



THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

Summer 2023

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Pastor's Page

"From Huddled Community to Witnessing Community!"

It has been three years since I was appointed to Prospect Church. Looking back at the past three years, it has been a lot of hard times mentally and physically due to the Pandemic and the pastor's transition. Some

of you grieved the loss of your beloved pastor and were brokenhearted. For the past three years, I have prayed for the healing and restoration of your wounded heart and tried to build relationships with you. But it is still heartbreaking to see some still not coming back to the church.

Now, the Pandemic has become weaker, and our life has almost returned to normal. But you have to live a new normal life. With our Church Council co-chairs, lay leaders, and lay servants, we have prayed together and come up with the church strategy for the future.

With executive chairmen and lay leaders over the past two or three months we are praying and coming up with a church strategy for the future. We set three major goals. The first is to reach out to the community. The second is small groups to share fellowship and caring. And the third is praying. The ultimate goal of the church is to make disciples of Jesus. They are not made by time itself. As Jesus said to his disciples, it is to go, make them disciples, baptize, and teach them. In order to make a disciple of Christ, you have to reach out and invite people to the church. And you have to share fellowship with them in a small group, take care of them, and nurture them. And we have to gather together to pray and worship together. When these three things are accomplished, a disciple is born.

There are two kinds of faith communities. One is a huddled community and the other is a witnessing community. In a huddled community, sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name, and they are always glad you came. Huddled communities are mostly insulated from the world around them. Having deep relationships with people outside the church is not of a high value in growing the church. This renders the community safe, and familiar, with a sense of belonging. They prioritize relationships within the communities and are often active in outreach but not so much in building connections with outsiders.

In witnessing communities, being a witness for Christ is a normal part of being in the church. They incorporated this assumption into their preaching and teaching, discipleship opportunities, programming, and budget. Through involvement in a witnessing community, professions of faith happen, and a new disciple is born.

What kind of church do you think our church is? I think our church is in the middle of a huddled community and a witnessing community. Now, we need to move on to a witnessing community where we can make disciples of Jesus.

Pastor Yongyeun Lee

**"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."
(Matthew 28:16-20)**

Prospect United Methodist Church
Founded 1834

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Bristol, CT 06010

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Pastor Emeritus

Heidi Flower
Director of Music & Organist

Worship
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10:00 am Sanctuary

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Star Banner Commentary

By Music Director Heidi (Herold) Flower

Heidi delivered this commentary at Prospect Church on Memorial Day Sunday.

Today, on Memorial Day Sunday, I'd like to take a moment to talk about the Star Banner. I know that History Committee Chair Vivian Brackett has on more than one occasion mentioned the significance of this historic relic, but I wish to explain my personal connection. I am the fourth generation of my family to attend PUMC and my family is represented on this banner.

My father, Russell Herold, and both of his siblings fought in WWII and they each have a star. Dad's older brother, Harry Herold, was an officer and I believe he was stationed in Pennsylvania for the duration. My Aunt Jane was in the Navy, stationed in Norfolk, Virginia. She was an Aviation Mechanic and there she met and married my Uncle Henry. Rumor has it that she sewed her own wedding gown from the silk from a parachute.

My Dad served in the Pacific Theater as a Flight Engineer on a B-29 bomber. But wait, there's more ...

My Grandma, Ruth Herold, was one of the mothers who created this tribute. I cannot imagine what anxiety these women faced as they hoped and prayed that their sons and daughters would return home safely. Sadly, the gold stars represent ones that were killed during their service. I had not known about this banner when my Grandmother was still alive, or I would certainly have asked her about it.

But wait... there's more...

My mother Marjorie Pierce and father both grew up here at Prospect, but didn't get to know each other until after the war was over. They were members of the newly formed Young People's group and my mom had a record player and my dad had a car, so the rest is history. They were married here at Prospect in 1947. There is a photo taken of them on their wedding day, here in the rear of the sanctuary. In that picture are my two sets of grandparents, the bride and groom, and just behind them hangs the star banner!

But wait... there's more...

Over the passing years, the banner was taken down. Vivian and my Mom found it in a closet, rolled up in a ball where it sustained water damage. After my Dad passed away in 2,000, Mom had the banner restored and framed and dedicated to my Dad.

There are many other stars on this quilt and I remember many of those people. I know that Lynn Limeburner's relatives are also represented there. If you are a long time member, look and see whose name you might recognize.

Thank you for letting me share this memory with you.



Jill Wilson On Mission Trip To Ecuador

By Jill Wilson

Jill wrote the following as she contemplated going to Ecuador and she has safely returned.

“I have signed up to be a Volunteer in Mission (VIM) in Ecuador. What is a Volunteer in Mission you might ask? VIMs give their time and talent to minister with the poor, build churches and other mission facilities, assist in disaster recovery efforts, and participate in community health programs. The United Methodist VIM network offers guidance, organization, and training for more than 125,000 volunteers each year.

“While completion of the ‘tasks’ that occur when on site, the development of the relationship between the local people and the mission team members is equally important. Often teams return to a location which continues and strengthens their relationship with the local people. I have learned through experience that I receive more than I give, when on a team in another culture and society. It is transformational for the volunteer!

“In June, I am going with a team of 10 to Ecuador. The team I am joining originates from Woodbury UMC, Woodbury CT. We will be in Ecuador for 8 days. This is the first time a team has been able to return to Ecuador since 2018, mostly thwarted by the pandemic. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to go for a couple of reasons. My whole life I have believed that as a Christian, it is my duty to be of service to others whenever possible. In Ecuador I will be able to do just that, working with the local indigenous people improving their mission facility and working in their community health program.

“Secondly, I am so excited to see our host, missionary Sara Flores, whom I have known for many years. She has been serving in Ecuador for 12 years. I would like to thank all of those who have given the team support. There are exciting plans for the construction of a new church building with the funds. If you want to learn more about my experience, please reach out to me so I can share the experience with you upon my return!”

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Relay For Life Update

By Luisa Gladu, Team Captain

“Relay for Life was held on June 3rd and so far Team PUMC has raised \$4,565 and counting! Donations are still coming in and we hope to reach \$5,000 by the end of August. The Magical Bakery raised a total of \$1,507! Thank you to all who donated baking supplies of sugar, flour, butter etc.; and a \$250 Thrivent Grant ensured all of the money raised is profit.

“Team PUMC has reached Silver status and if we can raise \$5,000 we will be a Gold Team. The Relay event is open until the end of August. Our team goal was \$3,000 so to exceed that is amazing. The September Tower will have our final total and more information. Thank you all for your support!”



Scholarships Announced

Scholarship Committee Chair Carol Rivard reports the committee awarded five scholarships this year. The recipients are: Angelina Fasci, the Seery Scholarship; and Madelyn Carros, Kai Limeburner, Daniel Wilson and Brian Wilson who all received the Prospect Scholarship. They will read their essays on June 18 at the 10 a.m. service.

The committee plans two fundraisers. The first is a Bakeless Bake Sale to run during the month of June followed by a Baked Potato with all the Fixings during October. Watch for more details starting in late August for when and how to place orders.

The Scholarship Committee notes that church members can donate to the Scholarship Fund as well as the Book of Remembrance in the name of a loved one.



PUMC “Camperships” Fund Available

Any child with our church family is eligible to receive a “campership” to help offset the financial commitment for any kind of camp this summer (church, scouts, etc.). To apply or ask questions, please email the church office: prospectoffice@snet.net.



Helen de Leon Camarce is a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church. She will be a speaker at PUMC on July 9.

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