



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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THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

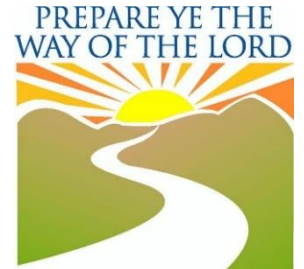
December 2022

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Message from Pastor

Prepare the Way of the Lord

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God" (Isaiah 40:3)



When I was in Korea a long time ago, I visited my mother's hometown during Korean Thanksgiving. Her hometown was Byungjeom near Suwon City. It was an ordinary rural village with peaceful rice fields spread out. However, the small driveway that I visited was already renovated with a new highway, and a new bridge longer than 100 yards was built on the small stream flowing along the side of the road.

I was so surprised and amazed to see the sudden change of the town. So I asked my mother, "Why has it changed so much here? It didn't have a highway and a big bridge before." Then the mother replied, "It's the first lady, Lee Soon-ja's home over that hill." As a college student at the time, I just opened my mouth and shouted out, "You have a lot of power!"

Upon hearing that the first lady would visit her hometown, the community and residents widened the narrow road, paved the bumpy road flat, and rebuilt the small bridge with a large bridge to welcome the new president and the first lady. It used to be an ordinary rural village that no one knew, but it is proud to be a city that produced the first lady. If a king or president visits his village, people will fix the curved road, trim the uneven road, and bridge to prepare for it by making it flat.

Here comes the king of peace, who comes to save the whole world. How should I prepare? If there is a bend in our heart, we should spread it out beautifully. If there are bumpy stones in our heart, we have to dig them out. If we can't go because we have a deep valley in our hearts, we have to build a bridge. We must prepare for our Lord to come to us comfortably.

To prepare for the baby Jesus, our church has been decorated with a Christmas tree. We participated in a Blood Drive on November 30 to share Christ's love with patients who lacked sufficient blood. On Saturday, December 10, Santa Claus came to our church and we invited our family and friends to have Breakfast with Santa together. On December 11, our choir and racial justice team visited church members who are in hospitals or are confined to their homes to sing Christmas carols to convey the coming of Baby Jesus. The Christmas Pageant celebrating the birth of Jesus will be on Sunday of December 18 and the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be December 24 at 7 p.m.

Let's come out, celebrate the birth of Jesus and worship baby Jesus. Merry Christmas!

In the season of Jesus's birth,
Pastor Yongyeun Lee

Music

By Heidi Flower, Music Director

■ Busy Time for PUMC Musicians

November and December have been rather busy for the musicians at PUMC according to Heidi Flower, Music Director: "Our handbells and Sr Choir were participants in the Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve service that was held at Prospect. Our ringers and singers were joined by members of St. Joseph's, First Congregational, and Asbury UMC choirs perform some lovely pieces. Unfortunately, the music selections were not included in the live stream of the service.



"For the first time in 3 years some church members went Christmas Caroling to some of our homebound members. We had a great turnout of singers and a great time! We all agreed that this was a wonderful way to get in the Christmas spirit!

"We sang for longtime member and Sunday School teacher, Mildred Reed, who presented each of us with a beautiful story (see page 4) and an apple!

"Many thanks to Jill Wilson and Susan Powers for organizing this event."

Middle Ages Group Update

From Luisa Gladu, MiddleAges Chair

"December is a busy time for us. Our Breakfast with Santa took place on Dec. 10, with close to a full house. Santa and Mrs. Claus plus Anna and Elsa returned for the event.

"This Friday PUMC will be hosting it's 2nd Annual Open House! This is a free event is open to the public. Please invite your friends and neighbors. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be there as we open our beautiful church home to our community.

"We need help with some baked treats, cookies, brownies etc. and hot chocolate. Please see Luisa Gladu if you would like to bring something."

Nurture Team

By Mary Rogers, Chair

Visitations: The Nurture Team began a visitation schedule for the homebound. If you are homebound and would like a visit but have not heard from anyone yet, please give a call to the church office and we will set up a time to visit you.

Welcoming: Prospect has started having congregants welcome people as they come in to the 10 a.m. Sunday service. If you would like to serve as a greeter, please see Debbie Fasci and she will sign you up and provide instructions.

Craft Class: The Arts and Crafts Class met on Tuesday, Nov. 28, to make Christmas cards which will be sent out to the homebound. There were some very lovely cards made as seen in the attached pictures. The next class will be December 13 at 10 a.m. at which time we will be making Christmas decorations.

Friends of Prospect Luncheon: The Friends of Prospect met for lunch at BARC on December 1. We (21 individuals) had such a lovely lunch that we decided to meet there again on January 5 at 11:30. Feel free to join us.

Notes

■ Dress Warmly in Church

In order to save energy this winter please be aware that the Trustees are trying to save on heat, with thermostats set at 66 degrees. It may be advisable for you to wear a warm sweater or keep your coat on during winter. Also, with winter coming our doors don't always close correctly. As you are leaving please double check that the door is closed and locked if you are last out.

Thank you,
Prospect Trustees

Calendar

- January 5: Friends of Prospect Luncheon, 11:30 at BARC
- January 10: Arts and Crafts Group, 10 at Prospect
- January 18: Third Wednesday Luncheon, 11:30 in Sessions Hall

Education

By Christa Zalvidar, Chair

■ Christmas Wrapping Offer

Have no time to wrap those gifts? Don't get wrapped up in the holiday stress!

Our Jr. MYF will be providing gift wrapping services at PUMC during fellowship hour on December 11th and 18th in exchange for donations. Please bring us your unwrapped gifts for family and friends and we will wrap them up beautifully for you to take home same-day!!



In addition, our Jr. MYF will be selling Hot Chocolate and Hot Chocolate "to-go kits" during fellowship hour! The cost is \$3 per cup of hot chocolate plus toppings or \$5 for each "to-go" kit, which includes the ingredients for two cups of hot chocolate!

CASH ONLY PLEASE!

Funds raised will go towards purchasing toys and gifts for the kids at Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

■ Christmas Pageant

All are invited to the Annual Christmas Pageant on Sunday December 18th during the 10am worship service. Our Education Team has decided to try a different approach to the traditional Christmas Pageant this year! We are going to be having a "rehearsal-free" pageant.

ALL members of the congregation will be invited to participate...the young and the not-so-young!

How it works: As members of the congregation arrive for worship, they are greeted with tables of costumes from which, with the help of enthusiastic volunteers, they will choose what character in the story they would like to dress up as. There will be costumes for angels, shepherds, various barn animals (cows, donkeys, sheep) and townspeople. Once the worship service begins, a narration based on the Luke telling of Jesus' birth is read/shared with the congregation. At various breaks in the narration, while the congregation sings a corresponding song, folks with certain costumes will go to the front of the sanctuary and help create a live nativity scene.



We hope to see you all there! Sunday December 18th 10am...costumes will be first-come, first-serve, unless previous arrangements have been made with Christa!

■ New Years Party

All are invited to come ring in the New Year - 2023! Bring your family and celebrate the New Year with PUMC!

Date: Saturday December 31st

Time: 4pm-6pm

Place: Sessions Hall

Cost: Free!

****Please bring an appetizer to share.**** Party Includes: Pizza, Drinks, Make-your-own-ice-cream-sundae, Crafts, Games, and More! Special "Ball Drop" at 6pm

(Activities are geared towards PreK-5th grade, however, all are welcome!)

If you have any questions or to RSVP by 12/26, please contact Christa Zalvidar: cjw02@hotmail.com or 917-386-8599.



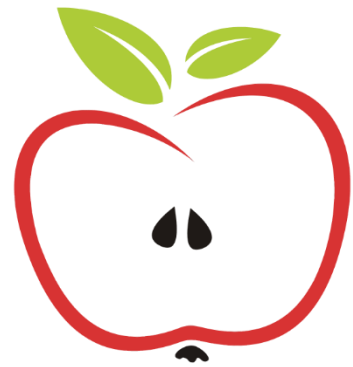
Youth Page

Longtime member and Sunday School teacher, Mildred Reed presented each PUMC's carolers with the following story and an apple!

The Little House with No Doors and No Windows and a Star Inside

Author Unknown

(Have an apple, a cutting board, and a knife ready for the ending. Enjoy the apple slices after this story.)



Once there was a little boy who had played almost all day. He had played with all his toys and all the games he knew, and he could not think of anything else to do. So, he went to his mother and asked, "Mother, what shall I do now?"

His mother said, "I know about a little red house with no doors and no windows and a star inside.

You can find it, if you go look for it."

So the little boy went outside and there he met a little girl. He asked, "Do you know where there is a little red house with no doors and no windows and a star inside?"

The little girl said, "No, I don't know where there is a little red house with no doors and no windows and a star inside, but you can ask my daddy. He is a farmer and he knows lots of things. He's down by the barn and maybe he can help you."

So, the little boy went to the farmer down by the barn and said, "Do you know where there is a little red house with no doors and no windows and a star inside?"

"No," said the farmer, "I don't know, but why don't you ask Grandmother. She is in her house up on the hill. She is very wise and knows many things. Maybe she can help you."

So, the little boy went up the hill to Grandmother's and asked, "Do you know where there is a little red house with no doors and no windows and a star inside?"

"No," Grandmother answered, "I don't know, but you ask the wind, for the wind goes everywhere, and I am sure he can help you."

So, the little boy went outside and asked the wind, "Do you know where I can find a little red house with no doors and no windows and a star inside?"

And the wind said, "OHHHH! OOOOOOOO!" And it sounded to the little boy as if the wind said, "Come with me." So the little boy ran after the wind. He ran through the grass and into the orchard and there on the ground he found the little house – the little red house with no doors and no windows and a star inside! He picked it up, and it filled both of his hands. He ran home to his mother and said, "Look, Mother! I found the little red house with no doors and no windows, but I cannot see the star!"

So this is what his mother did (cut the apple across the middle from side to side, not top to bottom). "Now I see the star!" said the little boy. "Do you?"



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99 SUMMER STREET BRISTOL, CT 06010