

THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

October 2020

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Pastor's Page

Small Beginning, But Great Ending

Hello, everyone. How's your soul? Peace be with you! It has been two months since I came to our church. We are still struggling with meeting and doing ministry because of the Pandemic. It seems that our hearts are getting heavier and harder due to the continuous Pandemic and various natural disasters. But in the midst of this disaster, we must go boldly with the Peace of the Lord.

In September, most of the church's meetings started again. The 10 a.m. Sunday Service, held as a joint service of the two customary services during the summer, also began with in-person service and on-line service from the first Sunday of September. And also, the 8:30 a.m. early Service started on the last Sunday of September. Our Sunday School had a "Sunday School Rally" and started the Bible class on-line again. The Bible study class is being conducted at 1 p.m. on Sundays. Although few students are participating, I believe more students will participate. I also had infant baptism for Owen D. Fauist. Although not all the members of the church attended together, we celebrated with family and friends in the back yard.



A Junior MYF group has started gathering Sundays bi-monthly at 6:30 p.m. Our first meeting started with the words, "Though your beginning was small, your latter days will be very great." (Job 8:7) Our teenagers are preparing to volunteer for the community. We should give teenagers a chance to participate in the church and in the community knowing that they are members of the church and the promised children of the Heavenly kingdom.

I want to ask for more attention and encouragement from parents as well as students' participation. We are going to start a confirmation class for 8th graders. I think it is our mission to build a church of God and a Kingdom of God by leaving a spiritual legacy for our children. Every Friday, we are studying the Bible for the spiritual life of the adults. We are focusing on the topic, "Finding Peace in an Anxious World." We share the topics and contents of Bible study through sermons every Sunday as well. I think what we need most today is to live in the Peace of the Lord even in an uneasy life.

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Prospect United Methodist Church

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99 Summer St., Bristol, CT 06010

The Rev. Yongyeun Lee
Pastor

Rev. William S. Barnes
Pastor Emeritus

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Each committee and team is also meeting on-line or in-person. When Israel came out of the desert to wage war against the Amalekites, Moses prayed with lifting his hands. But when Moses' hands came down tired, Israel lost, and when his hands went up, Israel won. When Aaron and Hur held Moses' hand and prayed together, God led the war to victory. In the war against Amalekites, God wanted Joshua and young men to go out to battle, Moses to pray, and Aaron and Hull supported Moses and Israel won. God wants us all to work together to fulfill his will and his plans. Our situation is difficult, but when we cooperate together as the Lord's branch, we will win the victory and fulfill God's vision and dream.

I hope this fall season will be a full of beautiful harvest season to give thanks to God with many fruits.

Pastor Lee

Early Service Resumes

The Early Service resumed on Sunday, September 27, at 8:30 a.m. Early Service will resume. The service will be held in the Chapel as before, with chairs moved for social distancing. Side doors will be open for ventilation. Everyone is required to wear a mask, but if you forget to bring one, masks will be available.

Staying Safe and Well

Everyone's tired of wearing masks and we're tired of not being able to spend time with people like we used to. But with a recent upswing in coronavirus cases across the state we can't let our guard down.

Guidelines were established so that we could reopen our doors. Unfortunately, we are seeing a complacency in safety precautions. **Our requirements on wearing masks and maintaining social distancing has not changed.** Face masks must cover both the nose and the mouth. Soloists and instrumentalists are allowed, as long as social distancing is observed but for now congregational singing should not be conducted. It is vital that we continue to follow these guidelines to protect the health and safety of anyone attending service.

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 Street 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.

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.

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 offering 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.

History Corner

By Kathy Dube

As the seasons have changed to Fall, or Autumn, did you ever wonder why we have two names for the current one, the only season with such a distinction? Atlas Obscura, the fascinating on-line encyclopedia, has an informative article about the reason for the dual names: <https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/autumn-fall-names-season>

"Fall was, in fact, the very last of the four seasons to become codified with a name, or even the designation as a season on par with the others. There are mentions of winter, summer, and spring in manuscripts dating back to the 12th century; the name of spring may not have been settled upon, but the idea that it was a full season came much earlier than with fall.

"The word 'autumn' has French roots; in modern French the word is *automne*. It certainly has Latin roots, coming from the word *autumnus*, which in turn comes from...somewhere. These etymologies are all guesswork: there was no day when everyone stopped using one and started using another, with a nice paper trail to verify it, so this is all just assumptions based on plausibly similar older words and meanings.



"Autumn shows up in English first around the late 14th and early 15th centuries, though it coexisted with 'harvest' as a loose description of the season for another 200 years. Fall is different. It first shows up in the mid-16th century in England, primarily at first as 'the fall of the leaf,' which was shortened to just 'fall.' Like 'harvest,' it is descriptive, but more evocative; not just a term coming from the most important action taking place during this time period, but a more poetic observation of what makes this season different.

"The recognition of fall/autumn as a distinct season started happening in England right around the time that the American colonies began to separate linguistically from British English. By the 17th century, with American colonies already established, more calls for what was called 'spelling reform' began. Ever since the Norman conquest, English had been littered with scraps of French, and it was around this time that prominent writers like James Howell began to agitate for sensible wholesale changes to English. In a 1908 essay that somewhat snootily examines Americanisms, H.W. Fowler admitted that 'fall' is a far superior term to "autumn," but that "fall" is now distinctly American."

Which term do you prefer? Delve into Atlas Obscura for more insight.

Music Corner

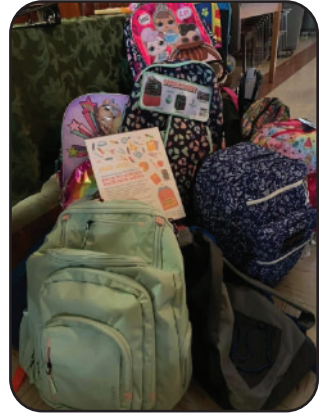
Handbell Choir

Music Director Heidi Flower announces that the Handbell Choir is in “full ring,” performing at the 10 a.m. Sunday service on October 4th. Rehearsals are at 6:30 Wednesday evenings. “Anyone interested is welcome. We have lots of bells”!

Mission Corner

Backpacks Collected

Backpacks were collected for Covenant to Care for Children as a back-to-school project. June Schilling, Prospect’s liaison for the project, thanks everyone who participated in our Back-to-School Backpack Collection for Covenant To Care for Children. “We were able to give our adopted social worker 21 backpacks filled with school supplies! She was very grateful and I am very grateful to all who were able to give!



Youth Service Project

We have some wonderful young people who are looking for ways to be of service to the members of our congregation! Do you have a project or task that they could help you out with? We will be happy to work with your schedule to accommodate your needs!

Projects may include:

- lawn mowing
- weeding
- fall yard clean up
- painting
- dog walking
- house/pet sitting
- car washing
- garage cleaning
- window washing
- technology problem solving



**YOUTH
SERVICE
PROJECT**

Please submit your requests for our youth volunteers to Christa Zaldivar by e-mail: cjw02@hotmail.com or call/text 917-386-8599.

Youth Corner

Sunday School Starts

By Christa Zaldivar, Education Superintendent:

“Weekly Sunday School Zoom classes began on Sunday, September 20th, and will continue to occur every Sunday at 1 p.m. We will have a one-room Sunday School Zoom class for Preschool-7th grade, however we do have the ability to split that Zoom class into two or more groups to provide experiences suited to each grade level.

“We will be using an exciting new program: the ‘Celebrate Wonder’ curriculum from Cokesbury. ‘Celebrate Wonder’ honors the spiritual life of children — their natural sense of awe, wonder, imagination and curiosity and helps shape their growing faith!”

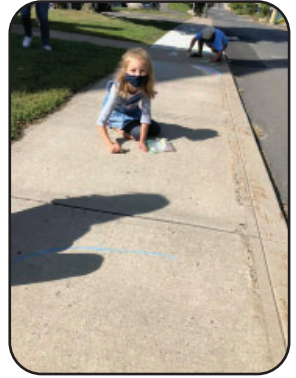
If you have any questions about our programs or would like to serve as a volunteer please contact Christa Zaldivar at cjw02@hotmail.com or (917) 386-8599.

Junior MYF Starting

Prospect Church is starting up a Junior MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship) program for 6th-8th graders, Education Superintendent Crista Zaldivar has announced.: “We are inviting students to participate in bi-monthly Sunday evening meetings (6:30-8 p.m.) which will include fun, faith, and fellowship!

“We hope to plan some community service projects in which students learn to serve our church community and the greater community around us. Due to the current pandemic we will be holding meetings via Zoom, with the hopes of beginning in-person meetings eventually! Our 6th-8th graders are welcome to invite friends to join our meetings!

“Please save the date for our next Zoom Junior MYF meeting which will be held on 10/18 at 6:30 p.m.! Please contact Christa Zaldivar if your child is interested in participating contact by email at cjw02@hotmail.com or call/text (917) 386-8599.



Education Corner

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Education Team of Prospect United Methodist Church is pleased to announce that we will begin offering in-person Sunday School on Sunday November 1, 2020. We will have 3 classrooms: pk-1st, 2nd-4th, and 5th-7th grades. Please read the details of our reopening plan below. Please note that we are following our New York Annual Conference (NYAC) guidelines, which were developed in conjunction with the CDC and CT state guidelines to keep safety and well-being at the forefront of everything we do.

- We will encourage proper handwashing.
- We will encourage proper covering of coughs and sneezes.
- We will require face masks of all people ages 2+.
- We will provide hand sanitizer for use upon entering and exiting each classroom.
- We will insist that you stay home if you are not feeling well.
- We will insist that you stay home for 2 weeks, upon return from any states on the CT Travel Advisory, which is updated weekly.
- We will keep classroom windows and doors open for proper ventilation and flow of outdoor air. (Please wear layers of clothing for colder weather!)
- We will maintain social distancing of 6 feet at all times.
- We will avoid physical contact (NO shaking/holding hands, hugging, high fives, etc.)
- We will arrange classroom furniture to ensure 6 ft. social distancing with all students facing the same direction.
- We will take attendance each session and the attendance sheet will be housed in the church office for contact tracing purposes.
- We will create individual supply kits with all necessary supplies to eliminate sharing of materials.
- We will not allow any food.
- We will sanitize all tables, chairs, and high-touch surfaces after each session.
- We will use the lower parking lot, side area, for outdoor Sunday School, when possible.
- We will begin church in the sanctuary at 10:00am and then transition to the Sunday School rooms, after the children's message.
- We will escort students back to the sanctuary at 11:00 and dismiss them to meet their parents at their pew.

Please know that these plans are subject to change, as this is a work in progress! We appreciate your patience and support and do not hesitate to contact Christa with any concerns or questions.

Please communicate with Christa Zaldivar by 10/18/20, if your family intends to attend in-person Sunday School or if you would like to continue Virtual Sunday School. E-mail: cjw02@hotmail.com, call/text: 917-386-8599. Thank you!

**PROSPECT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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