



THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

Summer 2024

Vol. 88, No. 3

Prospect United Methodist Church

Founded 1834

99 Summer Street
Bristol, CT 06010

Rev. William S. Barnes
Pastor Emeritus
Heidi Flower Director of Music
& Organist

Worship
10:00 am Sanctuary

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Final Message from Pastor Lee before his reassignment to the New Milford UMC as of July 1, 2024

Keep Going, Keep Growing

Grace and peace to you all Prospect!

Now is the time to say 'goodbye.' The past four years have passed by so fast like the wind. As I packed my moving stuff, my memories with you flash like photographs.

With the centennial pandemic, I came here 4 years ago. I remember setting up a tent in the yard to greet you because we couldn't meet face-to-face. I am grateful for your warm hearts and warm welcome. As the in-person worship service began, I had a lot of trouble identifying your faces because of the masks you were wearing. It took me about a year to recognize your faces and names.



My pastoring for the last four years has been a new experience and a fun time. Ohyeun and I joined the Choir and the handbell choir, sang songs and played the handbells. I enjoyed our bi-weekly arts and crafts activities where we painted and made cards together. I enjoyed having a relaxing and rest time.

The senior luncheons have been a lot of fun at church and at restaurants. I looked forward to it every time because I like to eat something special. It was a chance to try different kinds of soups and a great opportunity to taste different food at the restaurants around the neighborhood. It was meaningful not only for the food but also to celebrate our birthdays every month. I loved Christmas breakfast events. It was very funny to invite our family and friends and to celebrate Jesus' birthday. We shared the food with our families and friends.

I enjoyed small group meetings like a Bible study group, class meeting, and lay leaders' meetings. I appreciate all the lay leaders who brought commitment and cooperation to our church. Through these meetings, I got to know you more deeply, became closer, and built a strong relationship with you. I enjoyed the church picnic and VBS with our children. Being with them was always exciting and joyful.

Other than that, I enjoyed serving the community. Sharing the love and grace of Christ with our neighbors is so important, whether it's through serving food to Brian Angels, Meals for Neighbors, Day for Girls, the Relay for Life, and Animal blessing Sunday, etc. I would like to thank all of you for your prayers and support to help me complete my ministry successfully.

I always remember what the president told me when I entered the seminary in Seoul, South Korea. He said that we Methodist pastors must always be prepared for three things. The first is to always have a sermon ready. The second is to always be ready to move. And the third is to always be prepared to die. In my 30 years of pastoring, the hardest thing for me is to be ready to move. According to apostolic tradition, our Methodist pastors must be itinerary. We have to move here and there. It's exciting, but it's also very stressful because you have to say goodbye to people you've known and move to a new place. God always leads us on a different mission and a different path to grow. Even though you may be on a different path in a different place, I hope you will continue to run for Christ's calling until the end.

I pray and bless you in the name of the Lord that you may keep going and keep growing spiritually, relying on God alone and winning the final victory.

UPDATE FROM STAFF, PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

"We hope you all had an opportunity to say goodbye to our full-time Pastor Rev. Yongyeun and Mrs. Ohyeun Lee at the good-bye pot luck luncheon on June 2nd and again on the 23rd after Pastor Lee's last sermon with us before leaving for his new position in New Milford.

"We recently received word from our District Superintendent Rev. Alpher Sylvester that a part-time pastor is not available for assignment to PUMC at this time. Sadly, there is a shortage of pastors.

"However, we have good news! We are a member of the MidState Cooperative Parish Council of the New York Annual Conference. Seven area churches are members. The council hosts meetings with church committee chairmen for support and the exchange of ideas. The council hopes to plan events for member church participation. An important goal is to support and nurture the member churches and it will be assisting us in our pastoral needs.

"Rev. Carol Bloom, Pastor of Grace Methodist Church in Southington, will coordinate pastoral coverage for us. The member churches will provide pastors, lay leaders plus retired pastors to help fill our pulpit and provide other assistance as needed, such as meetings, funerals, weddings, etc.

"This is an exciting time for us in a number of ways that includes an opportunity to get to know our sister churches and benefit in our growth as Christians.

Our sister churches welcome one another. They include: Grace UMC in Southington, UMC in Cheshire, First UMC in Wallingford, UMC in Yalesville, Asbury UMC in Forestville, UMC in Plainville, UMC in Durham which is linked to Wallingford UMC in a single charge, Middlefield Federated and our church, Prospect PUMC.

"The MidState Cooperative Parish Council has a Facebook group that you are invited to join. In the coming weeks and months it will be a source to learn about events and plans taking place at the member churches. You can find it under the name of MidState Cooperative Parish.

"We are indeed blessed! This may not be what we prayed for, but our loving God has provided for us. Praise be to God.

"Sunday, July 7 was our first Sunday coordinated by Pastor Bloom with Pastor Eric Fjeldal, a retired Elder of the New York Annual Conference currently residing in Newington, as guest pastor. He also preached on July 21. Preaching on July 14 was Tom Kiely, lay servant from Grace UMC followed by Maggie Carr, lay servant from First and Summerfield UMC, on July 28.

The preaching schedule the rest of the summer is as follows:

- Rev. Dr. Alpher Sylvester, our District Superintendent, on Aug. 4;
- Terry Spencer, Lay Servant, Grace UMC on Aug. 11;
- Bill King, Lay Servant, Asbury UMC on Aug. 18;
- Tim Krauss, Lay Servant, Prospect UMC, on Aug. 25; and
- Rev. John Thomason on Sept. 1.

“Pastor Bloom is in charge of pastoral care during July. She will provide pastoral care until the August coverage is announced. MidState Cooperative Parish clergy meet monthly and the meeting on August 1 will be held at Prospect.

“A schedule is being developed for Parish clergy who will be assigned to fill the pastor’s role on our church committees. The current assignments are below and others will be announced as they are finalized:

- Church Council and Finance Committee: Rev. Carol Bloom;
- Staff-Parish Relations Committee and Trustees: Rev. Ken Kieffer, Cheshire UMC, who some may remember as a past District Superintendent.”

Melissa Brown
SPRC Chairman

MISSION OPPORTUNITY!

Church Council approved a new, local mission opportunity. On the third Sunday of each month beginning July 21, 2024, we will provide 40 cold meat and cheese sandwiches, 2 cases of water bottles and a box of variety chips to Brian's Angels (the local outreach program housed at Prospect). The program provides those items to their clients six days a week. On that third Sunday, you will have the chance to help assemble the sandwiches - all of the needed items will be provided. There will be a sign-up sheet in Sessions Hall for you to volunteer. Three to four people will be needed each month. There will be a donation basket on the sandwich assembly table. Please consider donating to this project to offset the cost.



SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED IN JUNE

Two college-bound high school graduates with ties to Prospect UMC were awarded scholarships on Sunday June 9. Angelina Fasci received the Seery Scholarship and Kai Limeburner the Prospect Scholarship. Their essays are below so you can get to know them. Angelina will attend University of St. Joseph to study nursing and Kai attends Independent Electrical Contractors of New England in Rocky Hill.

Angelina Fasci: Finding a way to make my life count in a chaotic world.

“In the world of everyday chaos, finding ways to make life count can seem daunting. Yet, it’s essential for cultivating a sense of purpose and happiness. There are some strategies to help navigate through the chaos and make every moment worthwhile.

“Firstly, embracing mindfulness is a powerful tool. It allows us to be present in the moment, appreciating life as it unfolds, rather than being lost in the chaos. This can be practiced through meditation, spending quiet time in nature, or simply being fully engaged in whatever task is at hand.

“Secondly, setting clear goals is crucial. Goals give us direction and a benchmark for what we consider meaningful. Whether it’s career achievements, personal skills development, or contributing to the community, having clear objectives helps us focus our efforts in a chaotic world.

“Furthermore, maintaining strong connections with supportive people is invaluable. Relationships provide emotional support, practical help, and a sense of belonging. They remind us that we are not alone in our journey, providing comfort and motivation during tough times. Additionally, practicing gratitude can significantly shift our perspective on life. By regularly acknowledging what we are thankful for, we focus more on what we have rather than what we lack. This fosters positivity and helps us cope with stress and adversity.



“Lastly, giving back to the community can enrich our lives and add a layer of fulfillment. Whether it’s volunteering, mentoring, or any form of helping others, making a positive impact in the lives of others brings meaning and satisfaction to our own lives. Family and faith are like beacons of light in a chaotic world. They provide not only a sense of belonging and comfort but also guidance and strength when everything else seems uncertain.

“Leaning on family ties can offer emotional support and practical help, reinforcing the idea that you’re not alone in facing life’s challenges. Similarly, a strong faith can anchor you, providing a sense of purpose and direction when external circumstances are tumultuous. Together, they can help you navigate the chaos with a clearer vision and a steadier heart, making every moment count by emphasizing what truly matters in life.

“To conclude, even though the world can be chaotic, we have the power to shape our journey through mindfulness, goal-setting, nurturing relationships, practicing gratitude, giving back, and much more. These actions do not only make life count but also enhance our happiness and well-being in a chaotic world.”

Kai Limeburner: Finding A Way To Make My Life Count In A Chaotic World

“The definition of chaos is ‘A complete confusion and disorder or a state in which behavior and events are not controlled by anything.’

“When I look at the first part of this definition, it makes me feel anxious. The words confusion and disorder carry a sense of disruption. In some sense, the state of chaos is where teenagers are as we try to find our path into adulthood. Up until this point, our decisions were made for us. Where we went to school, where we went on vacation, what to eat for dinner ... we did not have to think about it. As I graduated high school and was able to make a few of my own choices in life, it was freeing. However this freedom also brought confusion and disorder, the very definition of chaos! What if I make the wrong choice about school? What if I don’t succeed? What if I disappoint my family? How do I make my life count?

“The second part of the definition of chaos, a state in which behavior and events are not controlled by anything, is not any less scary. There are so many things in life that are not in our control. We can’t prevent tragedies, predict people’s actions and thoughts, or eliminate heartbreak. In short, this life can be scary.

“Considering all of this, how do I navigate past the chaos and make my life count?

“First, I need to make my thoughts and actions more about others and not myself. As I grow into an adult, it is time to step away from a way of life that was centered on me and look outward.

“A child’s life is about receiving and being taken care of. It is now time for me to make my life count by filling the needs of others and not expecting anything in return. On some days, this could be as simple as holding the door for someone who has full hands. At other times, this could be reaching out to a friend who is struggling with depression to see how they are coping.

“As I bring more value to others, I make my life count in the chaos.”



2024-2025
Covenant to Care for Children
BACK TO SCHOOL
BACKPACK DRIVE

Please follow these easy steps to help a child in need:

- 1 Shop for a backpack and school supplies** (pens, pencils, crayons, highlighters, markers, colored pencils, erasers, notebooks, three-ring binders, folders, loose-leaf paper, computer paper, calculator, scissors, glue sticks, tape, rulers, tissues, hand sanitizer, lunchbox/bag, etc.).

You can also include a gift card for a back to school outfit (WalMart, Target).

- 2 Drop off filled backpack** to PUMC, or to June at 94 Emily Lane, Bristol by **Sunday, August 25, 2024**
- 3 Make Back to School better for a child in need!**

Questions?
Contact: June Schilling | 860.989.4529
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Thank-you for your help!



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