

# THE PROSPECT TOWER

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Prospect United Methodist Church

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April 2021

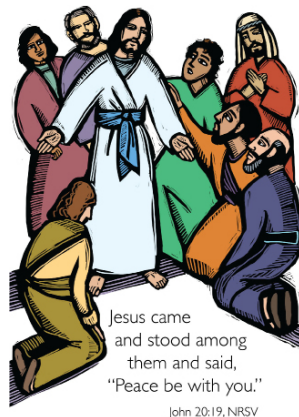
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## Pastor's Page

### Open the Door!

*When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." (John 20:19)*

It was 30 years ago when I came to America to prepare for a Ph.D. program. After completing my master's degree, I submitted my application to the graduate school I wanted for my Ph.D. program, but I failed. So I had to find other schools for a year and wait. I tasted the bitterness of failure for the first time in my life. Then I spent a year in the winter of my life waiting for spring.



When our efforts go to waste, our dreams and hopes go away, our foundations shake, when the future is not in sight, when we can no longer find meaning in life, when we lose someone precious or when our relationship breaks, we lock the door tightly and hide inside.

So did Jesus' disciples. For three years, the disciples abandoned everything and followed Jesus. But when Jesus hung on the cross and the reasons, purpose and grounds of their only life disappeared, they locked the door tightly and hid themselves in the house.

Jesus, who resurrected on the first day of the Sabbath, came to his disciples. Jesus blessed for "peace" to them and showed them his hands and sides, sending them back as Jesus' missionaries. Jesus told them not to hide in the fear of death, but to go back to the world with the power and hope of Jesus Christ's resurrection and deliver the good news of resurrection. Jesus breathed out and blew the Holy Spirit in and brought it back to life as Jesus' mission.

We look back at our fragile bodies and minds because of the pandemic. We are vulnerable beings who rely on masks for life, but we are also spiritual beings who breathe through the spirit and eternity beyond masks. I hope that

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# Prospect United Methodist Church

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Jesus who gives us peace, life, and a new mission, will reopen with us and go out into the world.

Through God's grace, vaccination against Covid-19 has begun, many older people have already been vaccinated, and young people have also started vaccinating. I hope that all Prospect families will be safe after vaccination soon.

On this Easter Sunday we will baptize an infant, four-year-old and two adults. After worship, children can participate in an Easter egg hunt in the church garden. I hope it will be a time to come out with our children to worship the risen Lord and to socialize with the family of faith. Open the door with the resurrected Lord and share the good news of resurrection to the world!

## PASTOR LEE

## Easter Music



Special Easter music will enhance the Easter Sunday 10 a.m. service on April 4, Music Director Heidi Flower announces: "The Sunday School classes will be playing the Crystal Bells, and our Adult Handbell Choir will also be playing. We will also be treated to a duet by Luisa and Gary Gladu, a song by Gianna Zaldivar, and the organ will be pulling out all the stops!"

Additionally, a "Virtual Choir" will be singing "Thine Be the Glory," a compilation of many United Methodist voices, including Heidi Flower and Ohyeun Lee!"

## Notes of Interest

## ■ How Easter is Celebrated Around the World

By Kathy Dube

You may believe the entire Christian world celebrates Easter the same as we do, but there are many different Easter traditions. The on line website Travel Trivia relates, "In Sweden Easter is also imbued with a bit of the Halloween spirit and in Poland, people douse each other with water."

In the U.S., the Easter Bunny traditionally delivers candy and small toys to kids on Easter, but in France, these treats arrive courtesy of the flying bells. While in Australia, the Easter Bunny takes a backseat to the long-eared, pointy-nosed Easter Bilby.

Open this link (<https://bit.ly/3rJ8v3z>) for highlights of surprising Easter traditions across the Christian world.

## ■ Calling all Kids!

By Christa Zaldivar, Education Director

For Prospect United Methodist Church's Easter Egg Hunt (following COVID-19 guidelines!)

Easter Sunday  
April 4, 2021

Outside on our  
church grounds

Following 10 am Worship



Easter Egg Hunt

Please bring your own basket. We will have separate sections for different ages.

# Believe!

Sometimes we get caught up in thinking we need to understand God in order to have faith. But faith is more about trust than knowledge; it's more about believing in someone than believing information. A child, for instance, doesn't have to know the precise roads to Grandma's house; he only needs to believe in his parents and their ability and desire to get him there safely. Similarly, we need not understand all the intricacies of how God works; we can take a cue from the disciples and let belief in the risen Christ transform and empower us.

In the words of Madeleine L'Engle (The Rock That Is Higher): "The disciples did not bother to try to understand the resurrection body. They doubted, and then they believed. They believed something so wonderful that it changed this broken, fragmented, beaten-down little group of men and women in a moment from depression to enthusiasm, from despair to new life, vibrant and unafraid."

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

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