



THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

Spring 2024

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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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Message from Pastor

Live with the Power of Resurrection

If Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain.” (1 Corinthians 15:14)

Hallelujah! Christ is risen!



When the Russia-Japanese War came to an end in 1895, a terrifying epidemic swept through Korea. Cholera broke out and killed 700 to 1,000 people a day. The spread of the disease was so fast that there was no countermeasure. People were afraid to move the bodies of their families in their houses. When one person in their family contracted the disease, they all avoided the patient and the patient died after suffering from it alone.

At that time, American missionaries and Christians wore the cross on their chests and bathed the bodies, politely taking them to coffins for funerals, and visiting patients whose families had abandoned them to disinfect and treat them, saving many people's lives. Because of this, many people who persecuted and hated Christianity as a Western religion had a good impression of Christianity, and King Kojong began to admire Christians. The Confucianists who persecuted Christianity as an undutiful religion highly valued Christianity. This is because Christians collected the bodies of their abandoned parents and provided careful funeral services. Since then, Christianity has been revived speedily in Korea. This is the image of Christians living in the power of Jesus' resurrection.

The reason Christians don't fear death is because they believe in Jesus, who is alive. When Jesus was crucified on the cross, the disciples scattered. But after meeting Jesus of resurrection, they gathered again in the upper room and they all became the witnesses of Jesus' resurrection. The change of Jesus' disciples is the most reliable evidence of Jesus' resurrection. No one can die for lies. The reason that all the disciples went on the path of martyrdom while preaching the gospel was because they saw the resurrection of Jesus.

The warm energy and power of spring melts the frozen snow and brings everything back to life. With the power of Jesus' resurrection, we must rise and walk again. On April 14, we shared our joys and prayer concerns through the class meeting after the 10 a.m. worship. On April 27, we had supper with friends at Sessions Hall. Swedish meatballs are served over egg noodles, vegetables, and desserts. I hope many of you will share the joy of resurrection and taste the goodness of Jesus through these events.

Happy Easter Season!
Pastor Yongyeun Lee

■ Investigative Team for SAS

Respectfully submitted by your Investigative Team.

In early March at our Town Meeting in Sessions Hall, the congregation agreed to investigate the transition to a Simplified Accountable Structure (SAS) for PUMC. A team of seven individuals was appointed to the investigative team: Melissa Brown, Heidi Flower, Gerry Lee, Jackie Palance, Beth Provost, Susan Powers and Mary Rogers.

According to the Book of Discipline we were not allowed to proceed with the investigation until approved in writing by the District Superintendent. We have received that approval, so we had our first meeting where we agreed on joint leaders of the group, Heidi Flower and Sue Powers, committee protocols, and the importance of communication with the congregation. We agreed on Tower articles, town meetings, and email blasts where needed as forms of communication.

At this first meeting, we also reviewed our current structure. We thought this was important, so we don't leave anything out of any newly proposed structure. We also reviewed the reasons for change. The guidelines suggested ranking each for efficiency, alignment, missional focus, accountability and adaptability.

In discussing the ranking, we decided that each is equally important and may need to be addressed individually in separate phases of our investigation. We met again at the end of April. Stay tuned for further updates.

■ Easter Baskets for Covenant to Care

June Schilling, Prospect Church's coordinator for Covenant to Care, expressed thanks for Easter Basket donations: "Thank you so much to all who donated baskets to this year's Easter Basket drive. We were able to donate so many beautiful baskets to our adopted social worker, Aleks, on Sunday, March 24. These baskets were greatly appreciated."



On April 18th at 11:30 a.m. in Sessions Hall we had a luncheon featuring pasta fare. Attendees got to brush up on their Italian facts during the word game "All About Italiano."

The Craft Group met on the second and fourth Fridays in April at 10 a.m. in the meeting room.

■ Volunteer Opportunity

We received a call from Sheridan Woods asking for a team of volunteers who would be interested in developing a religious connection with some of their residents. This would be a team effort (2-5 people) who would visit as a team together with 4-10 residents in a meeting room for about an hour (during the day) on a monthly basis. The Prospect Team would include Mary Rogers and Susan Thayer. If you are interested in joining this team, please contact Mary or Susan. Mary discussed this with Sheridan Woods and we would plan to start up in the Fall. Once we form the team, we would meet together to discuss how and when we would like to proceed.

■ Nurture Team News

Mary Rogers, Nurture Team Chair



Third Thursday Lunch Group: The group had a tea for its March luncheon. A pleasant time was had by all. There were many choices of type of tea, sandwiches and desserts.

■ PUMC History Talks

Vivian Brackett, who chairs PUMC's History Committee, has been giving talks on the early history of the church at the 10 a.m. service. The first talk was on the early history of the church which was situated on West Street where the Seventh Day Adventist Church is located today. More recently she reviewed the role of industrialist John Humphrey Sessions in the growth of the church and will continue more in depth the vital role his son William E. Sessions played. In fact, one of the stained glass windows in the sanctuary is a tribute to the Sessions Family.

■ Supper with Friends

Saturday, April 27, found Sessions Hall humming with soft music, buzzing with conversations and brimming with wonderful aromas. A delightful meal of homemade Swedish meatballs, egg noodles, roasted carrots, cranberry compote and homemade cookies greeted the attendees. Sessions Hall was decorated with colorful centerpieces made by the Tuesday Craft Group.

Many volunteers worked together undertaking grocery shopping, chopping, cooking and serving. Thank you to everyone who participated to make the evening a success. The profit of approximately \$600 goes to the General Fund.



■ Early Prospect Church Women Helped Create the Spicer Quilt

Some Prospect Methodist Church women helped create the Spicer Quilt displayed in the attached post by the Bristol Historical Society in its In Retrospect: Bristol Preserved series. The quilt was made by Myra Spicer and members of the Honeybunch, which included many Prospect Church members. Our church was then known simply as Prospect Methodist Church. Myra was one of the Prospect Church members to tragically die in the Hurricane of 1938 during an outing to Stony Creek with four friends. The post refers to William E. Sessions, a son of John Humphrey Sessions. Both men were very influential to the early growth of this church.

In Retrospect: Bristol Preserved

At the Bristol Historical Society, part of our mission is to collect items from Bristol's past and preserve them for current and future generations. Each of the 366 items that we will highlight in 2024 tells a story about Bristol or gives a glimpse into what the lives of those who lived here were like. We hope this "online exhibit" from the collection gives you a window into Bristol's past.

April 27 - Spicer Quilt

This lightweight quilt featuring colonial scenes was made in 1929 by Myra Moseetta Spicer and members of a group to which she belonged called the Honeybunch, many of whom were members of Prospect Methodist Church. Myra was the wife of Walter Spicer, private secretary to William E. Sessions (founder of Sessions Clock, Sessions Foundry, and the owner of Beleden). Spicer was among the handful of Bristol victims of the devastating hurricane of 1938. She was in Stony Creek traveling along with 4 of her friends at the time. The quilt was donated by Bruce and Helen Graham, grandson of Walter and Myra Spicer.





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