



Prospect United Methodist Church

Founded 1834

99 Summer Street
Bristol, CT 06010

The Rev. Yongyeun Lee Pastor

Rev. William S. Barnes
Pastor Emeritus
Heidi Flower Director of Music
& Organist

Worship
8:30 am Chapel
10:00 am Sanctuary

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Prospect Tower:
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Layout: Jeanette Baker

THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

October 2022

Vol. 85, No. 6

Message from Pastor

'Move Forward!'

"Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:13-14)

My dear brothers and sisters,

Grace and peace to you all!

Autumn has come to the door. The weather has cooled down in the morning and evening, so you can feel it with your skin. I'm already starting to miss summer thinking about winter coming. However, we can welcome winter because the beautiful season of autumn has come. Trees and leaves are changing into beautiful clothes to prepare for the cold winter. We are also putting our summer clothes in the closet and preparing clothes for autumn and winter. We also go shopping to buy clothes for autumn and winter.

We also need to prepare clothes of faith not only for our bodies but also for our souls. Our bodies and minds are mentally and physically exhausted by the long-standing pandemic. Some of our congregation is still suffering from Covid. But you can't just be trapped in the darkness of Covid. We must endure its pain and suffering and overcome it with faith again. But there are still people around us who are still in spiritual sleep even after Covid is over. However, we should not look back on the past, but move forward for a new era.

Recently, some of our church members shared what Carey Nieuwhof wrote that challenged and touched us. The writer's interest was how to respond to the reality after the pandemic. Some reasons why people don't come back to the church after the Pandemic are as follows:

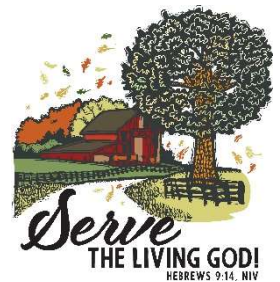
First conversation after reopening: "I'm just not comfortable coming back to church until the vaccines are available."

The following month: "Well sure, now I'm vaccinated, but I just don't like wearing masks."

Month after: "Yes, the mask mandates are gone, but we're just not comfortable with our kids being exposed right now."

A few weeks later: "Well we haven't travelled in a bit so we'll be away for a while."

Last conversation: "I'm sure we'll be back, we just don't know when."



Meanwhile, on social, you see the same person at football games, house parties, and restaurants every week. Whenever you see shifting logic, it's pretty clear they're not telling you the truth. So, what do we do? Call them out? Argue with them? Call their bluff? Nope, there's no point. Start over and move forward with who's left. His first solution is to focus on the people who stayed, not the people who left. Sure, half our volunteers didn't come back. But some of them did. Some of your donors bailed. But not all of them. And some people left, but others are inviting new people regularly. So ...refocus. Rather than focusing on the people you've lost, focus on the people who stayed.

And then we make our remaining attendees turn into engagers. We've got a crew of attendees who are not yet engaged. Our remaining congregation about moving beyond attendance engage in our ministry. We have to reach out to the church members who don't come to the church and encourage them to come again. Baptize people who need to be baptized. Get people connected into community, into serving, inviting their friends, and giving. In September, we invited the True North Rising Band and had a Benefit Rally Concert and Picnic. We had a lot of joy and fellowship with our friends and families. Some people participated in the Mum Parade Float in town. We, Prospect church, continue to declare that we are still the beacon and hope of the world. Our Days for Girls team started to make apple pies and pumpkin pies every Wednesday to serve African girls in need. It is the greatest joy and honor to participate in God's missionary work. It's the most valuable and meaningful thing in our life.

By the time Jesus died, most people had deserted him. The church started with 11 remaining disciples and a room full of people who didn't leave. And that small group was the genesis of the movement that turned the world upside down. They know what the mission is, they serve in it, and they live it out. They're passionate enough about it to invite their friends. Christians will advance the mission and never stay the same. Yes, only God can bring growth. It's hard to lead people into the future if you're stuck in the past. Let's move forward. I pray that we don't give up in the middle, move forward and become a game changer.



In this beautiful and colorful season,
Pastor Lee

If you want to read more of Carey Nieuwhof please check this out:

https://careynieuwhof.com/why-theyre-not-coming-back-to-church-and-what-to-do-with-whos-left/?fbclid=IwAR3G5QNRHu7e9CqQ08_HpSIC0jmFttw5c65S_bQmnM_MUbcG3qwHhRDbtvQ

Nurture Team

By Mary Rogers, Nurture Team Chair

Arts and Craft Group: The Arts and Craft Group will be meeting the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 10 a.m. in the meeting room. Our next date is October 11 and we will be painting medium-sized gourds. The following meeting (October 25) we will be decorating toilet paper rolls and oatmeal boxes.

Wednesday Lunch Group: Although we normally have our luncheons on the third Wednesday of the month, we will be changing the schedule for the first few months. In October we will have our luncheon on the fourth Wednesday, October 26, so as not to interfere with the pie-making group. In November, we will be having lunch in the parsonage on the 9th due to Thanksgiving and the Pastor's schedule.



Friends of Prospect Luncheon: We are looking to start up the Friends of Prospect luncheons on the first Thursday of each month starting in November. This group would meet at various local restaurants. Debbie Fasci will head up this initiative. If you are interested in joining this group, please let Debbie Fasci or Mary Rogers know of your interest. Our initial contact list will be the attendees of the third Wednesday lunch group.

Middle Ages Update

By Luisa Gladu, Chair

■ Breakfast With Santa: — Saturday Dec. 10, 8:30 am to Noon

Enjoy a delicious hot breakfast and spend the morning doing Arts and Crafts, shopping at Elf Mart, watching a Magic Show, listening to a Christmas story, meeting Mrs. Claus and then getting to talk with Santa and get a photo with him to take home.

Tickets will go on sale November 6 in Sessions Hall and will be advertised throughout the community. This is a reserved ticket event which sells out very quickly as there are limited seats. No tickets are sold at the door. Profits this year will go towards the church's Heating Bill. Ticket Prices are: Adults, \$15; Children ages 3 to 10, \$10; Children under 3, \$5 to cover the photo costs. If you can't attend the breakfast but would like to help, donations to offset the food and supply costs are always welcomed. We also have had donations from PUMC Angels to purchase tickets for families in need.

To volunteer, please contact Luisa Gladu at thegladus@comcast.net

■ PUMC Christmas Open House: — Friday, Dec. 16, 5 to 7 p.m.

We will open our beautifully decorated Church to the community on Friday Dec. 16. Santa and Mrs. Claus will welcome our guests as they enjoy some cookies and hot chocolate and the beautiful decorations that will be in Sessions Hall, the Parlor and our Sanctuary. We hope you will help us welcome our neighbors and we're calling on our wonderful church bakers to help us with cookies and snacks. We would love to showcase our church and spread some Christmas cheer. To sign up to bring cookies contact Luisa@thegladus@comcast.net.

■ Relay for Life Life Annual Valentine's Dinner Dance Fundraiser: —

Tentatively set for Feb. 11 or 18. But we may have found a bigger venue to host our Valentine's Dinner Dance depending on availability. This fundraiser has always been a great start to our Relay for Life. My sister Angie and I co-host this event. In the past we have raised over \$1,500 which was split between Team PUMC to honor our PUMC survivors and those we lost and Team Patty's Pride which is in memory of our mother Patty Orefice who lost her battle May 2015.

Tickets are \$40 per person and the cost will cover dinner, coffee, tea, dessert and a DJ. There will be a cash bar, raffles, prizes and fun! More info to come.

■ Annual Renaissance Dinner Show Fundraiser: — April 29 & May 6, 2023.

We are hoping to be able to bring back our Annual Renaissance



Dinner Show Fund Raiser. It all depends on the interest, if we get enough volunteers and if it will be safe to do so. Our Annual Dates are always the last Saturday of April, which will be April 29 and May 6. The theme will be a Scottish fling. We will ransport you to the Scottish Isle, for a fun Celtic Fling! Men in kilts, savory food and intrigue will abound. You will feast on a delicious 7-course meal with their majesties and perhaps some visiting royal guests while being entertained.

Once again this is a reserved ticket event. No tickets are sold at the door. Ticket Prices are: Adults, \$30; Children 10 and under, \$20. Tickets will go on sale the end of February. Renaissance costumes are not required but encouraged.

We have sold out both evenings in the past and it is limited to 90 guests so reserve your tickets or a table early by contacting Luisa at thegladus@comcast.net

■ Relay for Life 2023: — June 3 and 4 at Norton Park, Plainville.

Team PUMC is already signed up as a participant and we will be bringing our now "infamous" Magical Bakery back. We won best site last year and we hope to do so again. We're already planning some tasty new treats and our plan is to wow the Relay crowds once again. All profits raised go to the American Cancer Society and we walk in honor and in memory of those we love, those who survived, those still fighting and those we lost. Closer to the event we'll let you know what we could use to help our bakers do what they do.

Thank you for your support this year and we know we can count on our PUMC family to help us in 2023! No One Fights Alone!

For love of animals

St. Francis of Assisi, known for his affection for animals, is honored on October 4. Some congregations observe this day by blessing pets, remembering that God pronounced animals — along with all creation — good. God saved not only Noah’s family but animals of all kinds from the Flood. And despite Jonah’s protests, God had compassion on Nineveh — “and [its] many animals” (Jonah 4:11). How intriguing that the prophet adds this point!

Care for all living creatures is clearly part of the divine character. Animals don’t do anything to earn God’s favor except be themselves. From this, we can learn that God pours out love unconditionally. As Psalm 36:6 (CEV) declares, “All people and animals are under your care.”

PUMC Book Club

Join in the discussion of *The Authenticity Project* by Clare Pooley on October 23 at 11:45 in Sessions Hall.

Education

From Education Superintendent Christa Zaldivar

UNICEF Collection

On Sunday, October 30, during fellowship hour, our Sunday School students will be dressed in their Halloween costumes and trick-or-treating for UNICEF!



UNICEF is an organization that works in cooperation with governments and non-governmental organizations to save and protect the world's most vulnerable children, working to ensure child rights and providing health care, immunizations, nutrition, access to safe water and sanitation services, basic education, protection and emergency relief.

We are asking for the congregation's help in collecting loose change. Please bring as much loose change (or dollar bills) as possible, to help our children fund raise!

Thank you!!!

Puzzle!

Solve this cryptogram to complete Isaiah 40:8, a Bible verse that speaks to the autumn season.

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PROSPECT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
99 SUMMER STREET BRISTOL, CT 06010