

THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church
A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

March 2013

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Pastor's Page

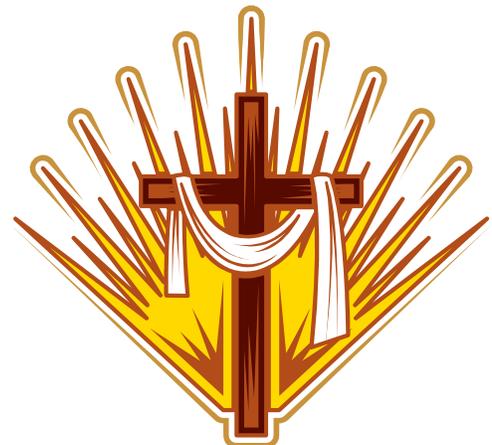
“When he was at table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?’” Luke 24 30-32



This is a very frustrating time of year. This is the time of year when we have to do our taxes, send in church reports and attend meetings and more meetings. Not only that, New England weather has a nasty way of depressing you. Just when you think it's going to be nice and spring has arrived, then you hear about a new storm system that may come up the coast. One philosopher observed that the real mark of personal achievement is how we deal with setbacks.

In the midst of all this comes Easter, with its message of resurrection. Easter is a powerful reminder that God does not allow the forces of domination and violence to have the last word. The “powers and principalities” which conspired to suppress the Gospel message did not triumph. Rather, God was able to transform death into life, grief into hope. We are all like the two travelers on the Emmaus road who were able to finally see beyond their sadness and realize that Christ is alive!

Easter shares a message of hope with us. It is a message which carries us through the difficult moments in our lives. It is a message which can transform us from the deep despair, which is often a part of day to day life, to a sense of confidence; Christ is in our world and in our lives. Because Christ is alive, we can face whatever life has in store for us.



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Prospect United Methodist Church

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Please join with us as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. We will lift up our voices in praise and celebration at an Easter Dawn service at 6 a.m. at the green on Federal Hill (between First Congregational Church and St. Joseph's R.C.C.). We will also celebrate the resurrection during our regular Sunday morning worship service at 10 a.m. There will be special music provided by a brass quartet and a very special children's message. Please note that there will be no 8:30 a.m. service on Easter Sunday. I would like to ask you, in the spirit of the Easter hope which we share, to take a few moments and invite a friend to our worship services. Good news needs to be shared!

May this Easter season remind you of the hope we share and the joy of living in Christ.

Grace and Peace,
Bob Sorozan

Holy Week Observances:

Maundy Thursday Service

7 p.m.

Good Friday Service

Noon

Easter Celebration

10 a.m.

Order Your Easter Plants

Memorial Easter Plants will surround the Altar on Easter Sunday, March 31st. Please return this form to the offering plate or church office by Wednesday, March 20th. Cost per plant is \$10 for each plant. Proceeds will be donated to the Prospect Organ Fund. Payment must accompany order. Feel free to take your plant(s) after the 10 a.m. Easter service.



In Honor of	
In Memory of	
Number of Plants	
Given by	
Amount Enclosed	
<input type="checkbox"/> Leaving Plant or <input type="checkbox"/> Taking Plant	

■ Palm Sunday Music

Please plan to attend our Palm Sunday service on March 24th at 10 a.m. to hear the Senior Choir perform “The Rose of Calvary,” this year’s special Lenten season musical event. Each year the choir, under the direction of Heidi Flower, presents a large-scale musical depiction of the life and passion of Jesus.

Joseph Martin, composer of “The Rose of Cavalry,” notes: “The image of a divine rose from heaven’s own garden blooming in the shadows of our world is a portrait of hope and comfort. When translated into music, it becomes a song that speaks to our deepest needs for restoration and redemption. It sings to us of gardens lost to sin and despair. It reveals to us a lonely garden where ancient olive trees stand silent witness to the suffering of the Savior. It is God’s tender love song reminding us all that we are children of the garden. Finally, at its heart, it is the music of one truly perfect Rose, which choosing grace, died for his beloved thorns.”

PROSPECT IN EARLIER DAYS

1943 Holy Week Highlights - Kathy Dube

During war time, as was the case in 1943, no doubt Holy Week had immense significance for Prospect Church members and friends. Holy Week was observed from April 18th-25th, with new members received on Palm Sunday, the 18th. In addition to the reception of new members, confirmation also took place at the 10:45 a.m. service, the time of worship at that time. The choir, directed by Virginia DuBois, wife of pastor Paul DuBois, presented Joseph Haydn's oratorio "The Passion," or "The Seven Last Words," at a Palm Sunday Vesper Service that afternoon.

Each week day morning during Holy Week, a service of morning prayer was observed in the Prospect Chapel from 7:30 to 7:45 a.m. A Holy Thursday Candlelight Communion Service took place on April 22nd at 7:45 p.m. Prospect also participated in a three-hour community Good Friday service at the Lebanon Swedish Lutheran Church on Stearns Street, now the site of the Salvation Army. Young people from the church helped plan a sunrise service under leadership of the Bristol Council of Religious Education. The entire Church School met in the sanctuary for the Easter Service, described as "one of the high points of the church year."

The April 1943 Tower also noted that the April 11th Lenten Vesper Service featured the duo of Eleanor Burt, violinist, and Virginia DuBois, organist. Finally, several members of the confirmation class received into membership on the 18th visited several points of interest in New York City, along with classes from several other Connecticut churches. The group visited St. Mark's Church, Riverside Church, Union Theological Seminary, The Methodist Hospital and The Church of All Nations.

WHEN SOMEONE IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY IS HOSPITALIZED

The purpose of pastoral care is to surround them with Christian prayers, love and presence. In order to do our part, we need help from you. When you or a family member need to be hospitalized, please make sure that your registration is current and specifies Prospect United Methodist Church as your home church. Without that information, we do not receive notification that you are in the hospital. Providing spiritual care during hospital visits is a crucial part of healing. Please help us supply that support by calling the church office, or the pastor any time you are hospitalized. We have missed people recently because of this.

■ Bible Study on Hunger

Prospect Church began offering The Society of St. Andrew's Bible Study regarding hunger on March 10th. The program, which consists of six units, examines hunger from a biblical perspective. It aims to make clear that one of the surest ways to test the quality of our walk with God is to examine the way we respond to the needs of others.

The *Fast That I Choose* takes its title from Isaiah 58:6, as the words of the prophet remind us that God wants worship from the heart with the purpose of increasing God's justice in the world.

The first lesson was held on March 10th. The second is scheduled for March 17th from 9 to 10 a.m.

Participants do not need to attend all six units. A sign-up sheet has been placed in Sessions Hall. You may also sign up for units by calling the church office.

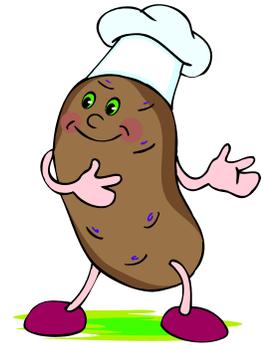
■ Bell Choir looking for a few more ringers.



Are you looking for a new musical challenge? Do you want to be part of a group and have fun making music? No previous handbell experience required. If you are brand new to music or if you have previous musical experience, please see Heidi Flower.

■ Baked Potato Movie Night

On March 15th at 6 p.m. the Women of Prospect will be hosting their Annual Baked Potato Movie Night. Come bring your blankets, chairs and your favorite movie snacks. We will have baked potatoes with all the fixings, hot dogs, popcorn and snacks. The featured film will be *The Lorax*. Invite your families and friends. Join us for food, fun, fellowship and a show. If you would like more info please feel free to call Jackie Palance @ 860-747-8988.



■ Easter Baskets for Covenant to Care for Children

Donations of Easter baskets for children of need are requested by our adopted Social Worker from DCF. Tags with child's first name, gender and age are on the bulletin board in Sessions Hall. Please make sure items in the baskets are age appropriate. Bring baskets to Sessions Hall by Palm Sunday, March 24th, where they will be picked up by 10 a.m. for delivery to children in time for Easter. See Susan Lee with questions. On behalf of the kids, thank you.

Ideas for Keeping a Holy Lent

1. Pray for your enemies
2. Take 5 minutes of silence at noon
3. Look out the window until you find something of beauty you had not noticed before
4. Give 5 items of clothing to Goodwill
5. No complaining day
6. Do someone else's chore
7. Call an old friend
8. Read Psalm 139
9. Pay a few sincere compliments
10. Forgive someone
11. Ask for help
12. Tell someone what you are grateful for
13. Introduce yourself to a neighbor
14. Read Psalm 121
15. No shopping day
16. Write a thank you note to your favorite teacher
17. Donate art supplies to your local elementary school
18. Read John 8:1-11
19. Worship at a friend's mosque, synagogue or church and look for the beauty
20. No sugar day
21. Give \$20 to a local non-profit
22. Pray for peace

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your generous donation of canned goods that you collected and donated to "Meals for the Needy" as a result of your participation in the "Souper Bowl of Caring". Many thanks to the youth of your congregation who, I am told, did an outstanding skit to promote the event.

It certainly is our privilege to offer a warm facility where those in need can enjoy a delicious meal and a place to fellowship with others on these cold winter days. A hot cup of coffee, a warm blanket, and cans of soup from our food pantry are all items that seem small and insignificant but as we provide these items to those in need we find that they are a tremendous blessing. Our volunteers are always very welcoming and it is these acts of kindness that mean so much to those who come to us for assistance.

Soup is a very popular item at our food pantry during these cold days of winter so we are most appreciative of this donation. "Souper Bowl of Caring" has proven to be a program that certainly has assisted many people over the years and we thank you for designation the items you collected to "Meals for the Needy".

We are grateful for your spirit of caring and sharing. Thank you for all that you do that helps to make life so much brighter for those in need.

*In partnership with those in need,
Shirley A. Dickau
Associate in Ministry*

Prospect United Methodist Church

Hen Party for Haiti

8 Hours of Scrapbooking/Crafting!

Saturday, April 13, 2013

9 AM - 5 PM

Grab all your scrapbooking/crafting supplies and enjoy a full day of quality, uninterrupted scrapbooking/crafting fun! Coffee and juice will be provided. You bring your own lunch or order in. There will also be some silent auction baskets as well as on-site vendors and a scrapbooking swap table. Cost is \$ 10. This is a fundraiser event & all proceeds go towards Mountains of Hope for Haiti (MOH). MOH is a mission of the New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church working in partnership with the people of Haiti. Email prospectoffice@snet.net for tickets or information or register online at www.anewprospect.org.



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