

THE PROSPECT TOWER

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

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Pastor's Page

Once upon a time there lived a boy elephant named Eli and a girl pig named Piggy. They were good friends. They did everything together. Actually, Eli liked Piggy. But He could not express his feeling toward her, because he was afraid to lose his best friend. But He could not stop his feeling from getting bigger. So one day, Eli decided to confess. They sat at a quiet cafe. And with a shivering voice, he said "I have feelings for you. I love you so much." Then He was just looking at Piggy expecting positive response. Piggy was just silent. And few moments later, she opened her mouth.



"I am so thankful to you for saying that. But I cannot believe you love me. How could you love me? You have a long, beautiful nose and bling bling ivory. Your legs are so strong and outstretched. You gorgeously walk. When you walk, it is breathtaking. But look at me. I am a pig. My nose is short and leveled. My legs are short. How about my toes? Whenever I get a pedicure, I am so embarrassed. When I walk, everyone laughs at me. I wobble. Do you see my tail. It is coiled and sticks to my hip. Do you still believe you love me? Why? How could you do that? You and I are so different. There is no reason you like me or love me. Maybe you might just yearn me. So do not say this again. I do not want to lose my friend."

Eli was so deeply disappointed and frustrated because Ali did not believe him and there was no way to prove his love for her. Later he tried to convince her a couple of time. But she would not open her heart. Day after day He was looking for ways to show his feeling toward her was genuine. Finally an idea came up to his mind. He decided to follow the idea. He talked to himself,



"There is only one way to prove my love to her. I have to be like her. I am going to be like her. Then she will understand me and my love for her."

Then Eli cut his long nose to be like Piggy.

(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

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

This might be a little creepy. But this is what really happened when Jesus was born 2,000 years ago. God should become a human to prove that God loves humans. In Malachi 1:2, God said, "I have loved you," but Israel complained, "How have you loved us?" We can picture ourselves in this Scripture verses. God actually does not have to prove anything, because God is God. However, God decided to prove God-self to us because God had loved us and wanted us to know that and to freely respond to God's love. God showed God's love toward us not just through the death on the Cross but also through God's becoming a human baby. This is the true story of Christmas.

I pray during this Advent, you can think upon how deep, solid, and determined God's love is!

Love in Christ
Pastor Kim

■ Newsletter Highlights Work Of Helen Camarce

Prospect Church has a Covenant Relationship with Missionary Helen Camarce. Helen sends out a newsletter highlighting her work several times a year. You can see her November edition on our website: www.anewprospect.org.

CHRISTMAS SEASON

■ Holiday Services

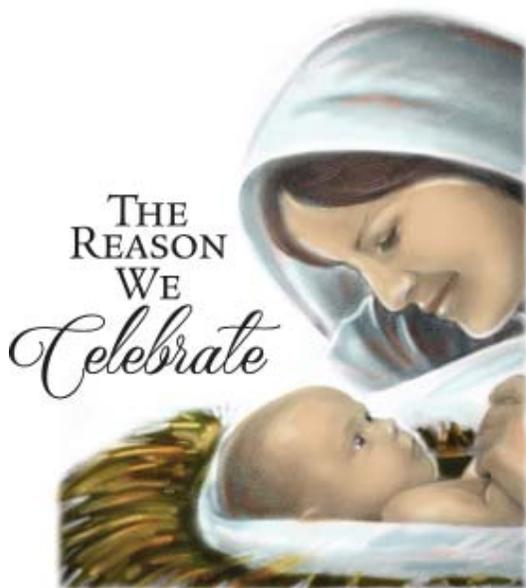
Christmas services are scheduled for Christmas Eve at 5 and 10 p.m. and Christmas Day at 10 a.m. There will be no early service. The 10 a.m. service will be a sing-a-long around the piano.

■ Special dates

December 4 - Second Sunday of Advent,
December 11 - Third Sunday of Advent
December 18 - Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21 - First day of winter
December 24 - Christmas Eve
December 25 - Christmas Day
December 31 - New Year's Eve/Watch Night

■ Truth Incarnate

The Almighty appeared on earth as a helpless human baby, needing to be fed and changed and taught to talk like any other child. The more you think about it, the more staggering it gets. Nothing in fiction is so fantastic as this truth of the Incarnation. —J.I. Packer



■ Present Possibilities, Frontiers of Faith

Brazilian theologian Rubem Alves called hope "the suspicion ... that the frontiers of the possible are not determined by the limits of the present." Who among us doesn't sometimes imagine our future based solely on present-day obstacles? Even biblical heroes did so.

Abraham and Sarah laughed at God's promise of a child, seeing only their present circumstance of old age. Only in hindsight could Joseph see how God turned slavery in Egypt into great good.

At first another Joseph, learning his fiancée was pregnant, believed his world was limited to two possibilities: shame Mary publicly or divorce her quietly. But his heart was open to God's message: "What is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. [Her] son ... will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:20-21, NIV). How exceedingly far this future must have seemed from the limits of Joseph's present.

Christmas is a reminder that God calls us all into frontiers of the future we never could have dreamed!

History Corner

PROSPECT IN EARLIER DAYS

Wesley Brothers And Their Christmas Hymns - Kathy Dube



Many hymns commonly sung at Christmas time were composed by the Wesley brothers, the prolific hymn writer Rev. Charles and his brother, Rev. John, founder of Methodism. A Yahoo search yielded the following summary, though I cannot find a person to credit for this information:

“The Rev. John Wesley (1703-1791) and the Rev. Charles Wesley (1707-1788) made a profound impact on Christian hymnology, and not just for the Church of England or the Methodist Episcopal Church. Their hymns can be found in the hymnals of most or all Christian denominations, although sometimes altered to conform to doctrinal differences.

“The Rev. Charles Wesley, one of the co-founders of the Methodist movement within the Church of England — and later a separate denomination — was one of the most prolific of all Christian hymn writers. Estimates of his output are pegged between 5,000 and 8,000 hymns according to various sources that I’ve consulted. Charles remained a member of the Church of England to his death; his hymns have been reverently adopted by almost every Christian denomination. The last of his hymns was said to have been dictated to his wife from his death bed.

“The first of the Christmas poem-hymns that was found was in Hymns and Sacred Poems (1739), and is the well-known Hark How all the Welkin Rings (better known by the alterations imposed by hymnal editors, Hark! The Herald Angels Sing). According to records that have

been discovered, the Wesleys footed the bill to have this hymn printed and issued as a broadside at Christmas 1743, the Hymn for Christmas Day (1743).

“At Christmas 1744, the Wesleys paid to have 1500 copies of a pamphlet of Christmas hymns printed by William Strahan in London, the Hymns for Christmas Day (1744). None exist, but Wesleyan experts believe that it was between 8 and 12 pages, and contained three or four hymns from Hymns and Sacred Poems, 1739 and 1740 (although they note that these hymns might have been some of those found in a subsequent publication). It isn’t known which specific hymns were included, although it’s possible that Hark How All the Welkin Rings might be a strong contender.

Finally, at Christmas 1745, the Wesleys issued an 18-hymn collection of entirely new Christmas hymns (presumably written by Charles), Hymns for the Nativity of our Lord. This collection was extremely popular among Methodists of the day, and it’s believed that the pamphlet went through at least 25 printings in Britain before Charles’s death in 1788. Continuing with this theme, the brothers issued a seven-hymn collection at Christmas 1750, Hymns for the New Year’s Day.”

If you are interested in learning more about these hymn composers who were so vital to the growth of Methodism, voluminous records can be found on line.

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 18. Thank you.



In Honor of	
In Memory of	
Number Requested	
Given by	

■ Christmas Caroling

All church members are invited to join the choir in Christmas Caroling to some homebound members of our church family on Sunday, December 18th, right after church. No singing experience is necessary, just Christmas Cheer! Also, please let us know of any additional church members who might enjoy a visit from some Christmas carolers! Please contact Heidi Flower for further details.



“HERE WE COME A-CAROLING!”

■ Pot Luck Lunches

The End of December pot luck luncheon will be held on January 8th, following the 10 a.m. worship service. It will be an Oriental/Asian-themed lunch.

The January pot luck, sponsored by the Women of Prospect, will be a Chili Cook- Off on January 29th, 2017.

Youth Page



■ Breakfast With Santa Tickets

Tickets are on sale for the Breakfast With Santa, set for Saturday, December 17th from 9 a.m. to Noon. These tickets go fast, so plan on getting them early as this is a reserved ticket event.

Ticket Prices are: Adults, \$15; Children 3-12, \$10; and Children Under 3, \$5 to cover the cost of the picture.

Join us for a delicious buffet breakfast, juice and coffee, sponsored by the Middle Ages Group. After breakfast, your team leader will take you on your journey. We have Arts and Crafts, a Magic Show, Story Time, a visit with Anna and Elsa and of course you will get to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus and take a photo with them that you will be able to take home. Elf Mart will be open throughout the morning and the children can shop for Christmas presents for their families.

To reserve tickets, please call Tammy Kelly @ (860) 874-8239 or the church office at (860) 582-3443. Tickets need to be paid in full when ordered or within one week of the reservation date. This will allow us to be fair to everyone as we usually have a wait list. Checks can be made payable to Prospect UMC and in the memo section please put Breakfast w/Santa.

■ Church School Pageant

Our Sunday School Christmas Pageant will take place on December 11th during the 10 a.m. worship service. Please come and hear our children tell the story of "The First Christmas."

■ New Year's Eve Party

Our Fifth Annual Family New Year's Eve Party will be held in Sessions Hall on December 31st from 4 to 6 p.m. All are invited to attend, but activities will be most appropriate for families with Pre-K to 5th grade children. We will provide macaroni and cheese and make-your-own-ice-cream-sundaes in addition to New Year's crafts, games, stories and more to ring in the new year!



Please see Christa Zaldivar or Heidi Flower to sign up or for more information.



The greatest gift

Gift-giving is a fun Christmas tradition.
 What very special gift has God given to you?

Directions: Write the words from each puzzle piece on the matching blank piece of the gift-shaped puzzle.

life in

but the

our Lord.

Romans 6:23, NIV

gift of God

For the

of sin is

Christ Jesus

is eternal

wages

death,

Answer: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23, NIV

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

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