, they have to move to a larger venue at another facility. Please see DCF's heartfelt thank you to the congregation at right.

Continued Ways to Help:

PUMC's help is needed more than before with this increased caseload. Our Covenant with our Adopted Social Workers is still vital and we will continue to donate Christmas gifts, Easter Baskets, School Book bags, Food Gift Cards, winter coats, etc. After the holidays PUMC will host an event with CCC's Discovered Spirit Program masks created by some of the children served by CCC—a moving art exhibit recently displayed at the New Britain Museum of American Art. Your attendance and support is needed and would be so appreciated. You will leave as a little bit of a different person than when you walked in. More info to come later.

Closer to Christmas would you consider helping an extra child or two by selecting several tags from the CCC Christmas Giving Tree? Our gifts to these children in need are so appreciated in ways we would probably not imagine.

■ **Covenant to Care Seeking New Board Members:**

Covenant to Care seeking new members to serve on our Board of Directors with us. As a non-profit organization dedicated to providing resources to meet the needs of children across the State Of Connecticut, our work is premised on collaborative relationships between social workers and participating faith-based communities. Learn more at www.covenanttocare.org.

*Hello Susan,
In reviewing the number of active foster homes this year, we have increased our numbers significantly and have close to 100 additional families to invite. Given the drastic increase in numbers, we have decided to pursue a larger venue for this years party.*

Thank you for all of you help and support in years past. The kindness and generosity of your congregation has been truly appreciated.

*Kindly,
Daniel Bergin*



Victorian Holiday Tea

Shopping, planning, cooking, wrapping, decorating, the running around; it's hard to believe that this is what December is all about. During these hectic moments, it's difficult to think of a simpler time, where the season wasn't rushed, but enjoyed.

The Middle Ages Group of Prospect United Methodist church cordially invites you to come experience such a time. Join us at our 5th Annual Victorian Holiday Tea with the Ladies Sessions. This reserved event is quickly becoming a family tradition and it will be held on Saturday, December 13th at 4 p.m. The Ladies Sessions cordially invite you to the Manor to come and view the general splendor of Sessions Hall decorated for the holiday.



Servants will surround you with an array of assorted scones, sweet breads, sandwiches and sweet delectables, as you sip your tea and listen to musical entertainment for the evening. There will also be a Victorian Gift Shop where you can purchase handcrafted Victorian-styled ornaments, exquisite jewelry, and other unique items for those on your gift list.

And for those of you who wish to be pampered even more, we have "The Fireside Parlor" and "The Library Parlor," where you will be seated in a private room set for the holidays. Bone china tea cups, teapots filled with a variety of teas, and a special dessert buffet will be the rule of the day. The Ladies Sessions have also requested a special menu for children so that they may enjoy the day as well.

Don't be left out in the cold! Come and experience this annual holiday tradition this season at Prospect United Methodist Church! Tickets are expected to sell out quickly! To reserve a table and purchase tickets please contact Luisa Gladu at (860) 582-8383. Sessions Hall tickets are \$15, Parlor Tickets are \$25.

We look forward to seeing you!

Victorian Breakfast With Santa

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be making a stop at Prospect United Methodist Church on Saturday, December 20th, from 9 to 11 a.m., as the Middle Ages Group hosts our first Annual Breakfast with Santa! This is a reserved event for children and their families. A delicious breakfast will be served with Santa and Mrs. Claus in Sessions Hall.

Once breakfast is done, Santa and Mrs. Claus will prepare for a visit with each child. Your child will be able to talk to Santa one on one and a professional picture with Santa is included with each child's ticket bought. Additional photos available for purchase.

We will have a few activities going on throughout the morning; Story Time, a Magic Show, and did we mention that Santa will be bringing along some of his elves from his workshop!

They will be in the "Elf Mart" which is only open for the children to purchase gifts for their family. All "Elf Mart" items are under \$5 and your child will have the opportunity to shop for special gifts for mom, dad, grandma, grandpa...ah the list goes on!



Tickets costs are \$10 for adults and \$7 for children ages 3 to 12. Children under 2, \$7.00, children 2 and under are Free. There is no cost for children under 2. We anticipate this event to sell out quickly! To purchase tickets and reserve a table, please call Tammy Kelly at (860) 874-8239 or Diane Ashworth at (860) 583-9520.

We hope that this will become another treasured event for Prospect United Methodist Church.

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 17. Thank you.

In Honor of	
In Memory of	
Number Requested	
Given by	

Youth Corner

■ Bible Sunday

Prospect United Methodist Church, affirming that the Bible is the living word of God, has a long-standing tradition of giving each third grade Sunday school student a gift of the Holy Bible. We will mark this faith milestone by presenting Bibles during the 10 a.m. worship service on Sunday, November 23rd.



It is essential for families to sign up in advance to reserve their child's Bible. Registration Deadline is November 18th. Please contact Christa Zaldivar at (860) 845-2016 or cjw02@hotmail.com to reserve your child's Bible. Thank you!

This year, on Bible Sunday, November 23rd, we are encouraging all of you to bring in your own personal Bible to share! Dust off that old Bible from your youth or perhaps one given to you as a gift. We invite you to come prepared to discuss your favorite verse or story. In addition, Pastor Bob will offer a special Blessing of the Bibles!

■ Honor teachers

James Michener, the author of books such as *The Source* and *Hawaii*, was once invited by President Eisenhower to a dinner at the White House. He answered the president with these words:

"Dear Mr. President: I received your invitation three days after I had agreed to speak a few words at a dinner honoring the wonderful high school teacher who taught me how to write. I know you will not miss me at your dinner, but she might at hers."

President Eisenhower answered Michener by saying, "In his lifetime a man lives under 15 or 16 presidents, but a really fine teacher comes into his life but rarely."

Sunday school is now in full swing, so let us honor all of our teachers. They sacrifice their time to prepare lessons, decorate classrooms, teach with loving care, and most importantly, to be "there" for their students.

Sunday School Teachers

The following are filling Sunday School teaching roles this year:

- **PK/K:** Eleanor Riker, Jeanette Baker, Mary Rogers
- **1st/2nd:** Carolyn Brown and Susan Thayer
- **3rd-5th:** Terry Sorozan and Lisa Limeburner
- **6th-12th:** Carla Heister and Linda Hart



Praying hands



One way to show our thankfulness is to bow our heads, fold our hands and pray to God.



Directions: Complete Colossians 4:2 (NIV) by selecting one word on the left hand, then one on the right and so on. Go back and forth, using the word blanks as a guide.

LEFT RIGHT

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W -----

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----- : NIV

Answer: Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. Colossians 4:2, NIV

**PROSPECT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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