

Link

Prospect United Methodist Church

The Rev. Yongyeun Lee
Pastor

Founded 1834

99 Summer Street
Bristol, CT 06010

Rev. William S. Barnes
Pastor Emeritus

Heidi Flower Director
of Music & Organist

Summer Worship
9:00 am Sanctuary

Contact Us:

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

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Crisis Is An Opportunity

"The Lord has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble." (Proverbs 16:4)

All reality is in God's plan. It's in God's hands that we are alive given the situation we are in. Everything is in God's purpose, and even God uses evil people for His plan. Covid-19 which started in January last year is still bothering us a year and a half later. The virus changes its appearance and causes more pain when it evolves. More people are getting infected which is threatening their lives. However, everything is under God's control.

When the demand for ice cream dropped sharply one cold winter, the owner was sitting in the park in despair. At this time, a flyer of circus performance flew under his feet. The president of the ice cream company ran to the circus concert hall and visited the circus leader. The ice cream president suggested, "Can I give popcorn to the circus audience for free?" The team leader readily agreed, and the audience watched the performance while eating free popcorn. Dozens of ice cream merchants stood at the entrance of the theater when it was time to rest. The audience, thirsty after eating popcorn, fought for ice cream. The president of the ice cream company, which provided popcorn for free, made a big profit by selling all the ice cream. We are now in a tunnel of recession that is never going to end. But you shouldn't be in despair. There is a saying that crisis is an opportunity. Perhaps now is the opportunity for success.

In the Bible, God's disaster worldwide was a time to change the plan and direction of life. During Noah's time, He judged the world of sin by water, cleaned the dirty world with water, and opened a new era. During the Middle Ages, God changed the direction of the world through the Black Death and he led to the Literature Revolution and Religious Reform. Covid-19 seems to be trying to change the old world and build the new world.

This summer, we successfully completed Summer VBS even in the midst of the Pandemic. Many teachers, volunteers, and children attended and had a fun and exciting VBS. Also, when it rained, the roof of the education building leaked and the roof reconstruction, a long-awaited project, was completed. Now, when it rains, we won't worry anymore.

Even during a crisis, there is still hope. We still have hope for God's plan. This fall I hope that it will be the season of the Lord who reopens the church door and starts again with new hope.

Pastor Yongyeun Lee



CALENDAR

Finance Committee:
Thursday, September 9

Rally Day: Sunday,
September 12

Worship Committee:
Sunday, September 12

Nominating Committee:
Tuesday, September 14

Church Council:
Thursday, September 16

Racial Reconciliation
Dialogue: Tuesday,
September 21

Book Club: Sunday,
October 3

Notes From Trustees

By Chris Wilson, Trustees President

Trustees Update August 2021



"The Trustees oversee the Funds invested with UBS. Below please find the end of July balances. The roof project depleted the majority of the unrestricted funds. Those are gifts and bequests given without any restriction. The restricted account includes funds given with restriction by the will and or donor. The wills require that we can use the interest, dividend and gains in value over and above the amount of the bequest gift.

"The Trustees reviewed the previous documentation and examined all records since 2,000 to determine that the basis for the restricted fund is \$546,312. The current value at the end of July is \$703,998. The good news is that the difference between the basis and value provides the church a safety net, if necessary. The not so good news is we have not had much growth in bequests in that fund since 2,000 and using up that fund by paying for operational expenses reduces future growth. Below is the status of the funds as of the end of July:

1. Restricted; \$703,998
2. Carrington Fund: (interest-dividends for maintenance) \$96,171
3. Unrestricted: \$2,018
4. Seery Scholarship: \$51,692
5. Mason Scholarship: \$5,125

"The Trustees have also overseen some additional projects including overseeing repairs of electrical and plumbing repairs and gutter repair at the Parsonage. We are also planning to secure a contractor to repair the ceiling damage from the leaking roof at the first floor Stairwells.

Roof Project

Repair of the roof over the Education Wing as well as Music and Choir Director's Office was undertaken and completed this summer. The total cost of the project was \$22,000. The Trustees took \$25,000 from the unrestricted account to cover the costs. We were given an estimate of \$23,000 plus the cost of the dumpster. The actual cost was \$21,500 plus the cost of the dumpster of \$500 for a total of \$22,000. Trustees will use the left over \$3,000 to pay for the ceiling damage.

We have had heavy rains subsequent to the roof, hatchway and drains being completed and there were no leaks.

The background of the repair is as follows in an article dating to July: "The Trustees of the church have approved the repair and replacement of the roof over the education wing and music and music director's office. The roof is the original from the addition constructed in the late 1950's. The Trustees over the years had a contractor patch the leaks, but in the recent rains it has become quite apparent that the patching is not sufficient. We have seen water damage in the Music room, Office, Pastor's Office and the two stairwell ceilings. A dumpster will be placed on the top of the bank of

the handicap parking lot. The contractor will begin work as soon as weather clears and he can assemble the supplies.

"Fortunately, our foremothers and forefathers of Prospect Church have left significant bequests. This has allowed the Trustees to pay for the roof from the interest dividends and gains achieved from those legacy bequests. I anticipate the cost of the roof replacement to be \$23,000 unless there is unforeseen roof decking damage.

"One of the downsides of paying for this repair out of the portfolio is that it limits the Trustees' ability to access funds for the shortfall in the budget in future years. The Trustees are required to only use the dividends, interest and gains for the original bequests if the bequests were provided to the church on a restricted basis. Unfortunately, there is no other source of money to make this repair and the replacement of the roof is necessary to complete now.

"In future years, the Trustees will be limited in their ability to provide extra funds to the church because much of the unrestricted money will have been used and what remains will be restricted. The new roof won't look like anything different than what now exists, but will be drier inside. If you have any questions, please contact me or any other Trustee."

Parsonage Study

"The Trustees have begun the process of reviewing whether we want to continue to own a parsonage or whether we wish to provide a housing allowance to our pastor. This will be a lengthy review. We will welcome input from others outside the Trustees. We anticipate looking at the following list realizing this is not an all-inclusive list. The Trustees come into this review without any bias or preset determination. Below are the initial questions we will be exploring:



- How much could we obtain by selling the parsonage?
- What could be our anticipated rate of return if we put the proceeds into a fund?
- What is market rate of Housing Allowance? How long will the proceeds last?
- Would not having a Parsonage be a barrier or an opportunity to secure a pastor?
- What is conference Standards for Housing and is there any impact to that decision?
- What are the costs anticipated for repairs for the parsonage for the next 10 years?
- Other cost avoidance or costs incurred from such a decision?

"The Trustees continue to manage the building usage by support groups, Saturday Church Group and Brian's Angels. An opportunity has presented itself to rent our downstairs kitchen for a couple of days a week to a food truck operator.

"You may direct questions to Chris Wilson at (860) 681-8274. "

Community and Mission

Racial Reconciliation Dialogue

During January and February, Pastor Lee invited the congregation to participate in a book study using Latasha Morrison's book, "Be the Bridge: Pursuing God's Heart for Racial Reconciliation."

Following the book study, many participants were interested in continuing the conversations around racism and have continued to meet monthly via Zoom in order to determine future action steps at PUMC. The participants are committed to developing a deeper awareness and becoming more responsive to the racial brokenness and systemic injustice in our world.

Our PUMC "Welcoming Statement," spoken every Sunday, is the groundwork for our focus. We invite everyone to participate in this important work within our community: becoming bridge builders—committed to pursuing justice and racial unity. Stay tuned for future opportunities to foster inclusiveness, equity, and justice.



Enable us to see the reality of racism and free us to challenge and uproot it from our society, our world and ourselves.

Sewing Project Resumes

Days For Girls Team Bristol Ct is up and sewing again. Team Leader Carol Rivard reports, "We meet the last Saturday of the month from 9:30 to 12 Noon. If you would like to join us or need more information please call me at (860) 416-1608." The group is offering apple and pumpkin pies again this year as a fundraiser. You can leave your order with the office or contact Carol Rivard to place an order. "The price this year is \$15 per pie. We will start taking orders the first Sunday of September. Please help support this wonderful mission. which enables women and girls around the globe to be given the chance to better their lives because of your help.



"A big thank you to Harvest Bakery for donating 250 pie boxes and Tonn's Orchards who donates the apples to the cause."

Backpack Drive

Prospect Church members donated numerous backpacks to the Covenant to Care drive for returning school students. The photo on right shows the backpacks ready for the social worker Aleks who picked them up. PUMC Covenant to Care coordinator June Schilling said, "Thank you so much to all who donated!"



Small Groups

Arts and Crafts Group

Nurture Team's Art and Crafts Group painted rocks in their recent get togethers. The next get together is Tuesday, September 7th, at 10 a.m. at the church. Mary Rogers, coordinator, invites anyone interested to join them. The arts and crafts group meets every other Tuesday at the church.



Prospect United Methodist Book Club

Don't be intimidated to join this book club. There is no right or wrong answer. Everyone just shares their view of chosen book. The upcoming meeting will be October 3 at 11:45 in Sessions Hall. The group will be discussing *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman. See Jeanette Baker if you have any questions.

Education Activities

Education Director Christa Zaldivar

Church School

"The beginning of the new Sunday School year is nearly here," Education Superintendent Christa Zaldivar announces. "September 12th is our Rally Day! We are planning some fun outdoor activities and games for ages 3 through 12 during 10 a.m. worship. Sunday School classes at Prospect United Methodist Church will begin on Sunday, September 19th. If you have any questions about our programs, please contact Christa Zaldivar at cjw02@hotmail.com or (917) 386-8599.

Junior MYF

"We are continuing our Junior MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship) program for 6th-8th graders! 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 will also plan some community service projects in which students will learn to serve our church community and the greater community around us. Our 6th-8th graders are welcome to invite friends to join our meetings.



"Please mark your calendars for our first Junior MYF meeting of the year, which will be held on September 19th at 6:30 p.m. at church! Please contact Christa Zaldivar if your child is interested in participating: e-mail: cjw02@hotmail.com or call/text (917)386-8599."

Knights Ruled!

PUMC was filled with knights this summer at Knights of North Castle Vacation Bible School! Twenty-four children, from pre-school to grade 5, met Armorer Christine and Sparky each evening and took on the role of brave knights.

The Knights began their quest each session by opening the King's Book. They explored Old and New Testament stories and discovered different pieces of protective armor —the Belt of Truth, the Breastplate of Justice, the Shoes of Peace, the Shield of Faith, and the Helmet of Salvation — at work in the lives of familiar Bible characters, and explored how that armor works in their own lives as they follow and serve God.

Many thanks to all of our volunteers for putting in countless hours: Pastor Lee, Ohyeun Lee, Heidi Flower, Eleanor Riker, Jill Wilson, Gabrielle Orcutt, Jeanette Baker, Sarah Michaud, June Schilling, Beth Provost, Carla Heister, Emily Flower, Vayda Martinez (Asbury UMC), Christine Calandriello (Memorial UMC), and Jan Colturi (Memorial UMC). And, thank you to the Middle Ages Group for lending us many decorations!

"Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His power." Ephesians 6:10



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