



THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

January 2024

Vol. 88, No.1

Pastor's Page

PRESS ON TOWARD THE GOAL!

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.

Famous French novelist, Consuel Saint-Exupery (1900-1944) told a story as follows. An airplane that was crossing the continent crashed into the vast desert due to engine failure and lack of fuel. Soon all passengers were in danger of losing their lives due to the lack of food and drinks in the middle of the desert, where the sun was blazing. They decided to look in all directions in groups of people to ask for help. They looked for miles in different directions, but it was in vain. Days passed by. They had to take more daring steps, seized by the fear of death.

One day, they set fire to the wreckage of the plane and eliminated the target of returning to the scene of the disaster. Fortunately, they split up and found a village. If they found it, they would live, if they didn't, they would die. They agreed to die in the desert. After making this decision, when they desperately tried for their life, they finally found a village, and all the passengers came to live. A new horizon of life can be seen even when the line connected to the past is boldly cut off.

If you look at today in the sense that it is the result of yesterday, you cannot ignore the past at all. However, this past should not be allowed to dominate today's life. Some people always keep in mind the difficult and miserable things and mistakes of the past, and cannot get out of regret and blame, saying, 'If I didn't do that then, I wouldn't have been like this.' We should learn the wisdom of living today boldly without being tied to the past.

St. Paul said to the Philippians, "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. We have different ideas and different ways." We must continue to move forward with our goals, forgetting what lies behind us. Last year, we made three Ministry Action Plans: prayer, small group, and community connection. First, we will continue to pray for ourselves and for the church. During Lent, we will continue to have a prayer seminar following last year. Secondly, we will continue to have small groups with class meetings. We will reorganize the class meeting and the class leaders. We will meet at least once a month. Thirdly, we will continue to serve and reach out to the community. We will serve our neighbors in need through the Days for Girls ministry and a new quilt ministry. Brian's Angels and Meals for Neighbors teams will continue to serve the meals once a month. Let's forget what is behind us, look ahead, and continue to deliver the love of Christ to our neighbors.

Pastor Yongyeun Lee



Education News

from Director Christa Zaldivar

Souper Bowl of Caring Celebrates 34 Years of Giving and Serving

It is projected that 100 million people will be tuning in to watch the 58th Super Bowl game on Sunday, February 11th, while in 2022, over 60 million people turned to food banks and community programs for help putting food on the table.



Souper Bowl of Caring gives people the chance to help those who are in need and to think of those who do not even have a bowl of soup to eat.

This year marks the 34th anniversary of the first Souper Bowl of Caring, when 22 churches in Columbia, SC raised \$5,700 for local hunger-relief charities. Since then, young people have rallied schools, churches, businesses and community leaders to work together to raise over \$170 million.

Please bring your loose change or dollar bills to church on February 11th! Our Sunday School Children will be collecting at the church entrances and we will be sharing our donations with Zion Lutheran Food Pantry! Thank you!

Nurture Team

Mary Rogers, Chair, Nurture Team

■ Luncheons

The next Senior Luncheon will be held at 11:30 on February 15 in Sessions Hall. This will be a baked potato lunch with all the fixings as well as side salads and dessert. Please join us.

■ Art and Craft Class

At the Art and Crafts Class on January 23, we made some cute snowmen. The next class will be February 13 where we will be experimenting with a collage art form with cut-outs and used postage stamps. The collage is to be a reflection of the personality of the individual making the collage. Majority of materials are supplied; however, if you have something personal you want added, be sure to bring it.

If you can, please join us for the fun. Snow/ice date will be February 27.

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

Contact Us:

Phone: (860) 582-3443

E-Mail Addresses:
yongyeunlee@gmail.com
(pastor)
prospectoffice@snet.net
(all general information and
information necessary for the
Church Secretary.)

Website:
www.anewprospect.org

Prospect Tower:
Editor: Kathy Dube
Layout: Jeanette Baker



Middle Ages Group Update

By Luisa Gladu, Middle Ages Chair

Final Event for Middle Ages Group

The February Relay for Life Fundraiser will be the last event sponsored by the Middle Ages Group. Gary and I would like to thank everyone who has ever supported us in our events by volunteering, donating food, materials or purchasing tickets.

The events were always a labor of love for us, even though many saw it as a lot of work. Our goal / mission was for the community to see how alive and active our church was.

At each event we were able to talk about the ministries that PUMC offered with guests while they enjoyed some delicious food, fun and fellowship. They would leave with a brochure of PUMC, of who we were and an open invitation to come worship with us

Over the past 20 years the Middle Ages Group raised money that went towards the Organ Restoration Fund, Building Fund, Oil / Heat Fund and helped purchase a dolly for the piano in the choir room so it could be moved without damage.

The Victorian Tea, Renaissance Dinners and Breakfast with Santa became Annual family traditions for many. We saw children attend with their parents, then come back as adults to participate and help us. We also had patrons who attended an event come back and volunteer to help us put it on!

The Family Movie and Karaoke Nights and Mardi Gras Sunday were not as much work to put on but they brought us so much joy. Watching the children sing, dance and shine will be something we will miss as it was always a great time.

As a cancer survivor and caretaker to my mother who lost her battle with cancer, Relay for Life has been very important to me. Serving as Team Captain for Team PUMC has been an honor and a pleasure. I have always been proud of our small but mighty team and so thankful to everyone who helped us not only reach our goal but exceed it.

I'm happy to announce that Laura Taylor will be taking over as Team Captain for Team PUMC this year. I am certain she will do a wonderful job. Save the date for the Relay for Life walk which is June 1 and 2 at Norton Park, Plainville.

I will be giving Laura an update on how much money was raised at the February 17 event that will go towards Team PUMC and Team Patty's Pride to be reported in the next Tower.

Once again, to those of you who supported Gary and I and the Middle Ages group and our mission, thank you for your time, your talents and your kindness.

We wish you continued health, happiness and blessings!

Luisa and Gary Gladu

Annual Valentines Dinner Dance Fundraiser

When: Saturday, February 17, 6 to 10 p.m.;

Where: Luna's Banquet Hall, 360 King St., Bristol.

Tickets at \$35 per person includes Appetizers, Dinner, Dessert, Coffee/Tea and DJ; Cash Bar and Raffle Prizes.



Please contact Luisa Gladu to purchase tickets and reserve your table at TheGladus@comcast.net or (860) 582-8383.

Thanks for Christmas Donations

June Schilling, Prospect's coordinator for Covenant to Care, thanks everyone who took a tag and brought in gifts for the holiday period: "We were able to provide 33 gifts through our partnership with Covenant to Care for Children. Our adopted social worker (Aleks Agreda) was very grateful when she picked up the gifts. Aleks and I thank you so much for your generosity!"

June Schilling

We were able to provide 33 gifts through our partnership with Covenant to Care for Children.



Thank You!



Soup for Sale

The PUMC Soup Ladies will again be selling their delicious soup during Lent. Soup will be sold beginning on Sunday, February 18, through March 10. Two types of soup will be available each Sunday, all sold to go. Soup choices will be announced each week.

Soup will be sold in quarts for \$10 and pints for \$5. Proceeds will benefit the budget deficit.



2023 Christmas Pageant



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