

THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

July 2020

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Pastor's Page

Pastors in Transition - Goodbye

I remember my first article for Tower. I talked about finding a piece of jigsaw puzzle son David considered as very important when unpacking the moving boxes. I am struggling with moving boxes and jigsaw puzzles again. I remember I emphasized that in terms of a big picture. The value of a piece of puzzles should be determined. So in the blue print in God's mind, you are a special piece of puzzle of God. You are essential and indispensable.



It still remains as truth even if four years have passed, we have changed, and we have grown. We are the church and at the same time we are a part of the church. In God's plan we are all God's special weapons. A pastor is also a piece of puzzle. She or he is not a whole church. Of course a pastor sometimes plays an important role. But it is up to you, the congregation, to complete the big picture. Of course God is constantly working on completing the puzzle.

Yes, sometimes we do not understand the meaning of a piece of puzzle of life. So we are tempted to throw it out. Then God will shout out like my son David, "That is important to me." That is why we stick to the pieces of the puzzle. That is why we get together and stick to one another because we are making a big and beautiful picture, we are becoming a temple of God together. God is not done with Prospect UMC. Greater things have not yet come. Greater things are still to come in this church.

God is still working through you, the Church. We are going to keep celebrating our growth in God. You have nurtured, taught, and raised me in your love and care. And now you are sending me to another church to share what I learned from you and with you. You should be proud of yourself. You did a good job. You will keep doing your best. I cannot thank you enough for the time spent with you and working and serving God with you. I am not going to say Goodbye. I say, "See you some day and somewhere. PK drop the mic."

Love,
Pastor Kim

See Hello, Pg. 4

Prospect United Methodist Church

Founded 1834
99 Summer St., Bristol, CT 06010

The Rev. Yountae Kim
Pastor

Rev. William S. Barnes
Pastor Emeritus

Heidi Flower
Director of Music & Organist



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or suggestions.*

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Bidding Farewell To P.K. And Family By Luisa Gladu, Farewell Committee Chair



"On Sunday, June 28th, the congregation came together as safely as possible to wish our Yountae Kim, our Beloved P.K., farewell and thank him and his family for blessing our lives."

"We had balloons, banners, bubbles and of course the infamous flamingos decorating the front of the church. After service PK and his family came outside and were surprised by the decorations and when they looked down the hill the line of people coming up from the lower parking lot. Children were wearing super hero costumes, adults were wearing our "masks" which makes us super heroes. There were tears, laughter and the feeling of love for PK and his family was all around us."



Cont on page 3

"We paraded by PK and his family, dropping cards and photos in a memory box, wishing them well. When everyone had passed we gathered socially distancing and gave PK a presentation from the congregation, gift cards for him and the family to use at their new home, a canvas photo of our beautiful clock tower with the magnolia tree in the background and one very special gift."

"At one of PK's first services, he gave everyone a puzzle piece at the beginning of the service. During the sermon he told us that everyone is important, not one person is more important than another. We are all needed to work together to make the church complete, our home and family, just like a puzzle is not complete with a missing piece we are not complete without a missing person, we are all important."

"At the end of the service we went into Fellowship Hall and put the puzzle together. We did a wonderful job but there was a missing piece. We all thought someone went home with the piece. But alas no, that was the message the puzzle was not complete".



"The puzzle has been in the parlor, with the missing piece, since that Sunday. We thought it quite appropriate that the puzzle be given to PK, with a small change. Thankfully Gary Gladu was able to recreate the missing piece and place PK's picture in it. It was framed with a plaque that read, "PK you will always be our missing piece."

"This is a very bittersweet time for us, we have been unable to worship in person since March, we have not been able to be with our minister to help him in this transition physically. The pandemic has taken away so much from us and losing our beloved PK has been heartbreaking. We all hope and pray that his journey will be blessed and that his new church welcomes him and his positive energy."

"I'd like to thank the committee members who helped make the Celebration of PK a huge success, Melissa Brown, Heidi Flower, Chris Kingsbury, Lynn Limeburner, Jackie Palance, Elenor Riker and June Schilling. And a special thank you to my husband Gary who worked on the puzzle and helped us set up as well."



Pastors in Transition - Hello

Dear Prospect Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Above all, I thank and praise God for guiding me to serve you.

I have already heard the good news and the successful ministry about you through my beloved Pastor Kim since he came to your church. Following Pastor Kim, I will work with you to revival the kingdom of God and His community of faith. I am so glad to greet all of you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ before I go.



I was born in Korea and grew up in Seoul. Although I was a Christian from my mother's womb, I met Jesus Christ in my first year of college and went to the seminary to walk the path of pastor. After graduating from the seminary, I married my wife, Ohyeun whom I met at the seminary and came to study in the United States in 1991. We had two sons and they have grown up.

I completed my M. Div. at the Perkins School of Theology at the S.M.U. in Dallas, TX and studied my Ph.D. in church history at the Chicago Theological Seminary. My theological interest was the topic of how the church would change society.

After completing my Ph.D., I started a full-time ministry in New York to serve Korean young adults. My first ministry was two English speaking congregations in Stamford, Connecticut. After a happy ministry for 4 years, I was sent to a Korean church. I served two Korean churches in the past 12 years. The Korean church mainly showed leadership that led the front. There have been many challenges and loneliness to the leadership that always leads in front. However, this time the bishop sent me to the English speaking congregation to serve with you, so I feel like returning home. I want to be your family and live as a part of you together. I am a good learner who is always trying to open my heart and to learn new things. So I am exiting and inspiring from you. But I am a slow learner. As I learn from you little by little, I will take step by step to become your friends and family.

During the Covid-19 period, I am studying the coach license course sponsored by the New York Annual Conference. Through coaching process, I practice deep listening and caring skill. I am still learning a new thing to grow more spiritually. I hope I will grow deeper with you through coaching ministry and you will do so.

May God bless all of you to be healthy and victorious in the Lord during this Pandemic!

*In peace,
Yongyeun Lee*

History Corner

Prospect UMC History

Prospect United Methodist Church traces its origins to 1833 when the Rev. Albert Wickware organized the first Methodist Class in Bristol. Prior to that, itinerant Methodist preachers rode into the tiny village from time to time with saddlebags full of books. A legal warrant to establish the church was obtained by Rev. Wickware on April 30, 1834, despite local suspicions voiced by more conservative established churches about the purported liberality of the Methodist sect. There were 27 charter members.



The first church was a small building on West Street, Rev. Wickware having felled the first white oak used in its construction. It was a typical New England church with a center entrance facing the street and two sets of stairs rising from either side of the vestibule to the main auditorium.

Growth was modest until John Humphrey Sessions attended a Methodist revival meeting at the former Edgewood schoolhouse on New Year's Day of 1858. John Humphrey Sessions' conversion to Methodism was the driving force behind the growth of the church, so much so that by 1879 the membership had outgrown the West Street edifice. At his own expense, John Humphrey Sessions had the present granite structure erected at the corner of Center and Summer streets. The Sessions Memorial Window and Sessions Hall, attached to the sanctuary, are testaments to the enduring lay work of Mr. Sessions and his sons, J.H. Sessions Jr. and William E. Sessions, in the life of Prospect church.

Over the years Prospect Church has been a driving force in meeting human needs. The Rev. Dr. L.H. Dorchester was part of the movement that developed Bristol Hospital. A young men's class under the leadership of Charles Olin led to the development of the local Red Cross. Rev. Ernest Richardson, eventually to serve as a bishop, helped develop the Boy Scout movement in Bristol. The Rev. Paul DuBois promoted the first work relief program in the city during the Great Depression of 1929-1934.

Recent years have presented financial challenges, necessitating the elimination of both secretarial and janitorial positions. However, volunteerism by church members has kept Prospect functioning well as the church seeks to re-invent its mission to better fulfill needs of the day.

Reopening FAQ's

Where should I park?

Please leave upper parking area for those who need it. Use the back parking lot and walk up to one of the doors listed below. Please be mindful of social distancing while exiting cars to enter the building.

Where do I enter?

We will limit access into the sanctuary to two doors — the door on Summer street near the upper parking lot and the door on Center St coming up from the lower parking lot will be open. Both doors will be propped open, to ensure a “touchless” entry.

How will we make sure people are not sitting too close to one another?

We will utilize the CDC recommendation of 6' per person separation guideline. Every other pew has been blocked off for use. Family units, defined as people residing in the same home, can sit together. Children must stay with their parents.

What if more people show up than we can accommodate in the sanctuary?

Once we reach capacity, no others can be admitted. They will be asked to watch the service online later in the day.

Will the bathrooms be open?

Only the handicapped bathroom will be available on Sunday. Anyone under age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult to go to bathroom. Wipes will be in bathroom so please be considerate and wipe down any handle used. Signage reminding folks to wash their hands will be posted. Use of your own bathrooms before coming to church is encouraged.

How will the offering be received?

Offering plates will not be passed between congregants. Please consider using electronic giving or mail options. The miniature wooden replica of PUMC will be available for anyone who wishes to bring their offertory to church. You may deposit it in the box in the way in or on your way out.

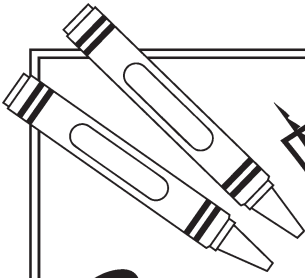
What happens at the conclusion of the service?

We know that you may want to stay and visit, however, you are requested to maintain social distancing while moving to your cars.

Who do I contact if I have questions I need answered before returning to church?

You are encouraged to talk to the Pastor, a lay leader (Jeanette Baker), or call the office (860-582-3443) with any questions.





PUZZLE

Compete for the crown



The apostle Paul compares the Christian life to running a race for an imperishable crown.



Directions: From the starting line through the finish line, circle every third letter. Then place the circled letters in order in the blanks below to complete 1 Corinthians 9:24-25, NIV.

START

ctrejasucphelnpomrxkibvztajeargiusonyccw

iqsatexympsakogmzsjeeubtnyehapidmrfo
tegrbuanpicdnofihmneygjocsxrdpoetwkin

FINISH

“Do you not know that in a _____ all the runners run,
but only one gets the _____? _____ in such a way
as to get the prize. Everyone who _____ in
the _____ goes into strict _____.
They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do
it to get a _____ that will last forever.”

1 CORINTHIANS 9:24-25, NIV

Answer: race, prize, run, competes, games, training, crown

**PROSPECT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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BRISTOL, CT 06010**

Dated Material - Please Do Not Hold

Return Service Requested