

# THE PRESTON PILGRIM

The newsletter of  
The Preston City  
Congregational Church  
Gathered 1698

**JUNE - JULY**  
**2014**

## CHURCH ADDRESS

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Preston, CT 06365-8108

## TELEPHONE

(860) 887-4647, (860) 886-7200

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## WORSHIP

9:00 A.M. (May 25 - July 6)

9:00 & 10:30 A.M. (July 13 - August 31)

EMAIL: [PCCC@SNET.NET](mailto:PCCC@SNET.NET)

WEBSITE: [prestoncitycongregational.org](http://prestoncitycongregational.org)

Visit us on **FACEBOOK**

News and information for the August newsletter is due in the church office by **July 20**. You may leave information in the holder located on the wall in the kitchen.

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## FROM THE MINISTER...



### Wisdom for Grads (and us all)!

*"...Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."*

Joshua 1:9

It's graduation time for many people, especially young people - from middle school, high school, college and beyond. To all those graduating this month, *Congratulations on your achievement!*

Just the other day, I received an invitation to attend my 35<sup>th</sup> class reunion from college. Was it *that* long ago? Where has the time gone? Graduation from high school was 40 years ago, and seminary 30 years ago! A beloved hymn contains a fitting phrase...

*"Time (is) like an ever rolling stream..."*

Time, like it or not, marches on; the older you are, the faster it *rolls*.

How many times have you thought, *If I knew then what I know now...* what would you have done differently? What *wisdom* have you gained during your years of living that's worth passing

on to this year's graduates? I've been reading snippets from past commencement speeches delivered by Oprah, Tom Hanks, Mister Rogers, Eli Wiesel, and Jon Stewart - *interesting* (I'll leave it there)!

I appreciate Joshua's words and find them appropriate for graduates, and all of us; especially for the times in which we live:

*Be courageous!*

*Don't be terrified!*

*Don't get discouraged!*

Why?

Because *God will be with you wherever you go!*

These are *encouraging words for discouraging times!* They are worth remembering, committing to memory, and passing on to others - especially graduates going out into the "real world."

The words of the rich and famous will fade over time, but the wisdom found in God's Word will endure, encourage us, and offer us **HOPE**.

I close with the words of King Solomon, said to be the "wisest man who ever lived."

*"Know that wisdom is sweet to your soul; if you find it, there is a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off."*

Proverbs 24:14

To all our graduates; your church family is proud of your achievement. Now, go out and make the world a better place. You can do it! God believes in you, and so do I!

See you in church!

*Rev. Steen*

## DURING THE MONTH OF MAY

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

5-1, *Kaydence Jayne Day*, daughter of Eliza Hopkins and Mark Day of Ledyard, CT

5-11, *Teagan Jade Littlefield*, daughter of Cheryl & Jeffrey Littlefield of Griswold, CT

5-18, *Landen James Janelle*, son of Crystal & James Janelle of Yantic, CT

**WE WELCOMED** *Lori & Ed Hall* into the membership of the church on Mother's Day. We're so glad you're here!

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## SCHOLARSHIP SUNDAY

Plan to be present at worship on June 8<sup>th</sup>, at 9 A.M. as we present scholarships to deserving young people planning to attend college in the fall. The monies to be awarded are made possible through the generosity of the congregation. We're pleased to say that \$1,170 was raised from the "Songs & Sweets" gospel music concert held on May 10. We thank everyone who attended the concert, and to those who baked the delicious desserts that followed!

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## HAM & BEAN SUPPER

Saturday, June 28

Time: 4 - 6 P.M.

Cost: \$10

Children 12 and under \$5

You may enjoy the meal in the dining room or take-out will also be available. Tickets are now on sale Sunday mornings or, by calling the church office.

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## REMEMBER...

During the Sanctuary renovations (From July 13 through August 31) we will meet for worship in the Sunday School hall; 9 & 10:30. We hope to see you and your family this summer. The *BIG REVEAL* will hopefully be September 7<sup>th</sup>.

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"Let There Be Light!"

Thank you so much for your monetary donations to the Sanctuary renovation project. We're hoping to raise \$10,000 before the project begins on July 7. To date, \$7,380 has been received, and we are so appreciative! It's not too late to offer your contribution, place your gift in the offering plate on Sunday morning, or mail it to the church office marked "Sanctuary Renovations." Every gift, in any amount, is needed and appreciated. *Thanks!*

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## CHICKEN POT PIE

The Supper Committee has given \$1,000 to the church budget! Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make this possible.

## SAVE THE DATE

Our week on Fishers Island (NY) is planned for August 8 to 13. Come for the day, or plan to stay overnight(s). It's a lot of fun for the whole family. A brochure with everything you need to know about our time on the island is available on the Information Center table. Check it out!

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## DID YOU KNOW...

that we have some extra copies of the new pictorial directory? They are available for purchase through the church office at a cost of \$20. It's a great way to put names with faces you see Sunday after Sunday. Please call or stop by if you are interested.

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## YOUR COOPERATION IS NEEDED

Please remember if you are planning to use one of the church halls for an event on Sunday that **both halls and the kitchen are in use until 1 P.M.** Please DO NOT arrive early planning to set up for your event while church-related events are still in progress. Your understanding is appreciated.

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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, 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.

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## MISSING

While taking inventory of church property recently, we discovered that many of the metal chairs we loan to members of the congregation have not been returned. Do you have some in your basement or garage that you have forgotten to return to the church? Please bring them back as soon as possible so others may borrow them. Still missing are two 8' tables with tan laminate tops. Please remember that you must contact the church office before tables and chairs leave the property. Thanks.

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## CONGRATULATIONS!

*Sarah Faries*, who in December 2013, received a degree from Oklahoma City University is now working as an RN at St. John's Hospital in Tulsa, OK. After she is in practice for one year she will start a course of study to be a nurse anesthetist. Your church family applauds you and is proud of you Sarah!

*Elizabeth Del Core*, who on May 11<sup>th</sup>, received her Master's degree in autism and applied behavior analysis at St. Joseph College in West Hartford. What a wonderful accomplishment, Liz! We're proud of you!

# The Preston Junior Pilgrim



Preston City Congregational Church Sunday School Newsletter



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

*"A am the church, you are the church, we are the church together; all who follow Jesus all around the world, we are the church together. The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is the people" ...so the children sing and shake hands with those next to them on "we are the church together."*

AS WE BEGIN our renovation work this summer, beginning around July 7<sup>th</sup>, I'm wondering if we will think of the message in this song and remember even though we will not be in our familiar space and comfortable pews that **WE ARE THE CHURCH**. I have thought about the time in the late 1800's when the church burned to the ground and the Baptist Church extended their hand to us and their facilities to meet there. I wonder how many remained faithful and went remembering that their presence there was **THE CHURCH**. Did some of them say, I'll just wait until the new church is built.

NOW IN OUR TIME, (thankfully, no fire this time!) we face almost the same situation except that we will still be able to worship in our building, the Sunday School Hall. Will we sit in there and be joyous in singing *"Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness, bow down before him, his glory proclaim: with gold of obedience and incense of lowliness, kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name."* Will the Sunday School Hall become a Sanctuary for you? I truly hope so.

I know "you'll be blessed because you came." See you upstairs in the building on July 6<sup>th</sup> and downstairs in the building on July 13<sup>th</sup>. *"We are the church together!"*

May the SONshine through me,

*Randy Dudek* &



**A BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL DAY** ...Children's Day on the "Field of Dreams" for the second year! The students were led in the procession down to the field by Perfect Attendance students, *Reed Nowakowski* and *Reed Nowakowski*. A number of students missed by one Sunday! Our storytelling this past year focused on Moses so on Children's Day our students processed down to the field from the lower Christian Education wing as *freed* Israelites from Egyptian rule to the tune of "Oh, We Will Feast and Fellowship!"

**BIBLES** are presented to first graders (and those who have registered in the Sunday School older than first grade) by Rev. Stan. He underlines a verse in the Bible especially for the receiver. On Children's Day Perfect Attendance student, *Brock Nowakowski*, found his! In my recollection I do not remember another student finding it on Children's Day! I was impressed and warmed by his enthusiasm to find that special verse. And then within a week *Noelia Blondet* called and then *Noah Klewin*; both left me messages in which they read the Bible verse, I sure am proud of them.

I HAD hoped to line up vacations to the Bahamas for our dedicated Sunday School staff, but I know they're here because they like kids and want them to know about the Lord. Though we don't always see immediate results with our kids, only God knows who has been impacted for the good.

**LAUREN HODKINSON**, the high school class speaker, delivered a message to her teachers about their impact on her and the others in the class. She also spoke about the great experience she has had with going to "Bring It" contemporary worship services. On Mother's Day, she had the courage to be the presenter. I'm not surprised. I have seen such great leadership develop out of kids that have gone through Sunday School and Confirmation here. She will be heading to Ithaca College in the fall, but I know for sure her heart will never be far from PCCC.

**CHILDREN'S DAY** would not be possible without the help of many people... *Jerry Giuliano* coordinating the all church picnic, *Scott Van Alst* doing the sound system, *Alan and Arlene Starke* overseeing setup and parking, *Glen Webster* moving tables and chairs, as well as *Lisa Fessenden*, *Zachary Houghton*, *Angelika Larkin*, *Jamie Webster*, *Lisa Van Alst*, *Bryan Van Alst*, *Gail Brown*, and *Amy Dudek*. who helped in various ways. (Please forgive me if you helped and I missed your name.)

**THANK YOU** to everyone who provided a Bible to give to a child on Children's Day. What a great gift and very much appreciated.

**THE BOARD OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** warmly welcomes Jerry Giuliano. He is replacing Richard Eighme at this time as he pursues his seminary education. Jerry has always been a strong advocate for youth and will be a fine addition.



**WILDERNESS ESCAPE...Where God guides and provides...** Our Vacation Bible School this summer is sure to be lots of learning and fun. It will focus on the Israelites time in the desert when God continued His care of His people. Moses (our own Rev. Stan), is sure to leave an impression on our kids as he travels through the desert (Sunday School Hall). Wait until they see the "manna" and "quail" God will provide for them. **July 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 9-11:30 a.m.** are the dates. Registration forms are available on the Information Center table or through the church office. The cost is \$12.00 or \$30.00 per family (if three or more). Scholarships are available by talking to Mrs. Dudek. A required meeting is planned for **Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** for all those involved in the Bible School. If you would like to help, call the church office. Judy Ladegard and Sandy Dudek are directing the school.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to our **GRADUATES** to date that we are aware of:

University of Connecticut: **Heather Eighme, Jeffrey Talbot;**  
 Norwich Free Academy: **Christian Allyn, Nicole Coughlin, Lauren Hodkinson,**  
**Alexandra Kobelski, MiaLynne Park, Kellen Strader**

Griswold High School: **Monique Maynard**

Dallas High School: **Kearsten Turley**

Are there others? Please call the church office so we may send them a congratulatory letter.



**DID YOU KNOW** that Children's messages are offered each Sunday in the summer during worship services. Though Sunday School is on recess, there is still a message prepared especially for them. I do hope you will consider bringing them. **THE BABY NURSERY** will be available upon request this summer. Requests must be made by Tuesday through the church office.

**"BRING IT"**...the contemporary worship service for high school and young people to age 22 will be taking place some of the summer Sundays. The next one is June 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. under the pavilion. In the event of rain, it will be held in a lower level classroom. Why not come and invite your friends. Questions, call the Giulianos (860.376.8901) or the Van Alsts (860.230.9947).

**THE SENIOR PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP** will be going to Fishers Island June 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> for a group retreat. Please be sure to return your form to the Giulianos if you plan to attend. It's always a great time!

**YOUTH MISSION TRIP PARTICIPANTS...**This is a reminder of an important meeting here at the church on June 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 a.m. All paperwork has been sent out; please bring it all completed on the 8<sup>th</sup> as well as a tee shirt for tie dying.

**THE JUNIOR PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP** has an end of the year outing planned for Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> to Adventureland in Narragansett, RI. Please return your permission slip promptly to Linda Farinha (860.608.6641) or Andy McCaslin (860.917.6572).

**THE FUNDRAISER BAKE SALE** for the High School mission child, Kalid, netted \$165.35, certainly enough to carry our commitment through the summer. Thank you to those who baked and to those who made purchases.

**IN HONOR OF FATHER'S DAY...**Little eyes are watching

By Robin Fogle



To see all that you do.  
 And on the path you're walking,  
 Little feet will follow you.

A little heart is waiting  
 For the love you have to give,  
 He trusts your fine example  
 To show him how to live.

Two little ears are listening

To every word you say.  
 And a little mind is learning  
 To be like you someday.

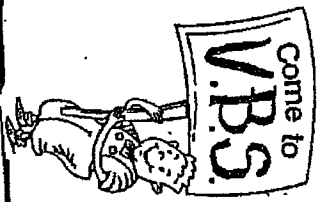
So keep your eye toward heaven,  
 Then thank God and be glad  
 That the precious child beside you,  
 Just wants to be like Dad.

**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

MAY  
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11 12 13 14 15 16 17  
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JULY  
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# JUNE 2014



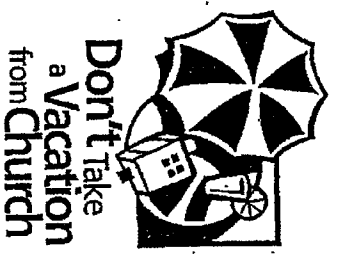
Register by  
July 1st.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion worship 9a Adult choir sings 9a SS communion 9:06a Two-can Sunday	2	3 Friends & Family Cafe 9-11:30a ARC 10:30a Vacation Bible	4 ARC 10:30a AA 7:30p	5 Adult choir 7p	6	7 14 Flag Day Memorial service 11a
8 Scholarship & Choir Appreciation Sunday 9a Youth Mission trip Meeting 10:15a "Bring It" 10:30a	9 Yoga beginners 6:30p-7:15p Yoga intermediates 7:30-8:00p	10 Friends & Family Cafe 9-11:30 a ARC 10:30a	11 ARC 10:30a St. Jude's worship 11a Board of Religious Ed. 6p AA 7:30p	12	13	21
15 Father's Day Worship 9a	16 Yoga beginners 6:30p-7:15p Yoga intermediates 7:30-8:00p	17 Friends & Family Cafe 9-11:30 a ARC 10:30a	18 ARC 10:30a Trustees meeting 6:30p Standing Committee Meeting 7p AA 7:30p	19	20	22
22 Worship 9a	23 Jr. Pilgrim Fellowship outing 9a-3p Yoga beginners 6:30p-7:15p Yoga intermediates 7:30-8:00p	24 Friends & Family Cafe 9-11:30 a ARC 10:30a Scarecrow Festival meeting 6:30 p.m.	25 ARC 10:30a Creamery Brook Worship 3p AA 7:30p	26	27 Sr. Pilgrim Fellowship Retreat Fishers Island	28 Ham & Bean Supper 4-6p
29 Worship 9a Food Distribution Sunday	30 Yoga beginners 6:30p-7:15p Yoga intermediates 7:30-8:00p	To place flowers in church during June, sign the Flower chart in the narthex, and call Gail Hill at 860.889.6962	PLEASE NOTE: Active church members who wish to borrow church property (table, chairs, etc.), 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 appreciated.	That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me. Romans 1:12

JUNE  
 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

AUGUST  
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 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

# JULY 2014



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p>To place flowers in church during July, sign the Flower chart in the narthex, and call Mary Lou Jensen at 860.889.6400</p>	<p>PLEASE CHECK with Rev. Stan or Sandy before using our names as references. This courtesy would be appreciated.</p>	<p>1 Friends &amp; Family Cafe 9-11:30a        ARC 10:30a</p>	<p>2 ARC 10:30a        AA 7:30p</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Independence Day!        Office closed</p>	<p>5 Wedding</p>
<p>6 Communion worship 9a        Two-can Sunday</p>	<p>7 Yoga beginners 6:30p-7:15p        Yoga Intermediates 7:30-8:00p</p>	<p>8 Friends &amp; Family Cafe 9-11:30 a        ARC 10:30a        Board of Religious Ed. 6p</p>	<p>9 ARC 10:30a        St. Jude's worship 11a        Finance Committee Meeting 7p        AA 7:30p</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 Worship 9, 10:30a        Sunday School Hall</p>	<p>14 NO yoga        Vacation Bible School 9-11:30a</p>	<p>15        NO Friends &amp; Family Cafe        NO ARC</p>	<p>16 NO ARC        St. Jude's worship 11a        —Trustees meeting— 6:30p        Standing Committee Meeting 7p        AA 7:30p</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20 Worship 9,10:30a        Sunday School Hall</p>	<p>21        Yoga beginners 6:30p-7:15p        Yoga Intermediates 7:30-8:00p</p>	<p>22 Friends &amp; Family Cafe 9-11:30 a        ARC 10:30a        Scarecrow Festival meeting 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>23        ARC 10:30a        Creamery Brook Worship 3p        AA 7:30p</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 Worship 9,10:30a        Sunday School Hall        Food Distribution Sunday</p>	<p>28        Yoga beginners 6:30p-7:15p        Yoga Intermediates 7:30-8:00p</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>PLEASE NOTE: Active church members who wish to borrow church property (tables, chairs, etc.), call the church office.</p>	<p>LOST OR FOUND something at church? There is a basket in the Information Center.</p>