

Prospect-Marvin Chapel UMC Newsletter
JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2026



GOOD NEWS MESSENGER

REV. KEYSTONE LEE –PASTOR

SUNDAY WORSHIP: MARVIN CHAPEL 9:30AM & PROSPECT 11:00AM

MARVIN CHAPEL ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:45AM

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Letter from the Pastor

We begin the new year of 2026 with the entrusted mission by God. Each of you undoubtedly has your own hopes and expectations for the year. Now, I would like to share my own small hopes and expectations as your pastor. During 2025, I shared many wonderful experiences with you, and one experience I would like to continue is the Bible study we held after worship last spring. While I understand this might be a challenging time for some of you for various reasons, for me it was both a meaningful time of fellowship and a challenging experience. Therefore, I hope to begin those exciting and enriching moments with you again. I am considering various dates in prayer, and I will be able to announce a specific schedule sometime in January. I plan to have a time each Sunday when we read aloud the Bible verses on the church

calendar, which I believe you all have. While you all already read the Bible regularly, it's my small hope as your pastor that we can read at least one verse together as a church, united in heart and mind. Next, although I hold the title of "senior pastor" of this church, I am well aware that my years of faith are much shorter than most of yours. Nevertheless, one reason I can stand before you with confidence is the grace of God He has poured out on me, and that I continue to experience. And the source of most of that grace has been in the process of worshipping God every Sunday and in the activities of the church itself. For me, the church is God's kingdom in the world and the very presence of God's throne. Therefore, the church is a place where we do our best to praise God, pray, read the Bible, and learn from it. This place offers experiences the world cannot match. Therefore, I hope these extraordinary

experiences will not be just for me but for everyone in our church. I hope that everyone who comes to worship will experience the real grace and joy of God's presence. I dream that simply entering the sanctuary will allow you to feel God reaching out to you, embracing you, and comforting you. With that in mind, I would like to suggest a few methods based on my experience. First, let's sing hymns as loudly as possible. It shows about giving your whole heart to praising God. Second, let's pray together as loudly as possible. Its point is to emphasize the "earnestness" of our prayers. I hope 2026 will be a year overflowing with joy and gratitude, filled with God's abundant grace.

"Happy New Year!!"

~Rev. Keystone Lee

CHARGE WORSHIP CALENDAR & PROSPECT WORSHIP LEADERS

Jan. 4 - Mike Peterson
Coffee & Donuts PUMC 10:30am

Jan. 11 - *Joint Contemporary Service at Prospect 10:00am*
Prospect Admin. Board mtg 11:15am

Jan. 18 - Joe Slovikosky
Prospect UMW mtg 9:45am

Jan. 25 - Marlene Barbour

Feb. 1 - Laura Schmidt
Coffee & Donuts PUMC 10:30am

Feb. 8 - *Joint Contemporary Service at Marvin Chapel 10:00am*

Feb. 15 - Devin Shaver
Prospect UMW mtg 9:45am

Feb. 22 - Mary Behanna

SPECIAL SERVICES DURING ADVENT SEASON

Advent season, when we expectantly await the birth of Jesus, began on November 30th. On the second Sunday in Advent, communion was served by Rev. Lee assisted by Jaxon Lampe,



while Jaxon, brother Mason and sister Kaylee lit the Advent candles.



On the fourth Sunday in Advent, Natalie Shane provided special music at Marvin Chapel singing "What Child is This?"



CHARGE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE AT PROSPECT

Our churches held a beautiful combined Christmas Eve service at Prospect with Scripture passages telling of the birth of Jesus, singing of Christmas carols and special music.

Mike Peterson led us in worship.



Devin and Candy Shaver lit the Advent candles and finally, the Christ candle.



Mary Behanna read the Prophecy from *Isaiah*, and Myrna Highland told of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, reading from *Micah*.



Kaylee, Jaxon, Emma and Mason Lampe sang a sweet version of "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen".....



Peggy Slovikosky spoke of the annunciation of Mary from *Luke*



followed by beautiful renditions of "The First Noel" by Joshua Lee, and "Away in the Manger" sung by Candy Shaver.



Wanda Walter read passages from *Luke* of the birth of Jesus, after which Laura Schmidt sang "Mary Did You Know?"



And the service ended with the congregation passing the Christ candle light and singing "Silent Night".



**JOY TO THE WORLD!
THE LORD HAS COME!**

Debbie Barneski shared the story of the shepherds and the angels coming to see baby Jesus from *Luke* followed by a beautiful instrumental presentation of "O Holy Night" played by Michael Yang on cello, Simon Lee on clarinet and guitar, and Jinyoung Lee on piano.



Rev. Lee offered a Christmas message of hope and love.....



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO HILDA!

The Marvin Chapel ladies held a surprise birthday party for Hilda McPherson, who turned 99 on November 29th !!



Hilda with Rose (left) and Joan (right)
A delicious potluck lunch was enjoyed by all followed by birthday cake, and of course, singing the traditional "Happy Birthday" song!
Congratulations, Hilda, on this amazing milestone birthday!



NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Due February 22 to Laura Schmidt or church email for March-April 2026 newsletter
Photo credits here- Mark Arrington & Mary Behanna

PASTOR APPRECIATION SUNDAY

On November 2nd, our churches honored our pastor and his wife, Rev. Keystone and Jinyoung Lee, for their spiritual leadership and tireless support of our charge. Prospect is especially thankful to Jinyoung for providing beautiful piano music for our service. Mary Behanna, Prospect's Administrative Board Chair, presented tokens of our appreciation to Rev. Lee and Jinyoung.



Thank you, Rev. Lee and Jinyoung, for all you do for our UMC charge!

WE APPRECIATE YOU!!



MARVIN CHAPEL THRIFT SHOP NEWS

On Wednesday December 10, members of the Marvin Chapel Thrift Shop "Wednesday Crew" were blessed to be able to travel to the Samaritan's Purse Baltimore Processing Center to prepare Operation Christmas Child gift shoeboxes for shipment to children in need. The event was organized by dedicated crew member Jenny Puckett from Mt. Airy Bible Church. We inspected boxes sent by churches in the region, secured with shipping tape, and placed them in large shipping boxes to load onto trucks to be sent worldwide to bring Christmas joy to children in need. The processing center prepared over 30,000 shoeboxes

that day alone! The boxes we prepared were headed to Thailand. A wonderful extra blessing occurred when one of the boxes was actually from Jenny's church! It is a great feeling to see your local mission work in action on its way to share the love of Jesus. ~Mary Behanna



Sandy, Mary Kay, Mary R., Myrna, Jenny, Mary B., Deena & Tina

*****Thrift Store is closed until March 6th*****

PROSPECT TRUSTEES REPORT

The members of Prospect Church were blessed this year by being able to complete major repairs to the outside of our building. All of the stained-glass windows were repaired, painted, and covered in plexiglass to protect them for many years to come. In particular, the large back window in the sanctuary is really beautiful! We can now see from the outside the wonderful patterns and colors of the glass. We also were able to replace the gutters and paint the outside of the church. Over the last few years the paint was almost gone exposing the wood on our gingerbread trim. It now looks beautiful! The repairs were accomplished with several significant donations to our memorial fund, our members, and fun activities like our 50/50 raffles throughout the year. Our contractor Jorge Funes worked with us throughout the year to complete these projects as the funds were raised.

~Joe Slovikosky, Trustee Chair



PROSPECT PANCAKE BREAKFAST A GREAT SUCCESS!

Back by popular demand, Prospect hosted our winter Pancake and Sausage Breakfast on December 13th. Thank you to everyone who donated supplies, worked in the kitchen or in the hall, and especially to those who came out and ate pancakes! A huge thank you to Debbie Barneski for organizing the event and giving everyone their marching orders!! It was a great day of fun and fellowship and profits raised will support the church and our outreach programs.



Vern & Joe
flipped
pancakes
under
Debbie's
watchful eye



Roger was
in charge
of cooking
sausage to
perfection
with
Kristen's
help



Wanda had
customers'
favorite
juice
choices
poured and
ready to
serve

Mike was in charge of the Christmas Shop



Lydianna and Kylie helped clear
the tables and replace place
settings ready for new customers



Marlene, Mary, Laura & Dianne served customers



Connie took care of the bake table while
Peggy sold tickets & greeted our guests





PROSPECT WITNESS/OUTREACH NEWS

Thank you to all who donated gifts for the Salvation Army gift drive. The children in need in Frederick County had a merrier Christmas because of your generosity! Also, many thanks to those who provided foods and gifts for the Parr's Ridge Elementary School family we support. I know the family was thrilled to receive so many of the items on their wish list and have had a wonderful Christmas because of you—thank you!

Opportunities to Serve:
During January and February we will be collecting items for the Alan P. Linton Emergency Shelter in Frederick that provides a warm meal and overnight shelter for the unhoused. The wish list of needed items will be available in the church library. ~Laura Schmidt, Chair

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Prospect's Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Italian Buffet are coming in February!! Save the dates and come eat with us!



Shrove Tuesday



Tuesday, February 17, 2026

4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Prospect United Methodist Church
5923 Woodville Road, Mount Airy, MD

******* All You Can Eat *******



\$12.00 adults 13 and Up

\$6.00 Children 6 to 12 years

Free for children under 5 years

Buckwheat & Regular
Pancakes

Plus Sausage, Applesauce or Fruit Cup, and a Drink



Italian Buffet



Saturday, February 28, 2026

4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Prospect United Methodist Church
5923 Woodville Road, Mount Airy, MD

****** All You Can Eat Buffet ******

\$16.00 (12 & Up)

Children 6 to 11 yrs old \$8.00

Children 5 and Under FREE



Spaghetti

Red sauce with or without Meatballs



Lasagna

Red Meat Sauce, Chicken/White Sauce, Vegetable



Tortellini (no Meat)

Rigatoni (Red Meat Sauce) and MORE!

Salad, Homemade Dressings, Beans & Greens,
Rolls and Dessert



Iced Tea, Lemonade, Sodas and Coffee

