



THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

September 2020

Vol. 81, NO. 5

Pastor's Page

Getting To Know You

Hello everyone!

I've already said hello to you through worship, but I still haven't met all of your faces, so it seems that the greetings continue. A Korean proverb says, "From one step on the road to 1000 miles." Even if there is a long way to go, it means to start well from the first step.

It has been almost a month since I moved to Prospect Church on July 24. We are getting used to the Bristol neighborhood little by little, and the members of the church are getting familiar with us. Most of all, the warm welcome and hospitality of the congregation seemed to help me adjust quickly as soon as I came here, I would like to thank the people who came to me before we unpacked my luggage and provided me with delicious dinner and breakfast. It was so great to meet you face-to-face and say hello near the parking lot. It made me and Ohyeun feel at home. And it's nice to see your face and greet each other online through Zoom.

I appreciate the welcoming committee and SPRC members. I want to see all of you online and in person sooner or later, to say thank you deeply for cleaning and preparing the inside and outside of the parsonage to welcome the new pastor. The board of trustees members' loving and caring to our family were warmer than the hot summer. Also, I thank you for kindly inviting me to meetings and sharing them with me, as we do not know much about church events. In the meantime, I have been talking with important ministry teams such



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Prospect United Methodist Church

Founded 1834
99 Summer St., Bristol, CT 06010

The Rev. Yongyeun Lee
Pastor

Rev. William S. Barnes
Pastor Emeritus

Heidi Flower
Director of Music & Organist



*We want to hear from you. Please
email, or phone with any concerns
or suggestions.*

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as the Education Team, the Finance Committee, the Scholarship Committee, the Worship Committee, Board of Trustees Committee and the Church Council to hear the circumstances and visions of the church.

In addition, we are gathering together with the ministry transition team to share the history of our church in the past, challenges of the present, and the vision of the church in the future. The pandemic of Covid-19 puts individuals and society in a state of disorder and chaos. However, we look forward to the recreation of God as the God of creation heals us and restores this and his people. We hope to have the same faith and love and move forward toward a new vision of God together.

In peace,
Yongyeun

**“MAKE MY JOY COMPLETE: BE
OF THE SAME MIND, HAVING
THE SAME LOVE, BEING IN FULL
ACCORD AND OF ONE MIND.”
(PHILIPPIANS 2:2)**

Scholarship Awards

Four youths will be receiving Prospect Church Scholarships according to Chair Carol Rivard: Vernessa Kingsbury, Anthony Fasci, Alec Karal and Andrew Painter. The committee met on Aug. 15th. Due to COVID the scholarship checks will be mailed to them along with a letter of congratulations. They will be celebrated at a future service.

Music Corner

Music Notes

From Music Superintendent Heidi Flower

“Those of you who have started to attend our ‘in-person’ worship services are realizing that there are many changes from our normal services. PUMC has been following the guidelines put forth by the NY Conference.

This includes no congregational or group singing. I am very sorry to say that I don’t know when our vocal choirs will be resuming.

“We are allowed to have soloists or family members providing some music and I am very grateful for those that have shared their music with us: Charlotte and Emily Brown, the Yountae Kim family, Emily Flower and Eleanor Riker, Don Workman, Luisa and Gary Gladu and Alex Carros. I have a few more singers lined up for upcoming services, but I am looking for more volunteers. I will be very happy to work with you in any way I can, helping to choose something, providing practice recordings and meeting with you. Anyone is welcome — any ages, voices, etc! Please contact me if you are interested. It could be something as simple as your favorite hymn!

“I would like to resume our handbell choir. We can remain socially distant and wear masks while we rehearse. I am planning to resume our rehearsals beginning Wednesday, September 16th at 6 p.m. Anyone interested is welcome — we have lots of bells!”



Education Corner

Education News

From Sunday School Superintendent Christa Zaldivar

“The beginning of the new Sunday School year is nearly here! Sunday, September 13th, is our Rally Day! Unfortunately, the specific details of this event are still uncertain as we navigate these challenging times. We are planning some fun activities for ages 3 and up, which may be virtual or in-person. Sunday School classes at Prospect United Methodist Church will begin on Sunday, September 20th, and also may be virtual or in-person. We will provide updates as they become available, via PUMC’s Facebook page and e-mail! If you have any questions about our programs, please contact Christa Zaldivar at cjw02@hotmail.com or (917) 386-8599.”



Trustees Corner

Parsonage Repairs

The PUMC Trustees have been making the parsonage suitable for Pastor Lee and his family. Unfortunately, due to the circumstances surrounding the pastoral transition, the Trustees had no time to get into the parsonage and perform repairs, cleaning and painting. Typically, when PUMC is assigned a new pastor there is a month or so for those tasks to be accomplished.

This difficulty was explained to Pastor Lee and his wife and son. They have been very understanding to our situation and appreciative in our efforts to make needed repairs.

After Pastor Sorazen retired 4 years ago a volunteer committee of members of PUMC painted the entire interior of the house and made needed repairs. We took out stained carpets and had the wood floors resurfaced. We also replaced and repaired fixtures as necessary.

Each year the Trustees and Staff Parish Relations Committee has performed an inspection of the parsonage. This is a requirement of the New York Annual Conference. This inspection has focused on the needs of the family and appliance functionality and repair.

Upon Pastor Kim and his family moving out of the parsonage it was determined that we had delayed many repairs. The Trustees have embarked on assessing the repairs and trying to prioritize and fix the most significant. Below I will outline

some of what has been accomplished and is scheduled as well as some longer term investments which we'll have to make in the future. This parsonage is a valued asset of the church and we must dedicate resources to preserve its value.

SHORT TERM /IMMEDIATE REPAIRS

- Replaced Garbage Disposal \$200
- Replaced ice machine supply line \$150
- Replaced and reseated toilet which was unsecure in upstairs bathroom \$250
- Replaced water exchanger in the shower of the upstairs bathroom \$150
- Replaced 3 windows in one of the guest bedrooms. One of the windows was broken so decision to replace all the windows in that bedroom only. These windows were original to the house built in 1962 \$2,500
- Repaint the upstairs rooms, bathrooms and downstairs bathroom, wood work and doors. The painting on the wood work performed 4 years ago did not adhere well and needs to be redone. Additionally the other areas had a lot of wear and tear. This work will start the last week of August. \$3,000
- Replaced all the blinds in the house. All of the blinds were in disrepair. This has been done. \$1,000
- Pruned and cut back all the bushes and cleaned east side of garage area. This has been done \$1,000
- Ordered a yard waste barrel. \$100
- Scheduled pest inspection & necessary treatments est \$150
- Repaired banister \$100

LONG TERM REPAIRS

- Replace remainder of windows est. \$8,000
- Replace siding original from house construction est. \$25,000
- Fix drainage on rear of house which seeps into the basement and recreation room. Est \$5,000
- Repair and redo basement recreation room est. \$10,000
- Replace kitchen floor est. \$1,500
- HVAC is becoming dated est. \$4,000
- Roof will need replacement at some point est. \$10,000

The Trustees have focused on the short term repairs and will deliberate on the long term repairs. Part of that deliberative process will be an evaluation and exploration of whether we want to continue to own a parsonage. Some churches, over time, have made the decision to not own a parsonage and provide their pastors with a housing allowance. The trustees will look into and have discussion over the next many years to determine the efficacy of selling and using the proceeds from a sale to set up a dedicated housing fund to assist the church in providing the housing allowance. This planning and decision would not and I repeat not impact our current pastor but future pastors. The Trustees will keep all the other major decision makers apprised of the deliberations.



One of the major factors in exploring such a solution is that there are fewer and fewer volunteers who are able to assist in parsonage maintenance and repairs. As our congregation becomes more mature we have less people able to perform such work. This also is the same phenomenon at the church. Consequently, we are required to pay for such services. Our current financial position makes funding these repairs a source of concern.

There are many steps to perform before such a decision could occur. We'd have to present to the District Superintendent compelling reasons. The Bishop would have to agree. But even before all that could occur we'd need agreement of church council and a vote at charge conference or a special charge conference. All of this is in the very, very preliminary stage! The trustees were caused to think of this as an option because of the significant investment that would be required to accomplish the long term repairs.

We wanted the congregation to know the situation. If anyone has any questions or concerns you may text Chris Wilson at 860-681-8274 or email at cwilson@cvmco.com

Christopher C. Wilson
President PUMC Trustees

History Corner

Atoning For Painful History

All of us are aware of the Black Lives Matter movement, prompting some talk of reparations for descendants of slaves. But you may be surprised to know that the United Methodist Church has its own connection to a historic tragedy prompting reflection at a past General Conference and the donation of \$50,000 in atonement for a historic wrong.

According to Wikipedia, the Sand Creek Massacre, (also known as the Chivington massacre, the battle of Sand Creek or the massacre of Cheyenne Indians) led to the deaths of up to 500 Cheyenne and Arapaho elders, women and children by the U.S. Army on Nov. 29, 1864. The 675-man force of the Third Colorado Cavalry was under the command of U.S. Army Colonel John Chivington, a Methodist pastor for 20 years. Also involved was Gov. John Evans, also a Methodist preacher. Chivington reportedly ordered the attack after a night of heavy drinking as religious dogma at the time supported the genocide of Native Americans who were unlikely to be converted to Christianity.

The massacre was all the more reprehensible because a peace accord had been signed only months before between tribal leaders and U.S. Army and Colorado Territorial officials. Some military officers refused to participate but most of the soldiers under Chivington's command killed as many Indians as they could find. Accounts by witnesses and Chivington's own soldiers revealed the depravity of the murders.

Chivington supposedly proudly rode his way back to Denver, where he expected to land himself a promotion. Instead he was forced to quit the army before he received a court-marshal. He would be plagued by insults, personal failure and scandal for the rest of his life, but he would never apologize for what happened at Sand Creek.

A number of events have occurred in recent years reflecting on the Methodist Church's role in the Sand Creek Massacre. The United Methodist General Conference issued an apology in 1996, called the Sand Creek Apology for "the actions of a prominent Methodist (Chivington)" and authorized a donation of \$50,000 to the National Park Service to build a Sand Creek Education Center.

In 2012, the UMC held "An Act of Repentance Toward Healing Relationships with Indigenous People." Methodists from across the country met with Cheyenne and Arapahoe descendants, in 2014 to ask for reconciliation while an art display by Native American artists gave a voice to victims. Then Col. Governor John Hickenlooper formally apologized to descendants of victims gathered in Denver to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the massacre in 2014. There was further atonement and another exhibit in Portland, OR, in 2016 (see Stephen Quirke of StreetRoots.org) at the Portland General Conference.

Middle Ages Group Update

By Luisa Gladu, Chair

"As we all know 2020 has been a year filled with challenges and we have been doing our best to keep up with them. Someone sent me an email wondering why they purchased a 2020 Planner. They were wondering if they could get their money back, as nothing is written in the planner.

"I have more 'X's' on my calendar for events, shows, weddings, parties that have been postponed or cancelled. I'm trying to stay positive and pray that better days are coming. We just need to stay safe and follow the guidelines. Perhaps we shout our 'Jumanji' at the end of 2020, fans will get the reference. We have all been affected by COVID-19 Corona and I truly pray that we will be okay.

"The Middle Ages Renaissance group has had to cancel a few events, including our Annual Renaissance Dinners in April and May, Family Fun Night Karaoke and our Relay for Life Walk. We were looking forward to all of these events but the one that was tough was the Relay for Life. Cancer hasn't been 'postponed or cancelled'"so the funds we raise during this event are important. They stay in our community.

"Our very small and mighty team still rallied, raising \$2,058 for the fight against cancer! I'm proud to be our Team Captain and I'd like to thank Kathy Benoit Barkan, Jackie Palance and Laura Taylor for hanging in there and always stepping up. I'd also like to thank our church family members, friends, co-workers and family who donated towards our team. We look forward to Relaying for Life next year!"

**\$2,058 RAISED FOR
THE FIGHT AGAINST
CANCER**

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 12th Breakfast With Santa

"We have received word from Santa that he is following all the Social Distancing rules this year. Even though he will miss his annual visit to Prospect United Methodist Church, he wants to make sure we all stay healthy and safe so we can celebrate Christmas with our families. So children, no worries Christmas is not canceled or postponed, just the Breakfast with Santa. Be on the look out for a little note from Santa in coming issue."

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