

THE PRESTON PILGRIM

The newsletter of
The Preston City
Congregational Church
Gathered 1698

APRIL 2015

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 May newsletter is due in the church office by **April 19**. You may leave information in the holder located on the wall in the kitchen.

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JUST ANOTHER SUNDAY?

Sunday mornings are pretty typical. There's a routine of things I do when I get here before you arrive. The service format is most often the same from week-to-week, occasionally there's a speaker, a baptism, or something different.

Something happened on Sunday, March 8, that never happened before in all my years at this church. If you were present, you will remember... the church's fire alarm went off during the church service; during the sermon, no less!

Earlier in the week, we had received several "trouble signals" from the company that monitors our church alarm system. It was checked out by a technician, reset, and appeared to be working just fine.

Surprise!

Honestly, when the alarm sounded I did not know how to respond to the shrieking sound. It had never gone off in a service before. Ever! It was a "first" and something I was *not prepared for*. Was it just another false "trouble signal," I thought? If so, no worries. The congregation remained in their pews since I, nor anyone else "suggested" that we exit the building. Within moments our church safety chairperson, Lowell Calkins informed the congregation that

everything was fine. A fog machine being used by the Sunday School set off the smoke detector! Many laughed, and I did my best to get the remainder of the sermon back on track. We sang the closing hymn and another Sunday service was over – not *just* another Sunday for sure.

Later that day, and before falling off to sleep that night, I reviewed this unusual incident in my mind. How *wrong it was* to remain sitting in pews when a fire alarm was sounding. *What if it wasn't a "trouble signal" but instead a real fire?* As your minister, I should have insisted that everyone leave the Sanctuary when I heard it. *I WAS WRONG, and I am so sorry about how the incident unfolded that morning, and my lack of judgment.* I would never handle that situation the same way again.

The incident got me thinking. What would the congregation do *IF* there *were* a fire in the Sanctuary during a service? Would people know which door to exit? Would they know that they shouldn't use the elevator? What about those people who can't do stairs? Do they know there's a ramp on the other side of the church? These questions and many more ran through my mind that night. It made me realize that we need to have an emergency exit plan for the congregation, and people need to be aware of it, "just in case." This issue will be discussed at a future meeting of the Safety Committee.

I thank God it was nothing serious that morning, and I thank Him even more for keeping us safe!

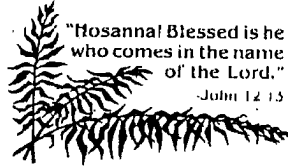
See you in church!
P. W. Stan

MEMORIAL FLAGS

The American flag waving proudly on the annex lawn is given in memory of *Alan Rosiene* by Shirley & Don Walsh.

The Christian flag waving proudly on the annex lawn is given in memory of *Shirley & John White* by Shirley & Don Walsh.

We so appreciate the generosity of the Walsh's purchasing and replacing worn out flags all throughout the year. *Thank you!*



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, 3/29. Twelve new members will be welcomed into the life of the church!

Maundy Thursday, 4/2. Join us for this solemn service recalling the night before Christ's crucifixion. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be offered. The service begins at 7 P.M.

Good Friday, 4/3. This special service remembering the crucifixion of Jesus starts at noon in the Sanctuary. It's so important to be present at worship on this day, after all, he died for you!

Easter Sunrise Service, 4/5. Hopefully, this ecumenical service will be held at Amos Lake on Hollowell Rd. in Preston. Too much snow still on the ground could mean the service is held at our church at 6:30 A.M. The church answering machine will state where the service is being held; please call.

Easter Breakfast, Have you signed up? You must! A sign-up sheet is posted on the hallway bulletin board, or call the office by Wednesday, April 1 to make your reservation.

The Celebration of Easter, two inspiring services of worship will be held at 9 & 10:30 A.M. The Sanctuary will be decorated with memorial lilies, the adult choir will sing at both services, a children's message will be offered, and the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be offered. Plan to be present as we remember His death, and celebrate His resurrection from the tomb!

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SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORMS

Young people who are church members, and pursuing their first college degree are encouraged to pick up an application form at the mid-level Information table. All applications MUST be returned to the church office no later than April 30th. The Diaconate will review the applications in May, and awards will be presented on June 14, during the morning worship service.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, April 12, at Noon

Join us for this important meeting to be held in the Sunday School hall. Everyone is invited to attend, however, only church members may vote on issues that arise. Those preparing financial reports are asked to submit them to the office by April 8, so they may be compiled in a report to be distributed on that day.

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GREAT JOB!

We thank the Supper Committee for preparing and serving another wonderful meal! The meatloaf supper was enjoyed by many, and the profit? \$1,053. Now, the committee is preparing for the "Homemade Chicken Pot Pie" supper slated for Saturday, April 25th, from 4 - 6 P.M. Tickets for adults are \$10 and children 12 and under are just \$5. You can purchase tickets on Sunday mornings, or reserve them by calling the church office. Get yours early; it's usually a sell-out! Would you like to help with the supper? Check the bulletin board on the mid-level to see where you are needed.

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CHURCH CLEAN UP

Help us get the church in shape following the rough winter we experienced. Individuals and families are asked to consider lending a hand in sweeping the parking lot, raking leaves, picking up fallen tree branches, trimming shrubs, etc. Please bring your rakes and brooms, to the church on **Saturday, April 4.** We'll start at 8 A.M. (arrive when you can, leave when you must) and end no later than noon. There will be coffee, juice, and donuts for the workers. The more help we have the faster the clean-up will go.

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SCARECROW FESTIVAL NEWS...

It's only 6 months away... the 10th annual Scarecrow Festival, here on the church grounds, September 26, from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. You'll be hearing more about this "free" family event in the months to come. For now, **SAVE THE DATE!**

Vendors and Crafters are wanted for this day-long event. The regular cost to exhibit is just \$50 for a 10' x 10' booth or \$75 for a corner location. Space is limited. *Register prior to May 1st and deduct a \$10 early bird discount!* Contact Nancy (Musa) & Joe Savino at 860.376.2104 for more information.

Festival Co-Chairpersons Shirley Hodkinson and Carolyn Shea will be stepping aside after the Festival this year and would like new chairs to shadow them if possible. If you are interested in this position, or have any questions, contact Shirley (860.887.8760).

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YARD SALE DATE SET

Saturday, May 16
8 A.M. - 2 P.M.
Save the date!

The Preston Junior Pilgrim



Preston City Congregational Church Sunday School Newsletter



DO YOU BELIEVE?
TRAVIS THREASLER

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

"DO YOU BELIEVE?"...The title of the movie that debuted March 20th piqued my interest so much so that after church on Sunday (3/22), I had to go see it. I have not been able to get that movie out of my mind since I saw it! I don't know how the reviews will come in for it, but I thought it was fantastic.

JUST WHAT WAS IT ABOUT? It was about a dozen different souls—all moving in different directions, all longing for something more. As their lives unexpectedly intersect, they each are about to discover there is power in the Cross of Christ...even if they don't yet believe it. I admit I'm a "Cinderella" girl and I like movies that end happily ever after and in this movie not everyone lives and there are scenes that will keep you on the edge of your seat. But I, as someone who constantly works at being a "follower of Christ"...a Christian that is, as scripture verses were displayed in various segments of the movie, I was like ""YES" this is what it's all about. Would I ever be up to the challenge? Would I always be able to stand as Christian, even if my earthly life were threatened. I HOPE so.

THE MOVIE helped me to see God's tapestry; in our lives we see small segments of it, but, God sees the whole masterpiece. Do you see God woven into every day of your life. When amazing things happen, do you count it as a coincidence or do you see God's hand in it - sometimes, common everyday things. Look for Him, He's always there.

YES, the movie displayed real people, who when faced with the "cross of Christ" could not turn back. The song with the words that we sing was going through my mind on the road home: I have decided to follow Jesus, the world behind me, the cross before me, though none go with me, I still will follow, will you decide now to follow Jesus, no turning back, no turning back.

AS WE BEGIN HOLY WEEK on Palm Sunday when we celebrate the triumphant entry into Jerusalem, and move into Maundy Thursday when we celebrate Christ's last supper with his most trusted friends, move onto Good Friday when we are confronted with the cross and move on to the most joyous day of the year for believers, **EASTER**, let us be thankful to God for the weeks of Lent and that we have lived to see the glorious day of Easter once again. Somewhere I was recently, someone said to me, "we don't celebrate Easter - it's just another day." How sad. Because for the Christian, that day changes everything.

MAY YOUR WEEK BE meaningful for you; I would encourage you to come to any of the Holy Week services you can make. Bring the kids. Let's help them to be believers, too, so they can come to know that Easter is not just another day. And speaking of Easter, please read the important late-breaking announcement following this article.

May the SONshine through me,

Sandy Dudek

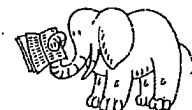


THE EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE AT 6:30 A.M. will be held in the Sanctuary of Preston City Congregational Church due to snow and muddy conditions. (Disregard the information in the first part of the newsletter which already had been printed before we received word of the conditions.) A breakfast follows, but you will need to sign up on the Information Center Bulletin Board.

APRIL BIBLE VERSES

"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." (Exodus 20:8) (N3-Grade 2)

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 (Grades 3-12)



Memory Verse

PLEASE ENCOURAGE students to learn these verses; they will serve them well the rest of their lives. To qualify for an award at the end of the year, verses must be correctly recited by the end of each month to Mrs. Dudek or their teacher. **PLEASE NOTE:** students who have recited the Bible verses will be posted on the Sunday School bulletin board in the SS Hall.

PLEASE BE SURE to note that Monday, March 30th, is the last day to sign kids up for the Good Friday event. There will be no signups taken the day of the event.

CONFIRMATION DAY was very special around here at eight young people became members of the church through the Rite of Confirmation. They are: Gabriella Farinha, Mckenzie Gauthier, Austin Judy, Jordán Lombardi, Lillian Pappas, Emma Price (perfect attendance), Alayna Vantine, and Kaegan Willard. They are a fine group of young people and we know one day they will become adult church leaders. The Class Speaker, Mckenzie Gauthier, presented Senior Deacon, Benicia Perry, with a check for \$250 for the Scholarship Fund. At the end of the service, each Confirmand presented their mother with a white rose...it was quite moving.

YOUTH MISSION TRIP PARTICIPANTS...Please be sure that your mission trip payments are up-to-date. If you are unsure, contact the Giulianos (860.376.8901). Also a reminder that in order to go on the trip, you need to be present in Sunday School at least two Sundays per month. February 2015 is an exception as we have had to cancel Sunday School three Sundays of the four!

THE SENIOR PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP hosted a very successful fundraiser, a lasagna dinner in February realizing a profit of \$772.00. Great job everyone involved! Grateful for their wonderful success, the Sr. P. F. made a proposal to the Board of Religious Education to donate \$200 to be placed as a line item for Sunday School High School Class activities. The BRE was very accepting and grateful for their generosity. With our missions emphasis in the High School Class this year, no provision was made for funds they might need to do some of the projects they have undertaken. This line item could help when needed.

PROVIDENCE BRUINS HOCKEY GAME...The Sr. PFers will be carpooling to the Dunkin Donuts Center on April 10th.



A **TEEN PAINT EVENT** is scheduled at Artique in Putnam, CT for Sunday, May 3rd from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Teens are encouraged to bring their own quotes for this event! Call the Van Alsts (860.230.9947) or the Guilianos (860.376.8901) for more information about the Sr. P. F. for teens grades 9-12.

THE JUNIOR PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP plans a Game/Taco Night on Friday, March 27th. They plan to tie dye t-shirts as well – sounds like a lot of fun! Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 are welcome to join the JPF. For more information call Leader Linda Kent-Farinha (860.608.6641) or Andy McCaslin (860.917.6572).

THE YOUTH WORKERS APPRECIATION DINNER was a wonderful event with a full course turkey dinner complete with pies. I can't say enough about the people that helped me with it...teens and adults. Thank you everyone who donated needed items. Joyce Keil entertained the group after the meal to the pleasure of those in attendance.

THE CHILDREN'S DAY COMMITTEE has met twice already and have come up with some novel ideas to make Children's Day a lot of fun, working with the teachers to create a memorable day. I hope you will mark your calendars to here on May 17th at 10:30 a.m. I'm praying it will be able to be held on the "Field of Dreams."

REMINDER...VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL dates are July 13-17th. We plan to do Group's "Hometown Nazareth...Where Jesus was a Kid." We plan to have a tent on the "Field of Dreams" that will be our Marketplace. This will be new and exciting for the kids and all of us! Judy Ladegard and Sandy Dudek are directing the school and we will need plenty of adult and teen volunteers to help us. Speak to Judy or Sandy to volunteer.



CONGRATULATIONS TO TRISTAN MALONE who made the high school honor roll and to Lauren Hodgkinson who was named to the Dean's List at Ithaca College and to Alexandra Kobelski who was named to the Dean's List at the University of New Hampshire. It's wonderful for us to know about your fine accomplishments and we are so proud of you!

BRING IT...

is our Contemporary Young Adult Worship Service. If you or someone you know is between the ages of 14 to age 22, we're inviting you to this exciting way to worship. "Bring It" uses multiple forms of media, interactive demonstrations, and music to bring God's message to life. The worship service starts at 10:30 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. The February dates are the 8th and the 22nd. Please come and join us, invite someone to come with you, or tell someone about it.

ENVELOPES similar to those the adults use for worship are available to the children. Please ask me if you'd like a box for your child. The Sunday School is self-supporting so even if your child attends church in the summertime, when the offering is placed in a Sunday School envelope, it is given to the Board of Religious Education treasurer.

Easter Sunrise Surprise

He is not here; he has risen! Luke 24:6a (NIV)
 The puzzle is based on Luke 24:1-12 (NIV).



Y L X Y P K W G P R X I F L
 D B A V S A R O L W O B O S T H H R R I C S U K
 P W V S A R O L W O B O S T H H R R I C S U K
 A R W A R O L W O B O S T H H R R I C S U K
 G D O R L T Q O N E V U L F M R E D D Q A F J
 Y R O W L G E N Q D J U E M P R D D Q A F J
 G M O W L G E N Q D J U E M P R D D Q A F J
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 W L Z O N W R E I U N S G C P J
 F O I Q W R E I U N S G C P J
 R R M I E G N H S G C P J
 J D I E G N H S G C P J
 G F E G N H S G C P J
 O D D A H S G C P J
 L A T F D T M P J

living	tomb	rolled	risen	dead
women	first	spices	away	bowed
faces	stone	entered	ground	remember
morning	week	body	fright	day

FROM THE FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE

It's been a long winter and between snow days for church and roads too icy to travel near our house, I feel like I've missed a lot of church in the past three months. I've also missed a lot of "drop-in" hours in room 18. But I'm still here! Most Sundays, between services and after the second service, I can be found in room 18 (with my handy stethoscope and blood pressure cuff).

I'm happy to visit, answer questions, suggest resources and say a prayer for you and yours (often a silent one as your footsteps recede down the hall). Please feel free to reach out to me by email or by phone. Several members of our church family have done just that. I awoken at 3 a.m. for work so I might be groggy but I won't be grouchy no matter the time. And I don't always tell people to go to the Emergency Room although sometimes it feels that way.

Spring is here, and Easter... almost! The rebirth of nature and of Christian faith are seasonally entwined. Consider ways to strengthen your body as well as your soul. Get outdoors, get moving, let your spirit soar with the returning birds. AND wear sunscreen! Our poor faces have gotten rather pale of late.

Sandra Wright, RN, FCN
 860.235.2520(cell) SandraLMWright@gmail.com

HELP

Volunteers are needed to serve as door monitors on Sunday mornings during both services of worship (and especially at the second service). The duties of the monitor are posted on the hallway bulletin board (mid-level). Your help is needed and appreciated. Please contact coordinator Lowell Calkins (860.887.5939) if you have any questions.

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FRIENDS & FAMILY CAFÉ

Tuesdays, 9-11:30 A.M.

In the coffee hour room

Enjoy a cup of coffee, some sweets,
 and some great people, too!

It's all "FREE"

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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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FINALLY

We're looking for a volunteer from Preston who is willing to pick up the church's recyclables on Saturday mornings and take them to the transfer station. Call the office if you can help. *Thanks!*

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

APRIL 2015



MAY
S M T W T F S
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

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

Did you know the newsletter
 Is posted on our website?
prestoncitycongregational.org

Is the name and address correct
 On this mailing? If not, please get
 in touch with the church office
 (\$60.887.4647) to update your
 information.

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).

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 <i>To place flowers in church during April, call Mary Lou Jensen at 860.889.6400</i>	Please check with Rev. Stan or Sandy before using our names as references. This courtesy would be appreciated.	LOST OR FOUND something at church? There is a basket in the Information Center next to the table.	1 ARC 10:30a Music Comm. mtg. 6p Adult choir 7p AA 7:30p	2 Maundy Thursday Communion service 7p	3 Good Friday worship Noon Special Holy Week Event 11:45a-2:30p	4 Spring clean-up 8a
6 EASTER Sunrise service 6:30a *Preston City Cong'l Church, Easter breakfast Communion worship 9, 10:30a, NO Sunday School	NO Bible study Boy Scouts 6p Yoga 6:30-7:30a	7 Friends & Family Café 9-11:30a ARC 10:30a Financial Peace University 7p	8 ARC 10:30a St. Jude's worship 11a Finance Comm. mtg. 7p AA 7:30p	9 Hand bell rehearsal 6p Adult choir 7p	10 Good Friday worship Noon Special Holy Week Event 11:45a-2:30p	11
12 Worship 9, 10:30a "Bring It" 10:30a Semi-annual meeting Noon	Bible study 10a Boy Scouts 6p Yoga 6:30p	14 Friends & Family Café 9-11:30a ARC 10:30a BRE meeting 6p Financial Peace University 7p	15 ARC 10:30a AA 7:30p	16 Hand bell rehearsal 6p Adult choir 7p	17 Hand bell rehearsal 6p Adult choir 7p	18 Game night 6-9p
18 Worship 9, 10:30a Bake sale (Kallid) Adult choir sings 9a	Bible study 10a Boy Scouts 6p Yoga 6:30p	21 Friends & Family Café 9-11:30a ARC 10:30a Financial Peace University 7p	22 ARC 10:30a Creamery Brook Worship 3p Scarecrow Festival meeting 6:30p AA 7:30p	23 Hand bell rehearsal 6p Adult choir 7p	24 *The sunrise service will be held in our Sanctuary. The breakfast follows here but you must sign up.	25 Chicken Pot Pie Sup- per 4-6p
26 Worship 9, 10:30a Food distribution Sunday "Bring It" 10:30a	Bible study 10a Boy Scouts 6p Yoga 6:30p	28 Friends & Family Café 9-11:30a ARC 10:30a Financial Peace University 7p	29 ARC 10:30a AA 7:30p	30 Hand bell rehearsal 6p Adult choir 7p	Please note: active church members who wish to borrow church property (tables, chairs), call the church office.	