



THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

March 2024

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Pastor's Page

RESTORE YOUR BODY AND SOUL!

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:
The old has gone, the new is here!" (2 Corinthians 5:17)*



A few days ago, my second son, Ben, made maple syrup at the lab where he works. He developed a program to teach the local people how to make maple syrup. During the fall, trees remove moisture from their bodies to prepare for the cold winter. It is a way not to freeze to death in the winter. And as the leaves change color and fall, the tree leaves nothing but dried branches. When they feel spring, their bodies begin to prepare for the season by growing leaves, spreading out new branches, and preparing for flowers and fruits. The best time to make maple syrup is when water rises from the root to the tree. Maple trees give us good gifts in spring.

God has prepared us for the spiritual spring. It is Lent preparing for spring. Lent is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word "lencten," which means "length," and means spring. Although Lent is the name given because it is seasonal spring, we can think of the meaning of new life. In particular, 40 days is set in the Bible, which means 40 days of Noah's flood, 40 days of fasting that Jesus prepared his ministry, 40 days of Moses' time to receive the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai, and 40 days of Elijah's waiting to receive God's revelation on Mount Horeb. Therefore, during this period, we can have a period of deep awareness of our sins and the necessity of God's grace.

Jesus prayed in the wilderness by fasting for 40 days to prepare for his ministry. The most widely known spiritual exercise of Lent is fasting. Some people fast for breakfast, others for lunch or dinner. But here, fasting does not just mean skipping meals. The fast must lead to prayer and is to get closer to God through prayer. Skipping meals is not necessarily the only way to fast. Some Christians fast for 40 days on sugar, soft drinks, meat, or coffee to keep their bodies clean. Another form of fasting is not to eat out or reduce the number of times during Lent. Instead, it is recommended to help disadvantaged people by saving up on eating out. If this is not acceptable, you can fast in electronic devices. You can fast one day a week or a certain amount of time on social media, including TVs, Facebook, Instagram, text messages, Netflix, and emails. Fasting can be donated for poor and marginalized neighbors on Easter by not only restoring the relationship between oneself and God, but also saving money for meals, food, and beverages that have been shared with the needy people.

All spiritual training in Lent is to return its focus from ourselves to God. Prayer, meditation, or studying the Bible must go hand in hand to do this. You can spend part of your daily life focusing on God, praying while walking, writing prayers in notes, or quietly listening to God's voice. You can read one of the Bible or participate in the early morning devotional or the Lenten Bible Study to get closer to Jesus. Or you can examine your faith and develop your spiritual power by reading the Upper Room of the United Methodist Church.

During Lent, we have 40-Day Morning Devotional with our parish pastors and laity. Sharing each other's spiritual experiences gives comfort, strength, and courage. It's a good time to discover one's lost faith again and build it strong. If you fast during Lent, refrain from eating or drinking, and return to God through prayer and meditation, the next step is to serve and share with your neighbors. Also, some Christians, who cannot fast for a variety of reasons, serve, help, and share with their neighbors on behalf of the fast. Fasting can help disadvantaged neighbors or the homeless with money raised by individuals or families. Local homeless shelters, nursing homes, and prison services can be served for an hour a week.

I hope that we will focus our bodies and souls on God again, move closer to God through prayer and meditation, and experience a life of resurrection by serving and sharing with neighbors. We will prepare traditional services for Lent as follows: Maundy Thursday Service with Agape Meal: March, 6 p.m.; Parish Joint Good Friday Service: Mar. 29, 7 p.m., Plainville UMC.

Pastor Yongyeun Lee

SIMPLIFIED LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE LIKELY

Approximately 30 people attended a working meeting after the 10 a.m. Sunday worship service on March 3rd to learn about a possible reorganization of Prospect's administrative and ministry structure. Under consideration is a possible shift from the current structure of separate committees for Trustees, Finance, Church Council and Staff Parish Relations to a Simplified Leadership Structure as detailed in the book "Mission: Possible for the Small Church."

EXPANDED THIRD EDITION!
New Resources, Activities, and Checklists

MISSION: POSSIBLE



A Simple Structure for Missional Effectiveness

Kay Kotan & Blake Bradford

Tim Krauss, co-chair of the Church Council, explained the proposed change would be a Simplified and Accountable Structure designed for a small church. Pastor Yongyeun Lee agreed to contact our District Superintendent, Rev. Alpher Sylvester, requesting approval to move forward with the change. Those present voted in the affirmative to proceed with the change if approval is given by the District Superintendent.

Once approval is received, a committee of the following volunteers will begin shepherding the process: Heidi Flower, Gerry Lee, Beth Provost, Jackie Palance, Susan Powers, Melissa Brown and Mary Rogers. As the process moves forward, frequent communication will be shared with the congregation and open "town hall" meetings will be scheduled.

Stay tuned!

Nurture Team News

Mary Rogers, Chair, Nurture Team



■ Senior Luncheon: 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 21. We will be having a tea complete with various types of tea for tasting, multiple choices of little sandwiches, and desserts. If you don't normally attend and would like to join us for the tea, please let Mary Rogers know so we are set up with enough place settings. We will have fun socializing and doing a little word puzzle before the luncheon.

■ Arts and Crafts: The class recently constructed personal collages. (See pictures). The next class is Tuesday, March 12, when we will be making Easter cards. Then on Tuesday, March 26, we will make a small wall hanging picturing a butterfly. Classes are held in the meeting room at 10 a.m. Supplies are provided. Please join us for the fun.

■ Team Meeting: The next team meeting is Thursday, March 14. We will be discussing our home visitations as well as other business.

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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Easter Flowers

Orders are currently being taken for Easter flowers. The cost is \$15 each. For those wishing to take the plants home, they will be available after the worship service on Easter. Please submit orders during worship service or to the office no later than March 25. Please indicate number of plants, in honor or memory of, and given by in the your order.



Middle Ages Group Update

By Luisa Gladu, Middle Ages Chair

Relay Fundraiser Total

The Relay for Life Annual Valentines Dinner Dance Fundraiser on February 17 went very well according to Luisa Gladu who is long involved with the charitable project: "We raised a total of \$1,710 with will be split between Team PUMC and Team Patty's Pride. A total of \$855 was deposited into each teams accounts.

"The 'Angels Among Us Quilt' that was pieced and sewn by Melissa Brown was won by Cheryl McNeal. Thank you Melissa for donated such a beautiful quilt and piece of art. Thank you to all who purchased tickets for the dance and prizes, your support was appreciated as always.

"Save the date for the 2024 Relay for Life which will be held on Saturday, June 1, in Norton Park, Plainville, starting at 10 a.m. Saturday to 9 a.m..Sunday, June 2.

"Come on out and support the Teams that will be set up and walking the track throughout the day and night. There will be food, themed laps and entertainment throughout the day and night.

"Please see your new Team PUMC Captain, Laura Taylor should you wish to donate towards Team PUMC or purchase luminary bags for the track."

Education News

from Director Christa Zaldivar

■ Souper Bowl of Caring Total

Our Sunday School's "Souper Bowl of Caring" Collection yielded \$243.44. Director Christa Zaldivar notes: "As we enjoyed the Super Bowl football game, we were mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat. Thank you all for giving from your hearts! We have donated the entire amount to Zion Lutheran Church 'Meals for Neighbors'."



A banner for an Easter Egg Hunt. It features a light blue background with colorful bunting flags (blue, green, yellow, red) at the top. The text "EASTER EGG HUNT" is written in large, bold, green letters. Below this, a pink banner contains the text "Easter Sunday: March 31, 2024". Underneath the pink banner, it says "Outside on church grounds Following 10am Worship". At the bottom, there are illustrations of pink bunny ears, a striped Easter egg, a checkered Easter egg, and a blue Easter egg with a flower.

- Please bring your own basket.
- We will have separate sections for different ages.

**PROSPECT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
99 SUMMER STREET
BRISTOL, CT 06010
Dated Material - Please Do Not Hold**

Return Service Requested