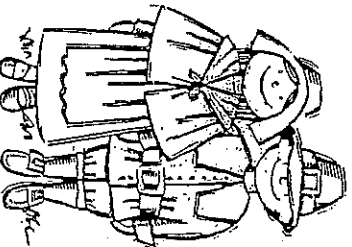


THE PRESTON PILGRIM

The newsletter of
The Preston City
Congregational Church
Gathered 1698

NOVEMBER
2013



CHURCH ADDRESS

321 Route 164
Preston, CT 06365-8108

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WORSHIP

9:00 & 10:30 A.M.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

8:45 A.M.

EMAIL: PGCC@SNET.NET

WEBSITE: prestoncitycongregational.org

Visit us on **FACEBOOK**

News and information for the December newsletter is due in the church office by **November 17th**. You may leave information in the holder located on the wall in the kitchen.

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From the Minister ...

I usually begin typing my portion of the newsletter each month by writing this column first – before anything else. Not so this month; I'm writing this column last, and I'm glad I did! For after typing all the "bits-and pieces" that make up this *Preston Pilgrim*, I see so clearly how willing many people are in our church to get involved – to volunteer – to participate in the many programs, activities, and fundraising efforts of our church. **We are so fortunate!** In many churches today, it's not easy to find people who have time to spare... not even for the church. Not here! When the call for help is sounded, you hear it, and *respond*. I am so grateful for all that you are willing to do for your church, and for the sacrifices you make to do what needs to be done; everything from teaching Sunday School, leading youth groups, singing in choirs serving on boards and committees, making sandwiches and desserts for funeral receptions, suppers and sales, and the list goes on. This church could not do all the wonderful things it does for the church family and community IF people like you didn't step forward and lend a hand.

As you read through this *Pilgrim*, notice all that has been achieved and is in the process of being accomplished. Most of it is the work of committed volunteers who care very much about the ministry of the church.

In this season of Thanksgiving, I am grateful for a congregation that "goes the extra mile." Not only for those who are known, but for the stranger as well. It is because of your faithfulness to the work of Christ's Church that God continues to bless us in so many different ways.

May we never tire in working for His Kingdom!

See you in church!



Rev. Stan

DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER...

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WE WELCOMED into the Household of Christian Faith through the Sacrament of Baptism:

10-20 **Brent Palmer Fessenden**, son of Loida and Joshua Fessenden of Griswold. Great grandfather, Deacon Robert Onderdonk assisted with the baptism.

10-27 **Julissa Inez Oddo**, daughter of Elizabeth Oddo of Jewett City, CT

10-27 **Sage Susanne Nowakowski**, daughter of Jennifer & David Nowakowski of North Stonington, CT

We ask God's blessing upon these little ones.



PEOPLE

FUND RAISING EFFORTS = SUCCESS!

It was announced during the worship services on October 27th, that \$8,800 was given to the church budget – the final tally of the 8th Annual Scarecrow Festival! We congratulate the Festival committee, and the many people, teens and adults, scouts, and “friends of the church” who worked as a team to make this popular community event a success. Well done!

THE CHURCH YARD SALE held on October 19, realized a profit of \$1,104.56. Three weeks before the sale the donations were sparse, it looked like there were not enough “treasures” to have a sale. But, as always, YOU came through! The annex basement was filled to over-flowing; some items even had to be stored outside! We had lots of help for the set-up in the morning, and an even greater turnout of volunteers in the afternoon to help with the clean-up. Thank you to Stella Dawley, Kaye Schlough, and the many volunteers. Our next Yard Sale will be in May 2014.

THE ANNUAL TURKEY SUPPER was held on October 26. Approximately 220 meals were served. This supper is probably the most popular of all the church suppers we offer during the year. People come from many surrounding towns. Where else can you go for a full-course turkey dinner; complete with dessert and beverage for \$10? This supper takes many people to insure success. Without the help of many volunteers, and a hard-working supper committee, this supper could not have happened.

Thanks, again, to everyone who does so much for the church. We appreciate ALL that you do!

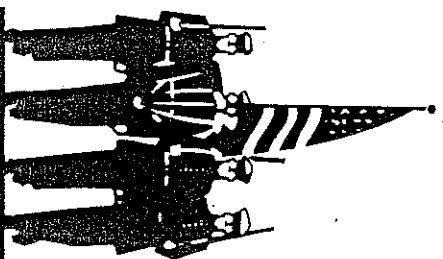
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SO WHAT IS A PARISH NURSE?

A parish nurse is a Registered Nurse who serves a faith community, sometimes called a *faith community nurse*. There are nurses working in Christian churches of every denomination, in synagogues, temples and mosques. The modern parish nurse model was pioneered by a Lutheran pastor working in Illinois, the Rev. Dr. Granger Westberg.

First and foremost, the parish nurse is a resource. She is an advocate: for better health and for a patient-centered approach to healthcare. She is an educator: answering questions and promoting healthy choices. She is a bridge: helping to link the promise of science with the power of faith.

Stop by room 18 Tuesdays between 11:00 and 12:30 and meet our Parish Nurse, Sandra Wright! *I'm happy to check your blood pressure, answer questions or just listen. I'll also pray with you if you'd like. Completely free and completely confidential.* The nurse's phone number is 860.535.2709. Her email is SandraLWright@gmail.com



Veterans Day

VETERAN'S DAY

We say thanks to all the veterans in our congregation. We appreciate your service to our country, and for keeping us safe and **FREE!** We remember, and we are grateful.

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ADULT MISSION NEWS

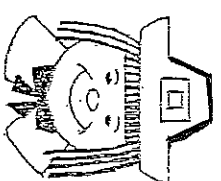
Seven of us recently returned from Little Ferry, New Jersey. We had a great week and did a lot of good work. We worked with a local Habitat for Humanity crew for the first three days. They had 70 people coming on the weekend after we were leaving, so we did prep work to get those folks ready for painting. The last two days, we worked directly with the Bergen County Recovery Center doing mainly painting and staining. We worked on several homes and met most of the homeowners who were mostly elderly folks on fixed incomes. They were very thankful for our help and we loved being able to meet them.

On a local level, there's a lot of important mission work being done at St. Vincent De Paul's in Norwich. The food pantry helps about 200 families each week, and the soup kitchen feeds more than that! The soup kitchen prepares breakfast and lunch Monday through Saturday, and some local churches take turns providing lunch on Sundays. The food pantry is open 3 days-a-week and mainly serves the working poor.

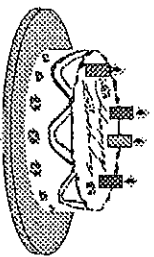
With the downturn in the economy, there's not as much food available through the United Way affiliate that provides most of the food. If you're involved with any civic or scouting groups that might want to do some community service, a food drive benefiting St. Vincent De Paul's work would be greatly appreciated. There's lots of ways to help if you're interested.

If anyone has any ideas for adult mission work, or questions about adult mission work, please speak with Lori Hall, adult missions coordinator at lorihall255@gmail.com.

The Preston Junior Pilgrim



Preston City Congregational Church Sunday School Newsletter



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

THIS MONTH on November 16th, this church will be turn 315 years old. I thought I might share a tiny bit of the beginning of this church. There are few things that last 315 years! I'm positive there were times when the church had great struggles through the years. Right now, despite the economy, despite the many concerns in the world, this church is in a prosperous vibrant time. We are filled with people whose lives reflect "here I am Lord, send me!"

ONE cannot speak about the history of the church separate from the history of the town because they are intertwined. People started settling here around 1650. For the establishment of the Town of Preston, settlers sought their own township because the closest towns to them were Norwich and New London. Daniel Brewster, a grandson of Elder William Brewster, who came on the Mayflower and was founder of the Congregational Church in America, was instrumental in the effort to secure organization as a town. The sole matter, urged as a reason in the application was inconvenience in religious worship. I quote to you from that petition: *The petitioners state that by the settlement of Norwich and New London bounds, they are left without either township, remote from any place of public worship, that they are distant from New London fourteen miles and six or seven from Norwich, the way to either place being dangerous in winter by reason of the river.*" (the Shetucket) The petition they made was favorably considered. The General Assembly granted them permission in January of 1687 dependent upon a condition in accordance with colonial law—"when they had arrived at such a capacity to maintain a minister." On the 26th day of January 1687, the amount of land granted was 7 miles square; 100 acres were set aside for the support of the church. It was called "Ministry Land."

STEPS WERE TAKEN to secure a minister at 50 pounds that would be about \$50.00 per year. For the next ten years and more and before the organization of the church, religious services were held under the direction of the town, probably in people's homes. Church history relates that in the early years, the town offered a proposal as an enticement to a prospective minister. If he spent seven years in Preston as their minister, then the house and seven acres of land set aside for his use would be his forever. Ten or eleven men ministered during the ten years but only one, a Rev. Hale came close. He served the town for almost seven years. He liked the town, the land, the house, but he no longer wanted to remain as minister. He was insistent upon keeping the possessions, and town officials had a difficult time getting these things back from him!

AS EARLY as June 1693 (now remember the church was gathered in 1698), a tax was levied to build a meeting house 35 feet long, 25 feet wide, and 16 feet between joints. For some reason the work of the building was delayed. It was near completion by September 1698, not on this exact spot but a few feet to the east, just before the settling of the first permanent pastor, Rev. Salmon Treat, who had served at intervals as minister for the town. His salary was 46 pounds adding two pounds per year until 50 pounds, about \$50 a year plus 30 loads of firewood and a house that the town built for the minister with seventy acres of land more or less.

WHEN REV. TREAT was ordained (set apart for ministry) and 12 members were received on November 16, 1698, the church was officially born, then known as The First Congregational Church of Preston. The first 12 members were Thomas Park, who was born in Preston, England and chances are good that Preston may owe its name to Thomas' birthplace in England — he was one of our first deacons; Thomas Tracy, John Richards, Hopedill Tyler who was the first blacksmith in Preston; Jonathan Tracy, Samuel Leonardson, Robert Park & John Park, both sons of Thomas Park; Caleb Fobes, Joseph Morgan who became a deacon; Ebenezer Witter who built the first gristmill in Preston; and John Welch. Can you imagine the excitement that must have been in this very spot that day; the call of drum-beat to church; the gathering of people to this hill where we are now come; the simple but impressive service; the hearty congratulations!

THE FIRST COMMUNION was celebrated a few months later in January 1999 when 13 others joined the church bringing the total to 25. Of the 13 that joined that day, were Mrs. Brewster, the wife of Daniel whom I mentioned earlier and two Mrs. Standish' related through marriage to Capt. Miles Standish, the military leader of Plymouth Colony, who also had come here on the Mayflower.

REV. TREAT, who had a degree from Harvard (which was founded by a Puritan minister, John Harvard) and an honorary degree from Yale (founded by Congregationalists), retained his pastorate 46 years, resigning in March 1744.

I HOPE you thought this short article was worth the read. Now and again, it's important to look back at our "roots" and appreciate those who have paved the way for us. In this month of Thanksgiving, let us remember we have a "debt of gratitude" not only to our founders, but to all the people who have worked tirelessly for our Lord and Savior through the years, during good and bad times, to preserve this place as sacred and holy ground. Let us look forward to our 315th year!

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up!"
Galatians 6:9

May the **SON**shine through me,

Kandy Duck &





Memory Verse

NOVEMBER BIBLE VERSES

“Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Mark 12:31) (N3-Grade 2)

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” Matthew 28:19 **The Great Commission** (Grades 3-12)

PLEASE ENCOURAGE students to learn these verses. To qualify for an award at the end of the year, verses must be correctly recited by the end of each month to a Bible Memory Verse Coordinator assigned by Mrs. Dudek. **The May verse needs to be recited by May 4th to allow time for those receiving a Bible Memory Verses award.** Nursery 3 & 4 students say their verse to the teacher and she will mark them off.

PLEASE NOTE: students who have recited the Bible verses will be posted on the Sunday School bulletin board in the SS Hall. Many students have recited both the September and October verses; I hope they keep up the good work!

SOMETHING NEW...

BRING IT... IT's about here!!!! Have you heard about IT? Even if you haven't, you need to come and experience IT! **On Sunday, November 10th at 10:30** we are unveiling a new worship service for Young Adults (high school – 22 years). The worship service is centered around praising God in a new and vibrant way: Contemporary Christian Music, interactive demonstrations, and video-based messages relevant to the lives of young adults. Come see what IT is all about.

Bring **IT** will be in session on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month in the Sunday School Hall. It does not take the place of Sunday School, but is an additional way for the young adults to worship. Tell someone about **IT**. Bring someone with you when you come. **IT** is that easy!

If you have questions or wish to serve in this ministry please speak to the Van Alists (860.230.9947) or the Giulianos (860.376.8901). We are looking for people to help prepare snacks, to spread the news, to set up on worship days (30 mins-), and for technology assistance. Any help would be appreciated. More importantly, your prayers are needed to lift up this new ministry.

THE JUNIOR PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP (grades 6-8) under the leadership of Linda Kent-Farinha (860.892.5215) and Andy McCaslin (860.885.0212) won 1st prize for their Mayflower Scarecrow at the Festival! Congratulations! It was dinner for two and an overnight stay at Mohegan Sun. Generously they donated it to our basket drawing for the Christmas bazaar. We thank them.

A HIKE to Mount Misery was planned for November 2nd, a hot chocolate and soup jar creation is planned for November 3rd (jars will be sold at the bazaar), November 9th will be selling these jars at the bazaar, and November 22nd from 5-7:00 p.m. they will enjoy a Thanksgiving meal together.

THE SENIOR PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP (grades 9-12) have elected officers as follows: President – Lauren Hodgkinson; Vice-President – Bryan Van Alist; Secretary – Heidi Willard. The SPF attended the Ekonk Hill corn-maze in October. On November 3rd they plan to make granola for the Christmas bazaar. They will be at the Christmas Bazaar to sell it and on November 17th will share a Thanksgiving Dinner. Watch the church bulletin/newsletter for upcoming events of the SPF.

THE YOUTH MISSION TRIP location has been changed to Rutland, Vermont. The dates of July 20th -25th remain the same. All 15 spots have been filled...12 young people and 3 leaders!

THE STORYTELLING & ENRICHMENT... **Moses in the Bulrushes** was fantastic from the reviews I heard from students and teachers. We all look forward to the next one on **December 15th** which will be **Moses and the Burning Bush**. We thank Storyteller Judy Ladegard and Enrichment Coordinator Shari Purcell for their commitment to this segment of Sunday School.

THANK YOU to everyone who provided a basket for the Board of Religious Education basket drawing. We had an outpouring of support and it is appreciated! The profit realized will benefit Sunday School programs.

“FOLLOW THE STAR”, the Christmas pageant for grades one and up is going very well with a good turnout of participants. “*The Nativity*”, the pageant segment for our Nursery 3, Nursery 4, and Kindergarten students will begin rehearsals on **Wednesday, November 20th at 5:30 p.m.** They will have four rehearsals; the pageant will be presented on Sunday, December 15th at 4:00 p.m. We thank Melissa Blondet for directing the children once again.

KALID, the High School class's mission child, is sent \$35.00 monthly. There is a large jar in front of the altar in the Sunday School for the children to put offerings and anyone else who would like to contribute to the cause. This young man from Ethiopia has high hopes of becoming a doctor!



SENIOR LUNCHEON

Our senior lunch program is up and running for another year. The first luncheon is planned for Tuesday, November 12, starting at noon in the Sunday School hall. These delicious meals are prepared by people from the congregation who want our seniors to know they are V.I.P.! The meals are available to seniors who regularly attend our church. If you'd like to attend, please sign the sheet posted on the hallway bulletin board. Don't wait too long to sign up, space is limited to 60 people. Not only is it a delicious meal, free of charge, but a great opportunity to meet and fellowship with some truly wonderful people. The program that follows each meal is always interesting and entertaining as well! Our next Senior Lunch will be December 10.

WINTER COAT DRIVE

Again this year, Nancy Musa will be collecting unwanted coats, hats, gloves, mittens and scarves for people in the area in need of these items. If you'd like to make a contribution, you may leave items in the Allyn memorial box located by the Information center table. She will collect your donations through November 17. Thanks for thinking of others!

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Committee members should make note that our next meeting will be held on November 13, at 6:30 P.M. in the meeting room.

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ADULT GAME NIGHT

It's back!! Join us for a fun night of games in Fellowship Hall on November 30, starting at 6 P.M. This is an "adults only" event. Those attending are asked to bring an appetizer or a dessert to share with others. Soda and coffee will be provided. It's "free" and a great way to meet new people. Please sign up on the Information Center bulletin board if you plan to attend. We have lots of board games, Wii as well! Feel free to bring some of your favorites as well. The evening ends at 9. We hope to see you there!

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SECRET SANTA

Again this year, we are looking for volunteers to serve as "Secret Santas" for our church family. If you'd like to be one, and brighten someone's Christmas morning, speak with Sandy Dudek or sign the sheet posted on the Information Center bulletin board.

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TEEN CHALLENGE CHRISTMAS

Recently residents of "Teen Challenge" based in New Haven, CT, visited our church one Sunday morning. They sang and told their stories of drug and alcohol addiction and how they are working toward a new life – free from these things. Many in the congregation were impressed and inspired by these young men. Once again, we will ask your help in providing a gift or two for a client at Teen Challenge. The details of this Christmas outreach will follow in the church worship folder.

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

We are stocking the shelves for the upcoming holidays. We provide needy families with turkey dinners (and all the fixin's) at Thanksgiving and ham dinners at Christmas time. We are currently serving over 50 families each month, and donations of food supplies and money are always welcome. Thanks to all of you who have contributed so much to our success.

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WANTED

The Supper Committee is looking for plastic containers (i.e. cool whip containers) for leftovers following church events. Please leave them on the counter in the church kitchen. Thanks.

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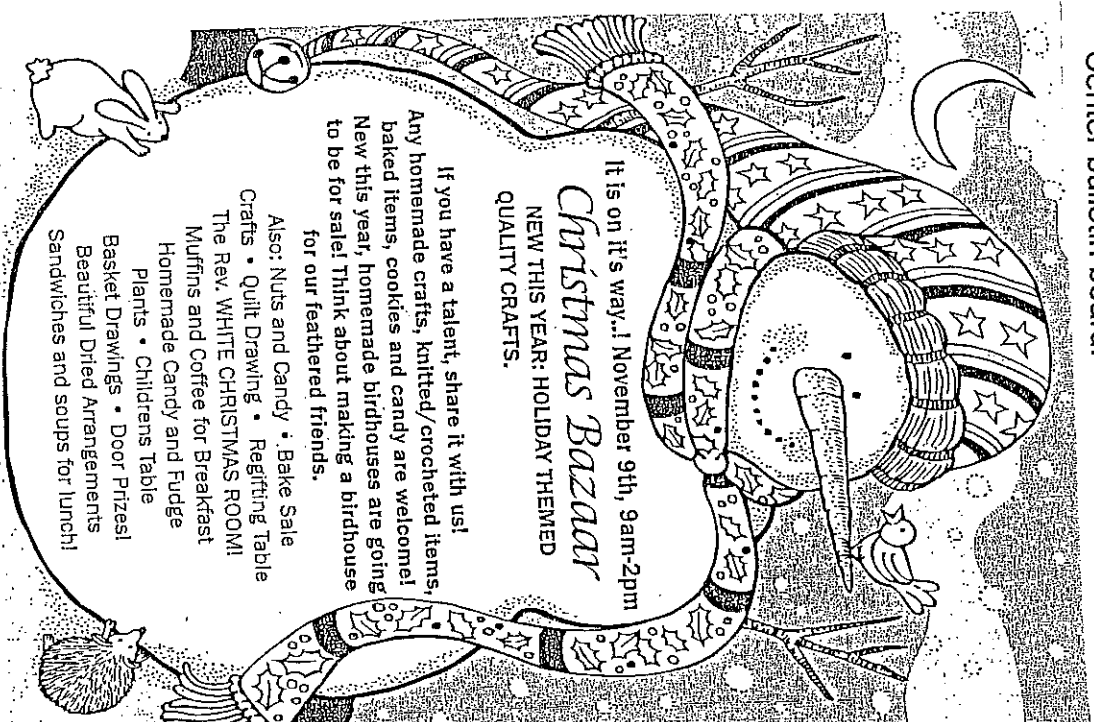
CAN YOU HELP?

From time-to-time, people/families in our congregation are in need of a home-cooked meal. Maybe it's following a hospital stay, or when a baby is born, or upon the passing of a loved one, etc. Many people have generously volunteered to take on this act of compassion in years past, but now we are in need of more volunteers. If you would be willing to be a part of this important ministry, please call meal coordinator Lois Woodmansee at 860.889.2128.

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ONLINE ANYONE?

DID YOU KNOW that you could read the newsletter on prestoncitycongregational.org. If you prefer to read it online, saving the cost of mailing one to you, you may email the church office or sign the sheet on the Information Center bulletin board.



It is on it's way...! November 9th, 9am-2pm
Christmas Bazaar
NEW THIS YEAR: HOLIDAY THEMED
QUALITY CRAFTS.

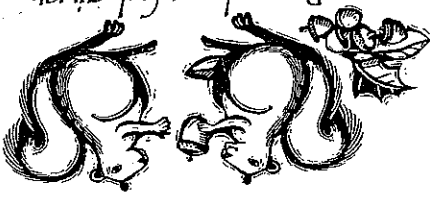
If you have a talent, share it with us!
Any homemade crafts, knitted/crocheted items,
baked items, cookies and candy are welcome!
New this year, homemade birdhouses are going
to be for sale! Think about making a birdhouse
for our feathered friends.

Also: Nuts and Candy • Bake Sale
Crafts • Quilt Drawing • Regifting Table
The Rev. WHITE CHRISTMAS ROOM!
Muffins and Coffee for Breakfast
Homemade Candy and Fudge
Plants • Childrens Table
Basket Drawings • Door Prizes!
Beautiful Dried Arrangements
Sandwiches and soups for lunch!

OCTOBER
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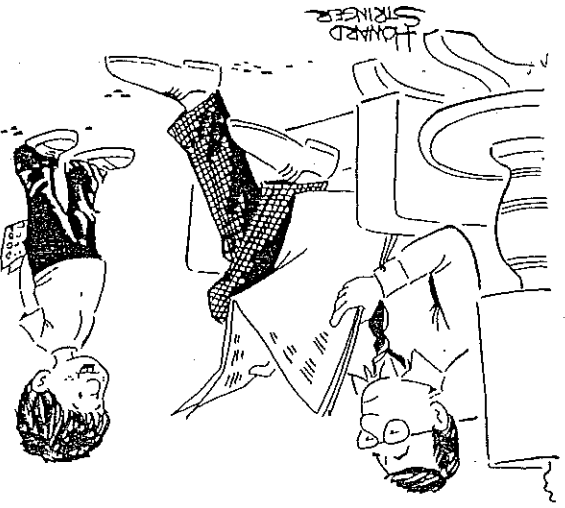
DECEMBER
S M T W T F S
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8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28
29 30 31

November 2013



IMPORTANT INFORMATION:
SUNDAYS:
Morning worship, 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School 8:45 a.m.
Coffee hour, 9:50 a.m., 11:30 a.m.
Children's Choir: 10:00-10:25 a.m.
Youth Choir: 10:00-10:25 a.m.
Junior & Senior Pilgrim Fellowship
Check church bulletin
The newsletter is posted on our website:
prestoncitycongregational.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Turn clocks back 1 hour / Two-can Sun. Communion worship 9a, 10:30a; SS, 9:05a Confirmation 10:30a Preston City Ceme- tery dedication 1p PLEASE NOTE: Active church mem- bers who wish to bor- row church property (tables, chairs, etc.), call the church office.	4 NO Bible study Funeral 11a	5 Community Center 9-11:30a ARC 10:30a Meeting 6:30p Safety Committee	6 ARC 10:30a	7 Hand bell rehearsal 6:15p Adult choir 7p	8 Christmas Bazaar 9a-2p	9 Jr. Pilgrim Fellowship 10a-Noon (Mount Misery hike)
10 Worship 9a, 10:30a Confirmation 10:30a Contemporary worship 10:30a Deacons' meeting Noon	11 NO Bible study Veterans Day - Remember their Sacrifice Office closed	12 Community Center 9-11:30a ARC 10:30a Senior Lunch Noon Board of Religious Education 6p	13 ARC 10:30a St. Jude's worship 11a Building Committee meeting 6:30p	14 Hand bell rehearsal 6:15p Adult choir 7p	15 Girl Scouts 5p	16
17 Worship 9a, 10:30a Confirmation (in church) 10:30a Sr. P. F. 11:30a-1:30p	18 Bible study 10a	19 Community Center 9-11:30a ARC 10:30a Pageant rehearsal N3, N4, K, 5:30p Trustees' meeting 7p Standing Committee meeting 7:30p	20 ARC 10:30a Pageant rehearsal 6:15p Adult choir 7p	21 Hand bell rehearsal 6:15p Junior Pilgrim Fellowship 5-7p	22 	23
24 Worship 9a, 10:30a Food Distribution Sunday Confirmation 10:30a Contemporary worship 10:30a Fire Drill 10:30a	25 Bible study 10a	26 Community Center 9-11:30a ARC 10:30a Pageant rehearsal 6p	27 ARC 10:30a Pageant rehearsal 5:30p Hand bell rehearsal 6:15p Adult choir 7p	28 THANKSGIVING Count your blessings! Be thankful! Happy Thanksgiving! 	29 	30 Adult Game night 6-9p
1	2	3	4	5	6	7



COULD WE HAVE A MOMENT OF PRAYER TOGETHER BEFORE YOU LOOK AT MY REPORT CARD?

INCLEMENT WEATHER

CANCELLATIONS: Tune in to
WICH, WCTY, WNLC, WKNL,
or Television Channel 3 or you may
check Facebook or our website:
prestoncitycongregational.org
When Sunday School is cancelled,
church is **NOT CANCELLED** unless
specifically announced.