

THE PRESTON PILGRIM

The newsletter of
The Preston City
Congregational Church
Gathered 1698

MAY
2015

CHURCH ADDRESS
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SUMMER WORSHIP
9:00 A.M.
(May 24 – September 6)

EMAIL: PCCC@SNET.NET
WEBSITE: prestoncitycongregational.org
Visit us on FACEBOOK

News and information for the June newsletter is due in the church office by May 17. You may leave information in the holder located on the wall in the kitchen.



SOMETHING'S ALWAYS HAPPENING!

We had a very productive semi-annual church meeting on April 12. Those in attendance voted on the following:

1 - to purchase new hymnals for the Sanctuary! "Hymns For a Pilgrim People" is the newly released hymnal compiled especially for the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches to which we belong. Many of the much-loved songs found in our present red and blue hymnals are found in this new book. There are many new hymns and choruses as well. We hope people in the congregation will purchase these hymnals for the church (\$20 each) in memory/honor/celebration of someone. Inscriptions will be placed in each hymnal purchased. Contact Robin Lyon, music director, or the church office for more information.

2 - to explore the possibility of webstreaming church services. A committee has already met, and is actively researching this possibility that would allow people to watch Sunday services online. This would be especially appreciated by shut-ins, those recovering from illnesses, or living away from the church. Webstreaming our services will make it possible for us to connect to people anywhere in the world!! If you would like to a part of this committee, or learn more about our plans, please speak with Jim Wright (860.535.1710) who is overseeing this exciting idea.

Our church is a wonderful place, filled with wonderful people with great ideas! What I like about our church is our willingness to try new ideas. Many of the programs and activities we've enjoyed over the years came from ideas people suggested! Melinda Andrews, a church member, had an idea... she attended the annual meeting in February and suggested that something be done about our aging hymnals. She offered a very generous monetary donation to aid in the purchase of new hymnals IF the congregation voted to do so. Jim Wright, while recovering from surgery and away from worship for many weeks, had the idea... bring the worship service to the people - hence, webstreaming our services.

Ideas... Hopes... Dreams... these are important to the LIFE and GROWTH of a church. Without them churches just exist, and often become stagnant and stale (and for me... BORING).

Scripture tells us that "God is doing a new thing" (Isaiah 43:19) in us, and through us (my words). We must not tire to keep the church moving in a positive, vibrant direction, always striving to make Christ known to others, and inviting them to come and see... and follow!

Thanks for your part in making His church a great place to be!



Mark Your
Calendar!

See you in church!

REMEMBER...

Our summer worship schedule begins May 24th. There will be one service of worship; 9 A.M. We will stay on this schedule through September 6th. Join us this summer!

DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL

We expressed our Sympathy to the family of:

Antoine "Tony" Bassette who passed away on April 9. Although Tony was a devoted member of St. Catherine of Siena Roman Catholic Church down the street, we considered him "one of ours" as well. Tony, along with his faithful wife, Betty, would do a lot of *behind the scenes* work for our church - always with a happy attitude! Please keep Betty and her sons in your prayers.

Frederick "Fred" Herbert, known to many as "*the man who walked to church.*" Whenever possible, and the weather cooperated, Fred would park his car at the elementary school in town and walk the rest of the way to church. He would proceed to take off his sneakers and put on his dress shoes before entering the Sanctuary. He always looked his best, and was always happy to be in church with friends. Fred passed away on April 21st, and was laid to rest on April 24th. Fred did many nice things for people at church and in town. He was a "Silent Witness" to the Faith! We shall, forever, be grateful for his gift of four cemetery plots in Palmer Cemetery, given for those who may need one, but can't afford one. A memorial service for Fred will be held in the Sanctuary on May 16th, at 11 A.M.

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We welcomed the following people into the membership of the church on Palm Sunday: Michael & Donna Civardi, Randy Gallogly, Diane Gran, Judith Niewiarowski, Robert & Sarah Noiseux, David & Jennifer Nowakowski, John B. Shaw, Jr., Lori Trombley and Robert Vescovi. We're so glad that you've joined us, and look forward to getting to know you in the years ahead. Welcome!

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THANK YOU

to Mary Lou Jensen for serving as church Treasurer since 2009. Earlier this year, Mary Lou tendered her resignation as Treasurer effective when a new Treasurer could be secured. We appreciate all that Mary Lou did these last six years, especially all the little extra things she did that went beyond the scope of her position. Shirley Hodgkinson is the new church Treasurer, and we appreciate her willingness to serve in this capacity.

ALSO...

We also thank the many adults and young people who helped with the cleanup of the church yard on April 18. The grounds look great! Special thanks to Larry LePage for putting down the mulch. We are fortunate to have many people who love and care for their church. *Thanks!*

ALSO...

We thank Rick Alletto and Tom Riley, as well as those who assisted with the Easter morning breakfast. The crowd was small, but the food was delicious. Thanks for making it all possible!

ALSO...

We are grateful to the supper committee and the many volunteers who helped put on another delicious meal - homemade chicken pot pie! It was a sell-out again this year. We heard numerous positive comments from the patrons. By the way, who made that strawberry rhubarb pie? WOW!

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SPRING MEETING

The annual meeting of the Northeast Fellowship of Congregational Christian Churches is slated for Sunday afternoon, May 17, at 3 P.M. at Third Congregational Church in Middletown, CT. Rev. Stan is planning to attend the meeting. If you'd like to go with him, please call the office.

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CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

We thank everyone who already offered a monetary gift to the Helen Benjamin Scholarship Fund, and want to remind those who may be considering a contribution to please offer it by May 10. Put your gift in an envelope marked "*Scholarship Fund*" and be sure to include the information (in memory of..., in honor of...) that you want included in the worship folder on Scholarship Sunday, June 14. We have many deserving graduates who would greatly benefit from your support. Help us help them. *Thanks.*

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CAN YOU HELP?

A vacancy has occurred, and we're looking for a church member to serve on the Finance Committee. The committee meets 4 times per year (January, April, July, and October). Please contact the office if you would like to be considered for the position.

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YARD SALE

The Spring yard sale will be held on Saturday, May 23rd, (date change). A rain date has been set for June 6th. The sale will run from 8 A.M. - 2 P.M. in the annex parking lot. Your help is needed setting up (6 a.m.) and/or cleaning up (1:30 p.m.). Please sign the sheet on the Information Center bulletin board if you are able to lend a hand. Please call Stella Dawley, (860.887.6452) if you have any questions, or have items to donate to the sale.

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PRESTON PILGRIM ONLINE

Did you know that you can now read the monthly newsletter online? Our website is: Prestoncitycongregational.org. If you prefer to read it online, saving the church the cost of mailing one to you, please sign the sheet on the Information Center bulletin board, or call the church office.

mother's
DAY

Remembering Our Children

May 17, 9 A.M.

Be with us as we remember the children who left us much too soon in life. This reflective service will honor their lives. If you wish to have a child's name included in the service that morning, or would like to donate \$5 toward the purchase of Marigolds, please call the church office no later than Tuesday, May 12th. Those donating these summer flowers are invited to take a pack with them following the service.

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NEEDED...

We're looking for someone to chair the 2016 Scarecrow Festival. Shirley Hodkinson and Carolyn Shea will be stepping aside following this year's festival. If you have an interest in chairing this popular community event, or want to know more, please contact Shirley at 860.887.8760.



BRING THE FAMILY!

SUNDAY SCHOOL will soon be ending until September. We hope you will be at summer worship and bring the family. There is always a Children's Message especially for them.

WE ARE SO PROUD AND HAPPY FOR YOU...

Elizabeth Mahan... who made the Dean's List this past fall. She is enrolled at School of Visual Arts in New York and is completing her second year.

Lauren Hodkinson... who was chosen to be a Residential Assistant at Ithaca College in the Fall.

Nicholas Fessenden... On May 9th, Nick will receive his Mechanical Engineering degree at UCONN, Storrs. Nick already has a job at Electric Boat; he starts in June!

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GRADUATES... We hope families will let us know at the church office if someone from the church family is graduating. We like to acknowledge them in the church newsletter and send out a congratulatory card.

BIBLES will be presented to a number of young people on Children's Day. If you would like to purchase one of these Bibles, perhaps in memory of a loved one, the cost is \$23.00. The check can be made out to PCCC and given to Sandy Dudek. Why not consider impacting one of our young people with such a meaningful gift.

ADULT MISSION TRIP

Our fall mission trip is scheduled for October 11-16, to Staten Island, New York. This year we're working with Project Hospitality who provides services to the food insecure and homeless. We'll be working in a food pantry and soup kitchen and there may also be some construction work available related to Super Storm Sandy damage. We can attend a seminar to learn about HIV/Aids and have an opportunity to have dinner with those afflicted with the disease. We'll be housed at private apartments (with real beds!) with kitchen and shower facilities. Our lunch is provided daily and we're responsible for our own breakfasts and suppers. We plan to arrive in Staten Island on Sunday, October 11th. We'll work Monday through Thursday and can either request more work for Friday, see the sights in NYC or head home. The cost of Project Hospitality is \$150 per person for the week and another \$50 towards food purchases. Financial aid is available. Please call Lori Hall (860.887.9558) or lorihall2545@gmail.com for more information or to sign up.

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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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NEEDED... A meeting is planned for Monday, June 8th at 6:30 p.m. in Halls' Hall. Why not come and join in the fun...and that's what we have at VBS in addition to influencing our kids for Christ! Teens and adults are needed. Hope to see YOU there.

BOTH THE JR. & SR. PILGRIM

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS participated in the church clean-up on April 18th. Several of our JPFers participated in "Soarin' Indoors on April 14th in Manchester. Sounded like a lot of fun! They planned to participate in "Color Me Rad 5K" on May 2nd. 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 Sr. P.F. attended a Providence Bruins Hockey Game on April 10th and had a great time! Students in grades 9-12 are invited to join the SPF. For more information call the Giulianos (860.376.8901) or the Van Alsts (860.230.9947).



"We like to welcome everyone, but we haven't missed you yet."

The Preston Junior Pilgrim



Preston City Congregational Church Sunday School Newsletter



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

ONCE AGAIN UPON MY ARRIVAL HOME, I was reminded that there were still leaves on some of my gardens, that there were weeds growing already. Oh my, and I just can't touch them until after Children's Day! But then, in spite of my unfaithfulness to these gardens, upon closer examination, my Iris are popping up all over the place, so are my hosta plants, and new mums are growing around the old ones! God is not only good, but this clearly reminded me how faithful God is and how often we forget.

BEING A DEEP THINKER, my mind reverts back to many times in my life when I didn't understand where God was...has this happened to you? On the darkest day, God is there, at the times we forget about God pursuing all our own desires, God is there. How does one know this. When you look back, often you can piece together things that have happened that made no sense at the time, but now have turned out very well. And maybe some things will only be revealed when we meet God face to face. God can be counted on; few things in life are for sure, but God is. So what must we do...TRUST. One of the "fruits of the Spirit" of living in Christ is faithfulness. And when we fail or fall short, how reassuring it is to know that God has us covered.

OUR LIVES ARE FILLED with changes: growing older, the loss of a spouse, a child who is so challenging we feel driven to the brink of insanity, illness, accidents, babies whom we thought we'd hold onto forever are going to college, friends who desert us, our finances change...this list could be endless. But God in our lives, really a part of our thinking and breathing can make all the difference. God is still there nurturing us even when the "weeds" have not been removed from our lives. When we're feeling so bad, we never think we'll feel good again, look for God. When we open up and let God in, our lives are transformed...maybe we can't change what's happened, but we can alter our response to it.

FROM THE SCRIPTURES: Lamentations 3:22-23 The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

LET US PRAY that God helps us to remain faithful to Him no matter what, but should we fall short, help us to remember just how faithful God is.

May the SONshine through me,

Randy Dudek α



AN INVITATION

YOU are cordially invited to attend "CHILDREN'S DAY" at "The Field of Dreams"
MAY 17, 2015
10:30 A.M.

Please note that in case of inclement weather, Children's Day will be held at The Preston Veterans Memorial School.
A decision will be made by Friday, May 15th.

Sunday School students will do a variety of presentations.
Bibles will be presented. This should last one hour.

About 11:45 A.M.; the ALL CHURCH picnic will begin.
(Thank you Jerry Giuliano for serving as Coordinator.)

PARKING will be in the church parking lot. Parking for seniors and handicapped will be an area set aside on "The Field of Dreams" (at the bottom of the hill parallel to Krug Road). Food will be served in the pavilion (sunshine) or the Sunday School Hall (rain). Hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, macaroni salad, beverages and cake will be provided by The Board of Religious Education. There is no cost but please sign the sheet on the Information Center bulletin board so we might plan accordingly.



We look forward to seeing you!

PLEASE RETURN THIS REGISTRATION FORM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR PLANNING PURPOSES. WE MUST ORDER SUPPLIES FOR ALL REGISTRANTS.



COME JOIN THE FUN this summer at Vacation Bible School directed by Sandy Dudek and Judy Ladegard Volunteers are still needed...all materials will be provided and will be available to review at the meeting scheduled for Monday, June 8th at 6:30 p.m. in Halls' Fellowship Hall. Many adults have enjoyed the week as much as the children so why not come and join the fun! A daily offering will be taken during the opening worship service.

Children in our church and community who have turned 4 by August 1, 2015, through those completing Grade 7 are invited to attend (Exception: those who have attended our Nursery 3 Sunday School may also sign up to attend). Those who have completed grades 8-12 could assist us in so many ways. The cost for this program is \$12.00 per child with a family maximum of \$30.00. Checks should be made payable to the Preston City Congregational Church. Scholarships are available; speak to Sandy Dudek for more information.

CHILDREN NEED TO BE REGISTERED BY JULY 1ST. The form below can be mailed to the church at 321 Route 164, Preston, CT 06365.

Please bring in a tee shirt, tank top or muscle undershirt for each of your children involved in VBS on MONDAY, JULY 13TH, the opening day of VBS.

If you would like to volunteer in any capacity or need any further information, please speak to Sandy or Judy (860.537.3349, richardladegard@att.net) or by calling the church office at 860-887-4647.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION - 2015

Child's Name	Date of Birth	Grade Completed
_____	___/___/___	___
_____	___/___/___	___
_____	___/___/___	___



Are there any medical conditions of which we should be made aware? (Please explain on back of form)

Parent/Guardian _____ Email _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Emergency Phone: _____

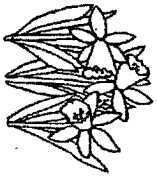
In my absence, emergency medical treatment may be authorized by the directors of VBS if deemed necessary.

Signed: _____ Date: _____ Fee Paid _____

ITEMS NEEDED FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL...CAN YOU HELP US?

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| Light grade sand paper | Old tools to borrow... | Fresh mint/dried rose petals or lavender |
| Rock salt | (wood mallets, hand drills, | Old washcloths |
| 1 Bottle olive oil (inexpensive) | wood pegs, lumber scraps) | Small containers (plastic or glass, |
| Flats of flowers (50 individual plants) | 50 peat pots | small baby food jar size |
| Large bag of potting soil (without | 50 paper towel tubes | 2 rolls parchment paper |
| fertilizer) | 4 child size wading pools... | colored sand |
| 1 bag of play sand | (to be returned) | sand art bottles |
| 1 bale of hay/straw | real live animals... | fencing to contain animals |
| 5 pomegranates | sheep, etc. | melons |
| Dried apricots/dates | figs | grapes |
| Cheese | 6 blankets or sheets | 18 broom sticks or wooden poles the |
| 3 pillows | 3 jump ropes (no plastic) | length of broomsticks |
| L bag large round balloons | 3 small bean bags | 6 pair of old socks |
| 4 beach balls | 1 sport finger | 4 stuffed animals (larger size and |
| 10 bags water balloons | 5 or 6 old towels | something that can get dirty) |
| 25 nerf or ping pong balls | Yardage of cloth to make scarves/ blindfolds) | |

Any help you can give us would be very much appreciated!



APRIL
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

MAY 2015

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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
To please flowers in church during May, sign the Flower Chart, in the narthex, and call Sallie Quinn at 860.546.2021.	Please check with Rev. Stan or Sandy before using our names as references. This courtesy would be very much appreciated.	LOST OR FOUND Something at church? There is a basket in the Information Center next to the table.			1 Sanctuary in use 4-6p	2 Sanctuary is use 12-4 p Halls' Hall in use 4-5:30p
3 Communion worship 9, 10:30a Adult choir sings 9a SS communion 8:05a Two-can Sunday	4 Bible study 10a Boy Scouts 6p Yoga 6:30p Cemetery Association Meeting 7p	5 Friends & Family Café 9-11:30a ARC 10:30a	6 ARC 10:30a AA 7:30p	7 Handbell rehearsal 6p Adult choir 7p	8	9 16 Herbert Memorial service 11a
10 Mother's Day Worship 9, 10:30a "Bring It" 10:30a	11 Bible study 10a Boy Scouts 6p Yoga 6:30p	12 Friends & Family Café 9-11:30a ARC 10:30a Board of Religious Ed. 6p	13 ARC 10:30a St. Jude's worship 11a AA 7:30p	14 Handbell rehearsal 6p Adult choir 7p	15	23 Yard sale 8a-2p (Rain date: June 6)
17 "Remembering Our Children" 9a Adult choir sings 9a Children's Day 10:30a NEFCCC Annual meeting (Widdlowtown)	18 Boy Scouts 6p Yoga 6:30p	19 Friends & Family Café 9-11:30a ARC 10:30a	20 ARC 10:30a Creamery Brook 3p Trustees 6:30p Standing Committee meeting 7:30p	21 Handbell rehearsal 6p Adult choir 7p	22	29
24 One service of worship 9a "Bring It" 10:30a	25 Memorial Day "May we remember those who have left their lives that we might be free."	26 Friends & Family Café 9-11:30a ARC 10:30a	27 ARC 10:30a AA 7:30p	28 Handbell rehearsal 6p Adult choir 7p	29	30
31 Food Distribution Sunday School Hall and Halls' Hall in use 1-4p				PLEASE NOTE: Active church members who wish to borrow chairs, prop-erty, tables, chairs, etc.) call 860.887.4647.	Did you know...the newsletter is posted on our website: Prestoncitycongregational.org	

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:
SUNDAYS:
Morning worship, 9a.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

Is the name and address correct
 On this mailing? If not, please get
 In touch with the church office
 (860.887.4647) 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).