



THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

December 2020

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Pastor's Page

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Hello everyone,

Peace and grace to you during the Advent and Christmas season!

Advent is a word with Latin roots and means "coming." We use this period of time before Christmas to prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth. It's also a time of repentance and meditation while anticipating Jesus' second coming. Jesus is the light of the world and we light Advent candles to signify this. It's also a way to build anticipation for the celebration of the first coming of Jesus. Beginning on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and each Sunday leading up to Christmas Day, each family lights a candle and conducts a themed advent reading.



2020 was the year when Covid-19 disturbed and afflicted our homes and the world more than any other year. Even now, the number of patients and deaths is increasing exponentially. I hope that the Lord, who overcame all the sins and the power of death in the world 2000 years ago, will come back to our lives and defeat the evil spirits and forces of death and become a new life full of hope, joy, peace and love. Our Bishop Thomas Bickerton and Cabinet members of the New York Annual Conference are praying that our churches and members will be healthy and safe. They recommend as follows:

1. Over the last two months, over 20 churches in the New York Annual Conference have re-opened only to close again due to an outbreak of Covid-19 within the church.
2. Guidelines for singing in public venues have not changed at all. There is to be no singing indoors. Any solo/special music performed must be at a distance of 12 feet. Any outdoor singing must be done with masks and with appropriate social distancing observed.

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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cont. from pg. 1

3. Indoor venues should only be done after appropriate filtration systems have been installed in heating units. No ceiling fans or circulated air should be utilized unless there is an appropriate amount of outside air circulated.
4. Evidence of the ill-effects of “super spreader” events are growing all around us. Poor disciplines and decision-making have revealed sobering consequences.
5. Remember the basics: wear a mask, socially distance, and wash your hands frequently.

We're fighting a good fight with the virus. And we believe in God's ability to create the world and to govern all things. We believe that the power of Jesus Christ's blood will bring us the joy of victory over all the evil spirits and enemies of the world. God's holy spirit will surely win through new creative methods by giving wisdom to our scientists and political leaders. I pray that we will be restored to the new joy, hope, peace and love that the Lord gives us.

“O Come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.”(UMH#211)

In peace,
Yongyeun

Christmas Eve

There will be only one Christmas Eve Service in the Sanctuary at 5 p.m.

Welcome To A New Year At Prospect

Have you thought about being more involved in your church? Even with Covid-19, we still have a church building, family, services, people in need, missions. Many of our Committees continue to meet through Zoom. You are welcome to join wherever you think you would fit in. Below are the Committees/Groups and their chairs. If you are interested in joining the group and giving of yourself, please contact the 2021 Chair of the group and discuss it.



We are definitely in need of a co-chair of the Church Council, the policy-making group for Prospect Church. If you are interested in being a co-chair, 2021 would be a good year to give it a go.

We are also looking for people to join us on the Member/Nurture Team. This group is broken into three sections: Membership, which maintains the membership records; Welcoming, which is responsible for greeting people when they come into church and introducing new people to some current members (this part is on hold through Covid-19), and Nurture, which is responsible for reaching out to members of church and helping provide for their needs. Currently this is sending greeting cards or making phone calls to check on people.

Committee	2021 Chair
Council	Jeanette Baker
Worship	Mattie Verzino
History	Vivian Brackett
Member/Nurture	Mary Rogers
Music	Heidi Flower
Education	Christa Zaldivar
Faith in Action	Carla Heister
Finance	Art Paul

Will you be a helper?

God and the Church do not go on hiatus. The work of the church goes on despite holidays, vacations, pandemics. It must.

So what needs to be remembered? Stewardship, for one thing. The bills come in the summer and during pandemics. The homeless still need to be fed, missionaries are still in the field, etc. The church must depend on each member doing his or her part on a regular basis.

We must also carry on our stewardship of service: lining up teachers for Sunday school, ushers for worship services, recruiting greeters, youth counselors, etc. We need talented people to work on committees.

The bottom line is this: Helpers are always needed. Helpers are always wanted. Helpers are always special and greatly appreciated. Will you please be a helper?

Mission Corner

Days For Girls Pieless Bake Sale



Days for Girls has begun sewing at church again. Carol Rivard, Prospect coordinator, notes this is an invitation-only event as, “We must stay safe and follow protocol.”

“We are looking to raise some funds again. We wish we could do pies but that is not feasible this year., so we thought we would do a ‘pieless pie sale’. The support you gave us last year was great, but those funds are almost depleted. We could really use your help again to continue this outreach. No amount is too small. If you write a check it must be written to Days For Girls International.

“If you have any questions please contact me at hail57@comcast.net. We would like to say a big thank you for your support.”

Days for Girls is a global movement that prepares and distributes sustainable menstrual health solutions to girls who would otherwise miss school during their monthly periods. The nonprofit organization was founded in 2008 by American woman Celeste Mergens.

Steward's Fund

PUMC has a Steward's Fund which is used at the Pastor's discretion for helping individuals or families in need. In these difficult times, any one of us may find that we are short on funds for gas, food, our electric bill, etc. We are all in this same Covid boat together. If you need some help, whether financial or spiritual, please feel free to contact Pastor Lee. There is no shame in reaching out for help.

If you find you have some extra funds, please consider sending a check to the PUMC office made out to PUMC and marked Steward's Fund. Whether it is \$5 or \$100, these offerings help keep the money available for the Pastor to confidentially help out someone in need. Thank you.

Education Corner

By Christa Zaldivar, Education Director

UNICEF Collection: Wow, PUMC, you contributed \$285 to UNICEF!!! Thank You! Children around the world will have better access to clean water, nutritious food, and life-saving vaccines!



PUMC Sunday School: Kids Helping Kids!

On Giving Sunday, the congregation of PUMC collected 25 bags of items for Brian's Angels Homeless Outreach! Everything from fruit cups, granola bars, and ready-to-eat tuna fish to warm socks, long underwear, and deodorant! Thank you all so much!!!

Living Nativity

Due to covid-19 regulations, PUMC will be staging an outdoor living nativity this year, in place of an indoor Christmas Pageant. All are invited to this "drive-in" event in our lower parking lot. We have a limited number of parking spaces, so we ask that you sign up early to guarantee a parking space. We will hold two productions on Sunday, Dec. 20th, at both 10 and 10:30 a.m. We have 15 parking spaces for each time slot. Please sign up for an available "parking space" by using the link below or calling the church office, (860) 582-3443. Thank you! If you have any questions, please contact Christa Zaldivar (call/text:917-386-8599, e-mail: cjw02@hotmail.com).

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D48AEA928A4F4CE9-pumc>



Make this fun decoration as a reminder of the joy Jesus brings.



What you need:

- Pencil
- Poster board
- Scissors
- Craft pompoms (red, white, green, silver, gold)
- Glue

What you do:

1. Trace large capital block letters J, O and Y on the poster board.
2. Cut out the letters.
3. Glue pompoms on one side of each letter, completely covering it.
4. Share JOY by displaying the letters in your home.

FROM THE DESK OF SANTA CLAUS

Hello Kids!

I hope you all read my letter in the November Tower. I wanted to check in to see how you are doing and to keep you updated on what's going on at the North Pole.

We've all been busy checking our mail and lists! We are working very hard to make sure you have a wonderful Christmas.



Mrs. Claus decided to share her Reindeer Food Recipe with you in case you want to make some and leave it out for the Reindeer team on Christmas Eve. You'll find that below.

I hear you have started back to your Sunday School classes at the church. I also have heard you've been doing a wonderful job maintaining the social distancing rules and that you have become role models for the adults! Great job kids, we all need to work together to keep safe and healthy.

The elves have been working very hard, wearing their masks and gloves while they work on building and wrapping the gifts. Their workstations are 6 feet apart and they have been cutting down on gathering around the hot chocolate fountain & sugar cookie bar.

You'll be happy to hear that the doctors & nurses are continuing to make sure we DO NOT have COVID-19! They are reminding us to wear our masks properly, wash our hands and use hand sanitizer.

**HOLIDAY
SCHEDULE**

Our vets have also been keeping an eye on the Reindeer team. Donner informs me that they are all checked out and that they have received a clean bill of health and are ready to go!



Mrs. Claus has emailed Mrs. Gladu and has a special craft for you and your families. We felt so bad that we can't come to the breakfast this year and we thought that we could give you a craft to do with your family, building a Gingerbread house! We sent some Gingerbread House Kits that we would like to give to your family to work on together. When you're done please take a picture

and send it to Mrs. Gladu and she will make sure we get to see them as well as post them so your church family can see them too.

If you would like a kit, please have your mom or dad email Mrs. Gladu @ thegladus@comcast.net. The kits are safely packaged, and they will be placed in Sessions Hall to be picked up on Sunday December 13th, before or after the 10:00 service.



I've gotten a few of your letters and thank you for all the kind wishes to stay safe. It's still very important to be on your best behavior. I want you to remember to be safe, do your schoolwork, help with chores and most important make sure that you will be in bed sleeping when I come Christmas Eve.

Keep the spirit of Christmas in your hearts, be kind to one another especially this year!

Be healthy and stay safe!

Love always,
Santa Claus

P.S. Mrs. Claus & I heard about the wonderful items you collected on Sunday, November 22nd for Brian's Angels! It's always a good feeling to help those in need. Well done!

FROM THE DESK OF MRS. CLAUS...

REINDEER FOOD

- 1/4 Cup of Oatmeal
- 1/4 Cup of Sugar
- Red and Green Sugar Crystals

Mix well in a small bowl. Then....

Sprinkle on the lawn at night.

The moon will make it sparkle bright.

As Santa's reindeer fly and roam.

This will guide them to your home.



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

Dated Material - Please Do Not Hold

Return Service Requested