

THE PRESTON PILGRIM

The newsletter of
The Preston City
Congregational Church
Gathered 1698



**JANUARY - FEBRUARY
2014**

CHURCH ADDRESS

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WORSHIP

9:00 & 10:30 A.M.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

8:45 A.M.

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WEBSITE: prestoncitycongregational.org

Visit us on **FACEBOOK**

News and information for the March newsletter is due in the church office by **February 16**. You may leave information in the holder located on the wall in the kitchen.

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From the Minister...

*Life is a book in volumes three –
The past, the present, and the yet-to-be.
The past is written and laid away,
The present we're writing every day,
And last and best of the volumes three
Is locked from sight – God holds the keys.*

Author Unknown

Happy New Year! As the poem reads:

The past is written and laid away. All of life's past events - the good, the bad, even the sad, have been written. We can't re-write them. All we can do is trust God - that His goodness and love will be with us. Believing this, we can walk with confidence and hope into the new year.

Who knows what lies ahead for each of us in 2014 - the future is in God's hands, *locked from sight*. There is a bumper sticker that says:

*I do not know what the future holds,
but I know who holds the future.*

Again, let us put our faith in him, believing that whatever the future holds, He knows what He is doing - even when we don't understand.

The *last and best of the volumes three* will soon be revealed and written, and with faith in God we will approach each day believing that He has a purpose and a plan for everything that will unfold. Personally, I've always believed that He *holds the keys!*

I'm not big on New Year's resolutions, but here's one worth considering - to welcome Him into your heart, soul, and mind every day!

My very best to you in 2014!

See you in church!


Rev. Stan

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**DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER
WE WELCOMED** into the Household of Christian Faith through the Sacrament of Baptism:

12-1 *Lily Ann Collins*, daughter of Corrie and Adam Collins of Canterbury.

12-22 *Kennedy Nicole Luft*, daughter of Nikki Denicola and Nicholas Luft of Southington.

WE EXPRESSED OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Christopher Cardot who died unexpectedly just before Christmas. Chris, 28, attended this church in his early years, and was confirmed in the faith in grade 9. He was a likeable young man, and will be missed. He

leaves behind a three-year-old son, Dylan, who is being raised by grandparents, Gary & Patty Cardot of Preston. Please keep the Cardot family in your prayers. Chris' memorial service was held on January 4th.

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FOOD PANTRY NEWS...

Again this year, the Two-Can Food Pantry received a \$2,000 grant from the Jewett City Savings Bank. We truly appreciate the support of our neighborhood bank. In addition to the grant, JCSB gave a check for \$95 – proceeds from the sale of candy bars!! Then, just before Christmas the Sommerset-St. James Lodge #34 A.F. & A.M. gave a \$200 check to the pantry. We are surrounded by such caring and giving groups. *Thank you so much!* Every month, those who oversee the pantry's operation notice an increase in the amount of families needing help in these tough times. Thanks to JCSB, sister churches and organizations, many individuals in the community, and YOU, the church family, we are able to help others. May the good work continue in the year ahead.

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SENIOR LUNCHEON

The next luncheon is planned for Tuesday, January 14, starting at noon in the Sunday School hall. 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 wonderful people. The program that follows each meal is always interesting and entertaining as well! Plan to be part of the fun! February's luncheon will be the 11th.

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2014 "Proposed Budget" \$229,162.00

We've had a wonderful response to the 2014 budget appeal. To date (12/22), 107 pledges have been received totaling \$141,416. Nearly \$10,000 (collectively) has been pledged for Missions and Youth Missions. Thank you SO much. Have you offered your pledge of support? If not, consider doing so soon. Pledge forms are available on the Information Center table. Thanks for your faithfulness!

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DID YOU HEAR THE NEWS?

We made it! We reached the 2013 budget of \$220,826. We actually passed this amount on Christmas Eve.

I do believe God's Hand is upon this place. He makes all things possible, and it is from Him that *all our blessings flow!*

In a day when so many churches are struggling to remain open, due to low attendance and/or lack of income, we have banded together in faith, believing that God is doing amazing things in the lives of those who call this church *home*.

Both services are well attended from week-to-week. Our Sunday School is the best around – lots of little children, enthusiastic teens, many high school and college age young people who *want to be here on Sunday mornings!* Add to this a list of people who volunteer to serve the church in whatever capacity, often times at a moment's notice! As the song sings... *There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord.*

Thank you for your faithful support of the church in 2013. May God do even greater things through us in this new year!

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ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, February 11,
7 P.M.

Refreshments will be served at 6:30 P.M.

Annual reports will be available for review on Sunday, February 9. Church members are strongly encouraged to attend this important meeting. In addition to receiving and accepting reports, approving the church budget and accepting nominations for boards & committees, we will also discuss and vote on the issue of church membership. Likewise, we'll hear an update from the Building Committee regarding possible renovations to the Sanctuary in the summer of 2014. There may be other matters that come before the membership as well. Be with us as we look back on 2013 and ahead to 2014.

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SOUP & CHILI SUPPER

What better meal to have in the cold of winter? On February 8th at 5 P.M., you can sample up to three different soups or chilis. Only 100 tickets will be sold for this eat-in only fundraiser. The menu will include: salad, rolls, and three ladles of your choice of soup or chili, *plus* dessert! The cost per ticket is \$10 and will go on sale January 6th. If you would like to share your recipe, give it to Sally Exley before the dinner and copies of the recipe will be available the night of the supper. If you would like to help out in the kitchen please call Sally at 860.822.9005

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BIBLE STUDY RESUMES...

Join us on Monday mornings at 10 A.M. as we continue our study of the book of **EXODUS**. We have interesting discussions each week about the passages we read. In addition to learning something new, you meet some wonderful people. The class is designed so you can attend whenever it fits your busy schedule. Our next class is January 6th. We'll be starting at chapter 19. Rev. White leads the one-hour class, and as always, the coffee pot will be on! Please consider joining us.



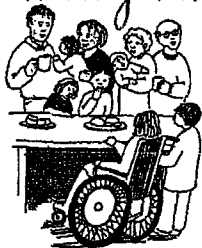
Mark Your
Calendar!

The Preston Junior Pilgrim



Preston City Congregational Church Sunday School Newsletter

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:



AS WE BEGIN A NEW YEAR, I've realized more and more the importance of a "faith community." As I reminisce about the Christmas services and all the beauty that went with them, I am thinking of the people who came "home" for Christmas. What bids them to come here. I personally think it is even more than family. There is a sacredness present in our services that "feeds the soul." I want to invite the whole world in to experience what is here.

EVERYONE truly is welcome here. The ages are all "mixed up" in the pews from the new born baby to the person who will soon be 90+. The baby is the hope of the future, the elderly, the assurance of enduring faith. The person who has lost their mate of many years is still here feeding their faith in spite of loss, the person who is awaiting test results is here, not sitting home alone, trusting that something, someone, will lift them up. We can't buy hope or a group of people who will care for us as deeply as the faith community. You could walk in depressed and leave optimistic!

PEOPLE who have been away a long time can come and find a warm, receptive welcome. Isn't this what a true "faith community" should be...one who does not judge, but seeks to understand and if not, just extends "Christian love", as unconditional as Christ himself modeled. I like what the apostle Peter says about this: "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God." 1 Peter 4:8-11a

SUNDAY SCHOOL for children is the BEST! It's a tough world out there for our young people. From babes of 3 to high school, the lessons and love in the scriptures is priceless, taught by volunteer teachers and aides who just care about children. We are so fortunate to have the Giulianos and the Van Alsts who have brought forth the ministry of "BRING IT", contemporary worship services for high school and young adults through age 22 that take place the 2nd and 4th Sunday mornings from 10:30-11:30 a.m. I was privileged on Christmas Sunday to take a few moments to view the nativity on the screen from something Jerry G. had downloaded from You Tube. One of the kids said, you're going to show that to Mrs. Dudek?? Mrs. Dudek thought it was great! Whatever it takes to communicate God's word in the most effective way works for me! Of course, I will always believe, as well, in the value of the traditional!

ARE YOU WONDERING why I wrote this short article. I would encourage you to invite your unchurched family and friends to Sunday School and church. There are many young people out there post high school we need to reach to tell them about BRING IT. Frequent attendance will help them develop a relationship with God, they will be among people who offer spiritual and emotional support, and will encourage them. The list could go on. Do you think this is realistic? Come and see if you're not already here.

2014 offers much to look forward to...I would look up ~ and laugh ~ and love ~ and lift.

May the SONshine through me,

Sandy Dudek

DECEMBER BIBLE VERSES



Memory Verse

"...Do to others what you would have them do to you." (Matthew 7:12) **Golden Rule (N3-Grade 2)**

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven." Luke 6:37" (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.



THE STORYTELLING & ENRICHMENT...Moses and the Burning Bush will take place on **January 19th**. The students and the teachers look forward to these learning and fun sessions. We thank Storyteller Judy Ladegard and Enrichment Coordinator Shari Purcell for their commitment to this segment of Sunday School.

A WORD FROM OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY... If your 2014 church offering envelopes are numbered 831-930, please note the change needed to the first digit due to a printing error. *Thank you. Mary Ann Coughlin (860.376.0568).*

HEATHER EIGHME has completed all her courses at UCONN and has obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology! She is now applying for a job and speculating what her future might be...maybe teaching! Great accomplishment, Heather! Your church family applauds you.



HEIDI WILLARD, is a recent recipient of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendent's certificate. She was chosen for this honor to recognize her exemplary academic performance and community service. She is a junior and honor student at Griswold High School. She was recently highlighted as a newsmaker of the day by The Bulletin and I was so pleased to read that in addition to her numerous extracurricular activities listed, she stated she is a member of The Preston City Congregational Church and active as the Sr. Pilgrim Fellowship secretary and serves as an aide in the Sunday School, both to teachers and myself. Am I proud? You bet I am! **CONGRATULATIONS, HEIDI!**

THANK YOU to everyone who provided a gift or two for our Secret Santa program. I have the privilege of seeing that they get to the people that need them and I can assure you, there are some happy faces and warmed hearts because you cared!

CHRISTMAS IN REVIEW:

A **SMALL BUT ENTHUSIASTIC** group of children and teens came to bake the Christmas cookies! They were great. I am so grateful to Keith Harrison for his "manning" the ovens, and to Priscilla Migliaccio, Sharon York, and Debbi Harrison, adults who came to help.

THE ALL CHURCH CAROLLING covers five routes going as far as Waterford, Brooklyn, Colchester, and Canterbury in addition to Norwich, Preston, Griswold, etc. This is an important outreach of our church. People need to know that we care about them especially at this emotional time of the year for many people. The Sr. & Jr. Pilgrim Fellowships participated. The cookie plates were delivered. Notes received will be relayed to the children. Marcia Bartha hosted a wonderful soup and salad supper following the caroling and Rev. Stan hosted the Sr. Pilgrim Fellowship at his house.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL PAGEANT... *The Nativity* staged by our preschool and kindergarten classes and *"Follow The Star"* staged by our 1st graders and up performed to a full house! Great job students, and Directors Melissa Blondet and Tiffany Barry. The Confirmation Class served refreshments and cleaned up; a very responsible job done...I was proud of them! Surrell's Pizza of Jewett City gives us a great buy on the pizza, delivers them, and provides plates and napkins.

CHRISTMAS EVE 4 P.M. ...I was so pleased that Seminarian Richard Eighme, joined me and presented "Santa's Favorite Story" with Santa in person! Highlights of the service were the lighting to the Christ candle by the David & Jennifer Nowakowki family with their sons singing "Away In A Manger", Heidi Willard's beautiful singing of "Where's The Line To See Santa?", the beautiful harp music by Evelyn Courmoyer, the parade of angels with the Christmas angel, Kaylei Allen placing the baby in the manger, with "Joy To The World" on trumpets by Hunter and Hayden Bustamante. Richard also assisted Rev. White with the 11 p.m. service (attendance 206!) as a worship; assistant.

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BRING IT... *Contemporary Young Adult Worship Service.* Our worship team is looking for help in providing snacks on a regular basis or sharing your musical gifts. If you can help, please let us know. For further information, please contact Scott or Lisa VanAist @ 860.230.9947. You can also talk to any member of our worship team: Jerry and Cheryl Giuliano, Katie Gates, or Chris Burden.

THE SCRIP PROGRAM is an ongoing fundraiser that greatly benefits the youth missions trips program. Scrip (debit) cards are available to purchase for hundreds of stores, gas stations, donut shops, bookstores, grocery stores, etc. where you do business. You do not pay any extra amount to purchase these cards; however, the youth missions will receive a percentage back that varies according to the business. For example...if you purchase a Macy's card for \$100.00, youth missions will be rewarded 10% for the sale...no charge to you, but profit to the program; WalMart is 2%, Stop & Shop 4%, etc. Cards can be purchased for varying amounts. Sheets with participating businesses listed are always available in the Information Center. Checks to purchase these cards should be made out to "PCCC Youth Missions". If you have questions, call coordinators Jerry & Cheryl Giuliano (860-376-8901).

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!



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, and now we are in need of more volunteers when the need arises. If you would be willing to be a part of this important ministry, please call meal coordinator Lois Woodmansee at 860.889.2128.

REMINDER

All Officer, Board and Committee reports are due in the church office by January 12th. Reports DO NOT have to be typed. The Annual Report for 2013 will be available for review on February 9th. Please call the church office if you have any questions.

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CALENDARS

Only a few 2014 calendars remain. "Free" copies can be found on the Information center table. Help yourself!



From the Faith Community Nurse: Please help us plan for a healthy 2014 by answering the following questions. Surveys can be placed in the box on the information center table or completed online at www.prestoncitycongregational.org/parish-nurse.

Please put an X by your answers.

I am interested in attending the following types of health screening programs:

Blood pressure (Hypertension screening) Blood sugar (Diabetic screening)
 Stroke prevention screening Other _____

I am interested in learning more about:

<input type="checkbox"/> Adolescent health issues	<input type="checkbox"/> Exercise and health
<input type="checkbox"/> Addictions	<input type="checkbox"/> Grief and loss
<input type="checkbox"/> Advance directives/Living wills	<input type="checkbox"/> Heart disease
<input type="checkbox"/> Alternative/complimentary therapies	<input type="checkbox"/> Hypertension
<input type="checkbox"/> Alzheimer's disease	<input type="checkbox"/> Medication management
<input type="checkbox"/> Anxiety disorders	<input type="checkbox"/> Menopause
<input type="checkbox"/> Arthritis	<input type="checkbox"/> Men's health issues
<input type="checkbox"/> Cancer	<input type="checkbox"/> Pain management
<input type="checkbox"/> CPR	<input type="checkbox"/> Respiratory diseases
<input type="checkbox"/> Caring for aging parents	<input type="checkbox"/> Sleep disorders
<input type="checkbox"/> Depression	<input type="checkbox"/> Smoking cessation
<input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes	<input type="checkbox"/> Weight control
<input type="checkbox"/> Eating disorders	<input type="checkbox"/> Women's health issues

Which day of the week and time would you be interested in attending a program? Please circle.

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

Morning Afternoon Evening

Thank you!



January 2014

DECEMBER 2013
S M T W T F S

1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28
29 30 31

FEBRUARY
S M T W T F S

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12 13 14 15
16 17 18 19 20 21 22
23 24 25 26 27 28

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
To place flowers in church during January, call Joyce Brewster (860.376.4167)	PLEASE NOTE: Active church members who wish to borrow church property (tables, chairs), call the church office.	Please check with rev. Stan or Sandy before using our names as references. This courtesy would be appreciated.	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR! Health and happiness! AA 7:30p	2 Adult choir 7p	3 Girl Scouts 5p	4 Christopher Cardot funeral service 11a
5 Epiphany Communion 9, 10:30a SS communion 9:05a Adult choir sings 9a Two can Sunday Confirmation 10:30a Halls' Hall in use 1-5p	6 Bible study 10a	7 Community Center 9-11:30a ARC 10:30a	8 ARC 10:30a St. Jude's worship 11a Finance Committee Meeting 7p AA 7:30p	9 Hand bell rehearsal 6:15p Adult choir 7p	10	11
12 Worship 9, 10:30a Baptism 9a BRING IT, 10:30a Confirmation 10:30a Deacons' meeting 11:30a	13 Bible study 10a	14 Community Center 9-11:30a ARC 10:30a Board of Religious Education 6p	15 LifeLine Screening 6:30a-6:30p Trustees' meeting 6:30p Standing Committee meeting 7p AA 7:30p	16 Hand bell rehearsal 6:15p Adult choir 7p	17 Girl Scouts 5p	18
19 Worship 9, 10:30a Storytelling Sunday Adult choir sings 9a Confirmation 10:30	20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day NO Bible study	21 Community Center 9-11:30a ARC 10:30a Safety Committee meeting 6:30p	22 ARC 10:30a AA 7:30p	23 Hand bell rehearsal 6:15p Adult choir 7p	24	25
26 Worship 9, 10:30a Food Distribution Sunday Confirmation 10:30-noon (Mid year, funeral home trip) BRING IT 10:30a	27 Bible study 10a	28 Community Center 9-11:30a ARC 10:30a	29 ARC 10:30a Creamery Brook worship 3p AA 7:30p	30 Hand bell rehearsal 6:15p Adult choir 7p	31	LOST OR FOUND something at church? There is a basket in the information Center

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.



February 2014

JANUARY
S M T W T F S

5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14 15 16 17 18
19 20 21 22 23 24 25
26 27 28 29 30 31

MARCH
S M T W T F S

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12 13 14 15
16 17 18 19 20 21 22
23 24 25 26 27 28 29
30 31

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
To place flowers in church during February, call Joyce Brewster (860.376.4167)	Jr. & Sr. Pilgrim Fellowship activities, watch the church worship folder.	PLEASE NOTE: Active church members who wish to borrow church property (tables, chairs), call the church office.	LOST OR FOUND something at church? There is a basket in the information Center.	Please check with Rev. Stan or Sandy before using our names as references. This courtesy would be most appreciated.		1
2 Communion SS communion 9:05a Worship 9, 10:30a Adult choir sings 9a Two-can Sunday Confirmation 10:30a Halls' Hall in use 1-5p	3 Bible study 10a	4 Community Center 9-11:30a ARC 10:30a	5 ARC 10:30a AA 7:30p	6 Hand bell rehearsal 6:15p Adult choir 7p	7 Girl Scouts 5p	8 Soup/chili fundraiser 4:30-6p Inclement weather—held following day
9 Worship 9, 10:30a BRING IT 10:30a NO Confirmation Class	10 Bible study 10a	11 Community Center 9-11:30a ARC 10:30a Senior Lunch Noon Annual meeting 7p	12 ARC 10:30a St. Jude's worship 11a AA 7:30p	13 Hand bell rehearsal 6:15p Adult choir 7p	14	15
16 Worship 9, 10:30a Adult choir sings 9a Confirmation 10:30a	17 Presidents' Day NO Bible study 10a	18 Community Center 9-11:30a ARC 10:30a	19 ARC 10:30a Trustees' meeting 6:30p Standing Committee Meeting 7:30p AA 7:30p	20 Hand bell rehearsal 6:15p Adult choir 7p	21 Girl Scouts 5p	22
23 Worship 9 10:30a Youth Sunday 10:30a BRING IT 10:30a Food Distribution Sun. Confirmation Pancake Supper fundraiser 4:30-6p	24 Bible study 10a	25 Community Center 9-11:30a ARC 10:30a	26 ARC 10:30a Creamery Brook worship 3p AA 7:30p	27 Hand bell rehearsal 6:15p Adult choir 7p	28	Is the information correct on this mailing? If not, please get in touch with the church office to update this information by phone or email.