

Link

Prospect United Methodist Church

Founded 1834

99 Summer Street
Bristol, CT 06010

Rev. Saebuek Lee
Pastor

Heidi Flower Director
of Music & Organist

Worship
9 a.m. Sanctuary

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Easter, Just Like Spring, Is Coming

"Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." - Romans 6:4

This winter has felt especially long. Even now, in March, snow still blankets the ground, and I find myself wondering whether more storms are yet to come.

While snow can be beautiful, I am eager to see green grass emerging and to prepare for the arrival of spring. The cold and extended winter not only brings feelings of frustration and depression but also highlights the struggles that many faces during this season, such as physical isolation, heating issues, and other housing challenges. Winter is not only a matter of weather; it can weigh heavily on both body and spirit.

A few weeks ago, I visited one of our parishioners. As we sat together in her living room, looking out at the snow-covered lawn, I shared my feelings about this long winter. I told her that although I appreciate the beauty of snow, this season has felt drawn out, and I am longing for spring. She gently responded that, despite its length, the snow actually serves a purpose: it protects and nourishes the grass and flowers beneath it. Her perspective gave me pause and invited me to see this season differently.

Indeed, a blanket of snow acts as insulation, shielding the ground from harsh temperatures. It also provides much-needed moisture to the soil, strengthening seeds and preparing them for new growth in the spring.

Even in these lingering winter days, we notice signs of change — longer daylight hours, earlier sunrises, and later sunsets. As we journey through the season of Lent, reflecting on Christ's temptation, suffering, and sacrifice, we are reminded that March will close with Palm Sunday and lead us into Holy Week.

Easter, like spring, is drawing near.

Yet before we fully welcome spring, we must walk faithfully through winter. This season is not meant only for frustration or discouragement. It is also a time of quiet growth, preparation, and renewal — a time to ready our hearts to share the hope of the Resurrection and the joy of new life with others.

May we prepare our hearts and minds not with fear or worry, but with the confident hope and deep joy that come through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Peace,
Pastor Lee



Lent and Holy Week Plans

By Carol Rivard, Worship Chair

A weekly Lenten service will be held in the chapel on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at PUMC and 5 p.m. at Asbury.

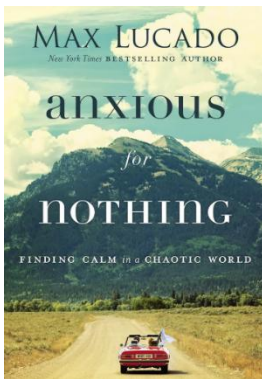
Palm Sunday we will have a procession with palms around the sanctuary (outside weather permitting).

Maundy Thursday there will be a service at 5 p.m. at PUMC with a soup and bread dinner to follow. There will be a service at 7 p.m. at Asbury.

- **Good Friday service** will be held at Plainville UMC at 7 p.m.
- **Easter Sunrise Service** will be held at Asbury at 6:30 a.m.
- **Easter Service** will be held at 9 at PUMC and 10:30 at Asbury.



Ladies Bible Study



A Ladies' Bible Study will be available on Mondays at 1 p.m. starting April 13. The book "Anxious for Nothing" by Max Lucado, based on Philippians Chapter 4, will be used. This will be a nice follow-up to Pastor Lee's sermons on the "joy" contained in Paul's letter to the Philippians.

Throughout this five-week study Lucado unpacks each verse to show how God is ready to give comfort to help us face the difficulties in life. The book is available from Amazon for \$10.47.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Mary Rogers, (860) 582-3199.

PUMC Scholarship Committee

By Heidi Flower, Scholarship Chair

The Scholarship Committee at PUMC recently met to discuss ways to strengthen and supplement our scholarship funds. We are excited to share that we will be launching several fund-raising efforts, both immediate and long-term.

The first two initiatives to be implemented are a "Bakeless Bake Sale" and a Bottle Drive. Please watch for additional details on how you can participate and support these efforts. We are also researching other creative fund-raising ideas and will keep everyone informed as plans develop.

Thank you in advance for your generous support of our students and their educational goals.

Christmas Wish Tree

The Covenant to Care for Children Christmas Wish Tree was beautifully decorated in Sessions Hall. The congregation granted wishes for 20 children from our area. Handmade quilts, winter hats, scarves and mittens, all made by church members, were also given.

It was a joyous Christmas. Thank you all!

Susan Thayer,
Prospect Church Chair, Covenant to Care for Children



Heifer International Mission Project

By Susan Powers, Outreach Team

A cow, a goat, some chickens and bees — maybe even an alpaca. These are some of the animals that can change the lives of families and communities in 19 countries on 4 continents.

Heifer International began in 1944 as an effort to improve families' food security and increase their income. Farmers are offered tools, training and resources that help them work together to build profitable, sustainable businesses.

Prospect UMC, together with other churches of the Mid-State Cooperative Parish, is undertaking a fund-raising and education effort throughout 2026. The parish's goal is to raise \$5,000. for a gift ark. A gift ark donation includes two water buffalos, two cows, two sheep and two goats along with bees, chicks, rabbits and more to help care for an entire community.

Several fundraising efforts are already underway at PUMC. The Sunday soup sales, the Sunday School's Souper Bowl of Caring coin collection and Laura Taylor's two cookie decorating classes each supported this mission opportunity. The children will learn about the Heifer animals during Children's Time and in their classrooms. We adults will also learn about Heifer's mission to end global hunger and poverty as the organization strives to support and invest in farmers and their communities.

Stay tuned for more chances to learn and participate in this worthwhile effort. If you have any questions, please speak with Susan Powers, PUMC Outreach Team member.

Cookies Raise Money for Heifer Project

February cookie decorating classes at Prospect yielded this bounty under the tutelage of Laura Taylor. Proceeds will go toward the Heifer International mission project.

Easter Flowers

Memorial Easter Plants will surround the Altar on Easter Sunday, April 5. Please return this form to the offering plate or church office by Monday, March 30th. Cost per plant is \$15. Payment must accompany order.

Given by _____

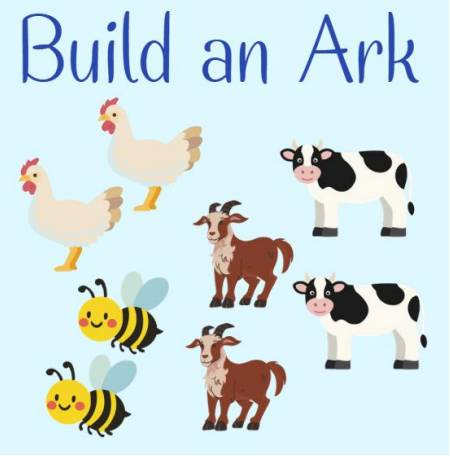
In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

No. of Plants _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Leaving Plant or Taking Plan



Youth

Souper Bowl Collection

Christa Zaldivar, Education Superintendent

Thank you PUMC for your generosity for Souper Bowl of Caring! Our Sunday School students collected **\$141.95** to go towards our Heifer International Fundraiser!



Nurture Team News

By Debbie Fasci, Outreach Chair

The Friends of Prospect Senior Luncheon is held on the 1st Thursday of each month from 11:30am – 1pm. Parishioners meet for fellowship and camaraderie. We celebrate birthdays each month by recognizing those with a birthday with a little gift bag. January's luncheon was held at Parkside Café in Bristol. February's luncheon was held at BARC' Hidden



Café in Bristol. We change the venue each month with some of the venues visited in 2025 were in Bristol, Terryville, Wolcott and Plainville. Average attendance in 2025 was 18 people

We also offer a Senior Lunch that takes place on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 11:30am-1pm in Session Hall at Prospect church. We decide on a "Food Theme" each month and recruit volunteers to bring in all the needs for luncheon. For January we served 2 kinds of soup, salad, bread, beverages and dessert. For February we served 2 kinds of casseroles, salad, bread, beverages and dessert. For March our food theme will be Tacos. As a group we play brain games, or invite special speakers.

If interested in attending either of these lunches, please contact Debbie Fasci by phone or text at cell (860) 406-1875.



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99 SUMMER STREET BRISTOL, CT 06010