

THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

November 2023

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Pastor's Page

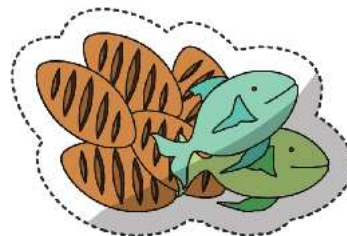
GIVE, AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU!

"Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back." (Luke 6:38)

Last Sunday, I was struck fresh by a child. She sold apple cider to support the church's finances and those who fight with cancer. I couldn't believe that a child, only in the first grade of elementary school, was raising money. So I asked her parents, "Did you guys make this happen?" And they said, "No. she wants to do it." This is not the first time, but she has already done it seven times at home, street, or at school. Last summer, I heard that she sold lemonade in front of her house in hot weather.

I thought her heart was from God, not from parents or teachers. Jesus said, "You cannot come to heaven unless you are like a child." Watching Averie reminded me of the miracle of five loaves and two fish. Jesus asked Philip to get meals for about 5,000 people. He couldn't get bread in the wilderness and needed about 200 denarions (\$20,000), but he had no money. He said to Jesus, "I can't do anything."

But this time, Andrew took a child with him to Jesus and said, "Here are five loaves and two fish. But I don't know if it's enough to feed all these people." Jesus didn't tell Andrew that it was "too little." When he took the bread, thanked God, and distributed it to the people, over 5000 people ate and 12 baskets left.



Sometimes adults' reasonable knowledge prevents God's grace and gives up in advance. But we sometimes need a child-like pure heart and thoughts that inspire children, too. Not our knowledge and experience, but when we put ours down and give something small with a pure heart like a child, the blessing to be fuller and share comes to us. November 19th is Pledge Sunday. We must remember the grace God has given us with Thanksgiving and give our gifts to God with our gratitude and faith in protecting our lives and health and taking care of our homes and workplaces in the New Year.

Our budget of our church is currently short about \$30,000 a year. About 70 families donate offerings to our church. If a family contributes about \$400 a year, our finances will be covered. If we eat out, it costs about \$25 per person. If you sacrifice eating out once a month and donate money to the church like a child, our church's finances will be better. With the same feeling as a child, when you give something small to Jesus, you will be filled with greater grace. Jesus said, "Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap." Through giving and sharing, may you taste and experience the miracle of five loaves and two fish in your life.

Pastor Yongyeun Lee

Nurture Team

Mary Rogers, Chair, Nurture Team

■ Arts and Crafts Group

The Arts and Crafts group painted wooden pumpkins and fall leaves as gifts for those who will be visited in November (see picture). At the next class on Tuesday, November 14, the group will start making Christmas Cards.



■ Luncheons

The luncheons that usually take place during the third week of the month will not be held in November or December because of Thanksgiving and Christmas. Luncheons will resume in January.

Middle Ages Renaissance Group Update

By Luisa Gladu, Middle Ages Chair

Sunday, November 19: Holiday Magic Craft Boutique, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Luna's Banquet Hall, King St., Bristol, Fundraiser for Relay for Life Teams Team PUMC and Patty's Pride. Free Admission!

Stop in and do some shopping for a good cause. Unique Vendors, Coffee, Pastries and Light Lunch available for purchase and Raffle Prizes.

Our premiere raffle item is a handmade quilt — "Angels Among Us" is designed by Jim Shore, known for his collectible Angel figures. Pieced and quilted by PUMC member and Building Blocks Together Quilt Guild member Melissa Brown.

The quilt valued at \$300 has been generously donated by Melissa and the lucky winner will be drawn at the February 17 Relay Dinner Dance Fundraiser.

Breakfast with Santa is canceled.

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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Join us for the Annual Bristol Interfaith Thanksgiving Service We will come together as a community of many faiths, joined in our gratitude for each other and for the blessings we share. Our 2023 theme is GRATITUDE. Wednesday, November 22, 7:30 p.m. Saint Joseph's Church, 33 Queen Street, Bristol, CT (also live streamed on our Facebook page) Organized by Bristol Interfaith Coalition. A collection will be taken for Prudence Crandall Center. The Center is a leader in reducing the devastating impacts of domestic violence in the lives of survivors, their children, and our communities. For information on how to make a monetary or supply donation, visit prudencecrandall.org/donate or see the Bristol Interfaith Coalition Facebook page.



Education News

from Director Christa Zaldivar

■ Bible Sunday

The Bible is the living word of the living God. Prospect United Methodist Church has a long-standing tradition of giving each third grade Sunday school student a gift of the Holy Bible. (If there are any children above 3rd grade who have not yet received a Bible from us, we would certainly like to include them too!). We will mark this faith milestone by presenting Bibles during the 10 a.m. worship service on Sunday, November 19. It is essential for families to sign up in advance to reserve their child's Bible.



Please contact Christa Zaldivar at (917) 386-8599 or cjw02@hotmail.com to reserve your child's Bible. Thank you!

■ Giving Sunday 2023

The PUMC Sunday School children will be hosting a collection for Zion Lutheran Food Pantry on Sunday, November 19. We will be collecting the following items for our neighbors, at each entrance of the sanctuary. Please consider contributing to help the less fortunate in our local community:

- Pasta/Rice
- Sauce
- Tuna Fish
- Cereal
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Canned Fruits
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Soup



APPLE CIDER FUNDRAISER

Averie DiManno and her cousin Sophia raised a total of \$220 on Sunday, October 29th with their pop-up Apple Cider Fundraiser. They offered hot or cold apple cider, handcrafted bracelets and homemade beef jerky.

Sevn-year-old Averie wanted to raise money for the Oil Fund and for Relay for Life Team PUMC. Her nine-year-old cousin Sophia wanted to help as her grandmother is currently fighting a cancer diagnosis

\$110 will go towards the PUMC Oil Fund and \$110 will go towards the American Cancer Society Relay for Life Plainville-Bristol-Southington - Team PUMC

Averie & Sophia said they just want to help people. Great job girls!

A very heartfelt thank you to the parents who are raising caring and compassionate young ladies.

UNICEF Collection Total

Prospect United Methodist Church Sunday School collected \$190.85 during Trick or Treating for UNICEF on October 20. Thanks to all who contributed to this worthy cause. Because of you, more children around the world will have better access to vaccination, nutrition, and education! Thank you again!



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