



THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

Summer 2023

Vol. 87, No. 5

Pastor's Page

"WHY SMALL GROUPS?"

Hi Friends,

I hope that you had a great summer. Now, the hot summer has passed, and we are in the new season of change. Our children begin Sunday School with Rally Day and our adults are also ready for a new season. The church is the family of God. Some of you live close to your parents and children, but some of you live far away from your parents or children. Or some of you live alone without family.

Whether you live with your family or not, you need a friend who can talk to each other openly. The church can be an alternative family to fill your empty spot.

A couple of months ago, a man living in my neighborhood knocked on my parsonage. He said, "My neighbor doesn't show up for a few days." He was worried and asked after her. We didn't know her situation well either, so Ohyeun and I went and checked, and she wasn't at home. We called here and there and found out that she had a positive COVID-19 test and was in the hospital. Then she went to the rehabilitation center, took a few more days of treatment and rest, and came back home finally.

These days, there are some people who live alone, so even if you have an emergency, you can't ask for help. If you have family or friends in your neighborhood, they can check on you often. But if they don't, no one will know if you're in big trouble. For that reason, we need a family. Small groups will be a good alternative for the family.

There are already various small groups in our church. First, there are 'affinity groups.' These groups are organized around common passions, interests, or hobbies. Examples would be an art and craft group, a book club, a Racial Reconciliation Dialogue group, or a walking club, etc. These gatherings help us socialize and build strong relationships. Please continue to join these groups.

Second, there are 'Information-driven groups.' These groups are focused on conveying information and are organized by a common curriculum. Examples would be Sunday School, Bible study groups, a book club, or curriculum-oriented groups. In these groups, members gather to learn more about their faith. An assumption of these groups is that knowledge is essential for the maturity of faith, or that right living is dependent on right knowing. Biblical understanding of basic Christian doctrines is important for faithful Christian living. However, these small groups are not the most effective way to take care of each other.

cont. p. 3

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength."
Second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' (Mark 12:30-31)



Prospect United Methodist Church
Founded 1834

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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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MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO THE LORD!

Choir rehearsals will resume on
Wednesday, September 6th!

- Handbells - 6 pm (in the Sanctuary)
- Senior Choir - 7 pm (in Room 208)

New singers and ringers are most
cordially welcome!!!

Please speak to Heidi if you have any
questions

Cont. from Page 1.

Therefore, I encourage all of you to have the third type of small group which is a ‘transformation-driven group’. These groups focus not on discussion or mastery of content, but on challenged lives, and on group members’ experience of God. These small groups are organized around a common desire to support one another in their efforts to become faithful Christians who are growing in love of God and their neighbor. Examples would be accountability groups, fellowship groups, cell groups, class meetings, and even house churches. These groups are primarily focused on living and not on learning.

One particular group in this category is the class meeting. A class meeting is a small group that is primarily focused on transformation and not information. Class meetings provide a format that helps people actively grow in their faith in Christ together in the community, not just study information. In class meetings, participants actively discuss the state of their current relationship with God and how they are living out and sometimes failing to live out their faith. The ultimate purpose of this meeting is to “watch over one another in love.” They support and encourage one another in their lives with God. They gather to ask the question, “How is it with your soul?” to examine their spiritual state and share their lives of faith.

So, we will start our first class meeting after Rally Day. Please write your name and your leader's name on the blue card and put it in the basket at the Session's Hall. I hope that our Prospect Church will gather together in small groups, pray and watch over one another in love, and enrich our faith and spiritual life.

Pastor Yongyeun Lee

Missionary Speaks At Prospect

Missionary Helen Camarce, with whom Prospect Church has had a Covenant Relationship since 2014, spoke about her missionary work at PUMC during an itineration tour in July. Helen presented a banner to our church which now hangs above the altar. The Church Council at its August 17 meeting agreed to continue our Covenant Relationship for Helen for another year with a commitment of \$1,000 a year.

With a Covenant relationship, you and the missionary deepen our experience of God's mission. Covenant relationships offer opportunities for you and the missionary to support one another through prayer and worship, to journey in mission together through your presence and service, and bear witness to and share God's mighty works in mission. You can offer sustained financial support to your missionary partner so that they can continue to serve. United Methodist missionaries depend on your support to sustain their livelihoods as they fulfill God's call to mission service. Missionaries are charged with raising \$25,000 USD annually. Your financial gifts and

relationship help provide for the salary and benefits of the missionary you support.



Helen Camarce's mission work is based in Cambodia. and she expresses deep gratitude for our prayers and support. During the pandemic, these connections have helped sustain her. She feels connected to us! Currently her family (children and grandchildren are in Philippines, and her mom and sister are in NJ). She is grateful for a Filipino couple living with her who has become her surrogate family. She has found creative ways to utilize technology to worship with family abroad, hold leadership trainings, and seminars which keep her work moving forward. Helen says Cambodia has done a good job with vaccine distributions and she and everyone (all 10) in the UMC office where she works have received a vaccine and stayed healthy.

Helen encourages us to follow her on Facebook. She posts to the Women and Finance page, which you can follow through this link: <https://www.facebook.com/hlcamarce>.

Trustees Announcement

The Seventh Day Adventist Church has been renting space in our dining room for many years. The church is expanding and hoping to grow even more. They have requested and been granted use of Sessions Hall and the Sanctuary on Saturdays on a space-available basis.

The Trustees have made them aware that they could be required to use the dining room on selected Saturdays in which a wedding, funeral or previously scheduled event is to take place. Their donation was increased to reflect this usage along with a plan to increase further after this trial period.

The Trustees want the church membership to be aware of this use as we try to live out our Welcoming Statement. They will have their lawn sign advertising their church service, as do other groups that use the church. They are only using the space ... they are not using any of the sound system features, musical instruments or technology in the Sanctuary.

Any questions or concerns can be directed to Chris Wilson, Chairman of Trustees.

Faith in Action

Carla Heister
Chair, Faith in Action

PUMC Connectional Ministry with DAV (Disabled American Vets)

Last winter the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) asked if we would work with them to provide hats, scarves, mittens, and prayer shawls for disabled vets and the homeless. If you have been working on this project or if you wish to work on it, the DAV will be picking up donations Sunday, September 17, after they are blessed during service. There is a large box in the Supply Room (across from the meeting room) where you can place your items. The box is labeled "DAV hats, scarves, mittens". There are also boxes of yarn in that room which you can use for this purpose or any other project you are doing. All our donations will be given out in the Bristol area.

Days for Girls Pies

The ladies from the Days for Girls program have decided to make pies again this year. Carol Rivard who directs the program said orders will be taken starting in mid-September. Apple and Pumpkin will be available for \$15 a piece. See Carol Rivard at church or sign up in the office.

Jill Wilson's Ecuador Missionary Experience

"I recently joined a Volunteer in Mission team that was in Ecuador for a week. We were right on the equator, in the highlands of Ecuador. The local people were anticipating our presence. They practiced radical hospitality at its best. Bishop Silvio Cevallos welcomed us with gifts and explained how the purpose of the local church is to service the community. The Evangelical United Methodist Church of Ecuador is in the process of buying property to build a church that will serve as hub for activity in the local area, El Prado.

"Some of our team repainted the inside of an old cow barn that will be used as a community room. There also is an active children's program which provides after school activities and a healthy meal; we interacted with the children there. There were a LOT of children! Additionally, some of us worked in a clinical setting screening people and assisting the local doctors. Overall we saw about 250 people for health care. As always, the volunteer in mission experience is humbling, exciting, educational, spiritual and rewarding."



Middle Ages Renaissance Group Update

By Luisa Gladu, Middle Ages Chair

Oil/Heat Fund: We were able to donate \$3,500 towards the Oil/Heat Fund from the proceeds of the Renaissance Dinners. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make both evenings a huge success.

Relay for Life: We raised a total of \$5,377 and reached Gold Team Status. Our goal was to raise \$3,000 and I am so proud that our small but mighty team exceeded that goal! Plainville, Bristol and Southington have come together as one Relay event. A total of 1,377 Relay events were held in the United States. Below are the stats from our Relay Event June 3 and 4.

1. **Total Revenue:** Our Relay was #23 in the US.
2. **Sponsorship:** Our Relay was #10 raising over \$54,000.
3. **Event Lead Team:** Our Relay was #49 with 18 ELT members of which I'm proud to be the Publicity ELT
4. **Teams Registered:** We were #71 in the country with 46 registered teams.
5. **Participants Registered:** We were #134 with a total of 272 participants

The information above would not have been possible without such an amazing group of participants. I am so proud that Prospect United Methodist Church is represented in those numbers. We are tentatively planning for Wednesday, January 24, as the kick-off of the 2024 Relay for Life. More information to come.

Luisa Gladu, Team PUMC Captain and 10-year breast cancer survivor.



2023/2024 Upcoming Events

- **Breakfast with Santa:** Saturday, December 9, 8 a.m. to Noon. Tickets go on sale Sunday, December 9.
- **PUMC Holiday Open House:** Friday, December 15, 5 to 8 p.m.
- **Dinner Dance Relay Fundraiser:** Saturday, February 17, Luna's Banquet Hall, Bristol.
- **Renaissance Dinner Fundraiser:** Saturday, April 27, and Saturday, May 4.
- **Relay for Life:** Saturday, June 1 and Sunday, June 2, Norton Park, Plainville.
- **Breakfast with Santa:** Saturday, December 14.
- **PUMC Holiday Open House:** Friday, December 20, 5 to 8 p.m.

Nurture Team Plans

Mary Rogers

Chair, Nurture Team

- **Arts and Crafts Group:** Our Fall Start-Up Date will be Tuesday, Sept. 26, at 10 in the Meeting Room. All adults are welcome to attend.
- **Friends of Prospect Senior Luncheons:** The Fall Start-Up Luncheon will be the first Thursday of September, the 7th, at 11:30 at Espresso Cafe, 97 Maple Street.
- **Third Week Senior Luncheons:** The luncheons will now take place on Thursdays. The first one will be Oct. 19. Stay tuned for further details.

Education News

from Director Christa Zaldivar

VBS Heroes Recap

PUMC was filled with heroes this summer at Hero Hotline Vacation Bible School. 20 children from pre-school to grade 5 met the Professor and Super Meer, the meerkat, each evening to learn how they can live as heroes. Called Together to Serve God was the theme of this fun-filled and exciting adventure. Many thanks to these local heroes from the PUMC community: Jill Wilson, Carla Heister, Ron Baker, Mary Rogers and Carol Rivard, who inspired us with the ways they serve God. Also, thanks to all of the adult and youth helpers who guided our young heroes on their adventure! Always remember, heroes are called to Follow Jesus, Help Others, Work Together, Listen to God and Show Grace!



Rally Day Plans

The beginning of the new Sunday School year is nearly here! Sunday September 10th is our Rally Day! We are hosting a “Back to Sunday School BBQ,” following the 10 a.m. in the upper parking lot. Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Drinks, ice cream, and paper products will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Activities will include water balloons, relay races, pie-eating contest, and more! **\$10 is the suggested donation per family.** We will meet the Sunday School teachers for Pre-K through 7th grade and registration forms will be available. Sunday School classes at Prospect United Methodist Church will begin on Sunday September 17th. If you have any questions about our programs, please contact Christa Zaldivar at cjw02@hotmail.com or (917) 386-8599.



Back-to-School Backpack Drive

“Thank you so much to everyone who donated Backpacks and school supplies for Covenant To Care for Children. Our adopted social worker, Alex Agreda, was able to pick up 17 filled backpacks! She was very grateful for these donations.”

With much appreciation,
June Schilling, Chair



UMCOR Helping Maui Survivors

Wind-driven wildfires on Maui have prompted evacuations and caused significant loss of life and widespread damage. UMCOR is coordinating with the California-Pacific Annual Conference to process an initial grant for emergency supplies such as shelf-stable food, water, hygiene items and tools to help survivors recover belongings. As first responders continue to provide initial aid in the area, please join UMCOR in prayer for those affected.

Gifts can be made in the following ways:

- Online at <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/901670>;
- By toll-free telephone call: 1-888-252-6174;
- By check made out to Global Ministries/ UMCOR with "Advance #901670-Hawaii" written on the memo line and mailed to Global Ministries/UMCOR, GPO, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY, 10087-9068;
- By check made out to Global Ministries/ UMCOR with "Advance #901670-Hawaii" written on the memo line and given to any United Methodist church.

Outreach at Rockwell Park



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