

THE PRESTON PILGRIM

The newsletter of
**The Preston City
Congregational Church
Gathered 1698**

**JULY - AUGUST
2015**



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SUMMER WORSHIP:
9:00 A.M.
(May 24 - September 6)

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Visit us on **FACEBOOK**

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

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PRAYER PATH

On "Flag Day," June 14, Gabriel Hopkins-Gray became Preston Boy Scout Troop 75's most recent "Eagle Scout." Congratulations, Gabe!

Following the Eagle ceremony which was held in the Sanctuary, family, friends, and civic leaders, gathered on the "Field of Dreams" to dedicate Gabe's Eagle Scout project; the prayer path to his great-grandfather, Philip Hopkins, a long-time church member and Deacon.

The prayer path consists of four stations, complete with meditation benches and placards for people to read and think about.

The first station is "Rest." It encourages the participant to sit and rest; to relax from the stresses of life. The sign reminds the person that even God rested - it's OK. Each station includes a **simple**, easy to understand prayer to read before moving on to the next station.

Station two is "Pray." It encourages the person to talk with God as you would a friend. Again, a brief prayer is provided. An encouraging thought to consider completes the station before moving on.

Station three is "Thanks." It encourages the person to be grateful in every situation. The

prayer thanks God for the big and small things in life, as well as for family and friends. The closing thought urges the participant to pray daily; God listens and God hears.

The last station (my favorite) is "Perseverance." It inspires the participant to press on with faith in God; to go back into the world knowing He will be with you. The prayer is very positive and encouraging. The final thought at this station reminds the person that God believes in them, and has wonderful plans in store for those who follow Him.

The Prayer Path is a wonderful addition to our field, and will be a positive influence on all who make use of it. It was designed so any person could benefit from it -- the believer as well as those who wonder about the faith.

Recently, an older couple arriving very early to the church for a funeral service walked the prayer path and spoke to me about it later in the day. They found the path to be "uplifting" and "inspiring." It is hoped that this gift from Gabe to his church will be a comfort and help to all who make use of it in the years to come.

The congregation and community is invited to take some time to walk the path and read the signs. Tell your friends about it. We believe the path will send participants back into life uplifted, and with a renewed spirit!

Well done, Gabe! Your church family appreciates what you have done for others.

See you in church,

Rw. Jan

DURING THE MONTH OF MAY & JUNE

We welcomed into the Household of Christian faith through the Sacrament of Baptism:

- 5.17 *Bridgette Mary LePage*, daughter of Danielle and Matthew LePage of Moosup.
- 6.14 *Danika James Littlefield*, daughter of Cheryl & Jeffrey Littlefield, Jr., of Griswold.
- 6.21 *Whitney & Lucie Stanko*, daughters of Tia Hall of Griswold, and Jason Stanko.
- 6.28 *Norah Jean Abel*, daughter of Lisa and Christopher Abel of Farmington.

We congratulated the following couples who were united in marriage:

- 5.24 *Sarah Padegimas* and *Tyler Campbell* at Lake of Isles, North Stonington.
- 6.19 *Erin Mack Nair* and *David Adamaitis* at Harkness Park.
- 6.20 *Nancy Dolce* and *Emmanuel Saballa*.
- 6.26 *Julie Jancewicz* and *Matthew Bartlett* at Connecticut National Golf Course, Putnam.
- 6.27 *Vanessa Hall* and *Robert Sease*, Lisbon.

We offered our sympathies to the families of:

- 6.2 *Susan Vachon*. Sue passed away in her sleep at the age of 43. She leaves her partner/husband of 20 years; Saul, and two sons; "Buddy" and Albert Meraz. Also surviving Sue are her parents, Lynne & Paul Vachon, and brother, Doug.
- 6.16 *John "Jack" Smiley*. Surrounded by his family, Jack passed from this life into eternal life. He was a great man of faith! Jack was never afraid to share the "good news" of Jesus Christ with others. In the end, Jack said that it was his faith and trust in God that would see him though whatever time remained. He was truly an example of a trusting follower and believer. Please keep Jack's wife, Anita, and his family in your prayers. He will be missed!

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NEW MEMBERS

Several people have asked about joining the church this summer. Are there others who would like to join on August 23, during the worship service? If so, please sign the sheet posted on the hallway bulletin board (mid-level). We'll send you all the information. New members must meet with the Deacons on August 16, following the service. Please let the minister know if you have any questions.

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SPECIAL VOTE

A vote of the membership took place following the worship service on May 31. Those present voted unanimously to send \$1,000 to the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches to aid the victims of the Nepal earthquake which killed thousands of people in May. We thank the Missions Committee and Deacons Fund for making this amount available.

CONGRATULATIONS

Five scouts from Troop 75 in Preston recently completed a seven-week course of study ("God & Church") with Rev. Stan. The following scouts will receive badges and awards for this accomplishment: Max Migliaccio, Jack Zachem, Cory Converse, Peter and Nathaniel Crary. Great job, scouts!

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NEW HYMNALS

"Hymns For a Pilgrim People" is the new hymnal of our church. The book was compiled by a committee of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches. We've been using the new book since June 7. We thank Melinda Andrews for suggesting the idea of new hymnals, as well as offering a substantial financial gift toward the purchase of these books. We also thank the congregation for purchasing hymnals in honor of/memory of loved ones. Special thanks to Robin Lyon and members of the music committee for the hours of work that went into this project - removing the old books and putting the new ones in place. We appreciate all that you did.

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DID YOU HEAR?

The church yard sale held in May raised just over \$1,500. Thank you, Stella Dawley, Kaye Schlough, and those who helped with set-up and clean-up. To everyone who donated items to the sale, thank you as well! The next yard sale will be sometime this fall; watch your newsletter!

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THANK YOU

to Bob Coughlin and Lowell Calkins for fixing the crumbling front steps of the church. Thanks for making them safe once again!

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THIS MONTH...

Work will begin on the mid-level of the church. The Meeting Room will be repaired and the ceiling painted. The mid-level information center hallway, and the upper level leading into the Sanctuary will be repainted and new carpet installed. The Sunday School hall will also be repainted. The last time any improvements were made to this part of the building was 2001. Your faithful financial support of the church in years past is making this work possible today. *Thanks!*

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REMEMBER...

Our summer worship schedule continues through September 6. There will be one service of worship; 9 A.M. We return to two services of worship on September 13. Join us this summer!

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NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

Hand bell ringers wanted! Weekly rehearsals will begin Tuesday, September 8. We are looking for bell ringers who can commit to one 40-45 minute rehearsal every week. If you can read basic rhythms, I can teach you the rest! Please see or contact Robin Lyon if interested at 860.705.5943.

MUSIC NEWS (Cont.)

Adult choir practice will resume Thursday, September 3, at 7 P.M. Come early at 6:30 to enjoy some food and fellowship before practice begins.

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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 lorihall3545@gmail.com for more information or to sign up.

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.

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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.

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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.



SCARECROW FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26th

Festival 10am-5pm

Chicken BBQ 4:00-6:00pm (parking on site after 5:30)

We need lots of help!

Bakers for the bake sale, dessert for the Chicken BBQ (Brownies- no frosting please), Help with parking (must be over eighteen), ticket sellers, Pumpkin Patch helpers, Help running the sound system and lots more.

Watch for our Bulletin Board with Volunteer Sign Ups

If you have any questions, please contact Shirley Hodkinson 860-887-8760 or Carolyn Shea 860-887-8592

The Preston Junior Pilgrim



Preston City Congregational Church Sunday School Newsletter



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

WHAT AN AWESOME summer this has been at the church...chairs in the aisles just about every week meaning more and more people are prioritizing their church attendance and newcomers are finding their way to our church! Babies are being baptized and each week there are children present for the Children's messages. Relationships of caring are being built with other worshippers, relationships that make a difference. Brand new hymnals in all our pews. How very blessed we are.

AT THE END OF EACH DAY do you remember to thank God for all that comes your way...not only your joys, but your sorrows...not only in prosperity, but in adversity as well. (*Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.* 1 Thessalonians 5:18). Are you thinking, who in their right mind would thank God for the sorrows and adversities of life. For me, it comes down to a matter of trust...trusting that no matter what happens in your life, trusting that God will carry you through. One of the Bible memory verses we have for our littlest Sunday School students is: "*When I am afraid, I will trust in you.*" Psalm 56:3. It seems that God was well versed in all that we, as humans, would face and gave us in simple terms what we must do: TRUST!

I HOPE THAT you find some rest for your soul this summer, that you look for the good in each day despite your circumstances and that you will be on the lookout to help whoever you can with an encouraging word or deed.

May the SONshine through me,

Sandy Ouedel



CONGRATUATIONS to our church scholarship winners:

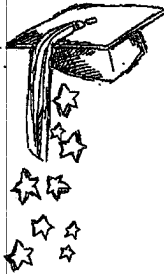
Hayden Bustamante who plans to attend Ithaca College in New York. He plans to major in Music Education/Performance.

Tienna Deroy who plans to attend State University of New York and major in chemistry.

Bryan Van Alst who plans to attend the University of Hartford and will seek a double major in Management and Finance as well as Economics.

Heidi Willard who plans to attend the University of Connecticut and major in Allied Health Sciences.

THE SCHOLARSHIPS were presented on June 14th during worship by Deacon Benicia Perry. The family of Helen Benjamin was on hand to offer words of encouragement to our soon-to-be college freshmen.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING GRADUATES WE HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF:

College: Megan Maynard, Chelsea Van Alst, Nicholas Fessenden, Krystle Mowrey, Edward Lowe (Law School), Jordyn Schrage, Daniel Park, William McLaughlin.

High School: Bryan Van Alst, Heidi Willard (Salutatorian - Griswold High), Tienna Deroy, Hayden Bustamante, Evelyn Cournoyer, Rachel Gallogly, Gabriel Hopkins-Gray, Corey McCaslin, Saul Meraz, Samuel Schumacher.

Middle School: Hannah Crary, Nathaniel Crary, Peter Crary, Michelle Wisniewski, Jillian Irvine, Ethan Lehr, Lindsay McCaslin, Max Migliaccio, Sara Tomis.

HOMETOWN NAZARETH Where Jesus was a Kid...

Vacation Bible School still has openings for July 13-17th. An awesome week is planned. Call the church office or pick up a registration form on the table in the Information Center. This is open to the community for kids who turn four by August 1, 2015 through those completing grade 7. Teens and seniors and in betweens will be part of this memorable week.



We plan to put up the big tent (40 x 60) for the Hometown Nazareth Marketplace. I am looking for 8 people willing to assist Alan Starke with this Task on Friday, July 10th at 5:00 P.M. Please call Sandy at the church office if you can help.



JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

JULY 2015

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

A VACATION BIBLE meeting is scheduled for July 8th at 6:30 P.M. If you are involved with the School, please make every effort to be there as we make the final preparations for an awesome week.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
To place flowers in church during July, Sign the Flower chart in the narthex, and call Mary Lou Jensen at 860.889.6400	Please check with Rev. Stan or Sandy <u>Before</u> 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 AA 7:30p	2	3	4 Independence Day! The birth of our great country!
5 Communion worship 9a Two-Can Sunday	6 Yoga 6:30p	7 Friends & Family Caf� 9-11:30a	8 St. Jude's worship 11a Vacation Bible School meeting 6:30p Finance Comm...mtg. 7p AA 7:30p	9 Wedding rehearsal 7p	10 Wedding 2p Tent raising 5p	11
12 Worship 9a Baptism	13 VACATION BIBLE 9-11:30a Yoga 6:30p	14 NO Friends & Family Caf�	15A Trustees' meeting 6p Standing Comm. meeting 7p AA 7:30p	16	17	18
19 Worship 9 Youth Mission trip participants depart	20 Yoga 6:30p	21 Friends & Family Caf� 9-11:30a	22 AA 7:30p	23	24 Youth Mission trip participants return	25 Pavilion in use Noon-4p
26 Worship 9 Food distribution Sunday	27 Yoga 6:30p	28 Friends & Family Caf� 9-11:30a	29 Creamery Brook Worship 3p AA 7:30p	30		Please note: active church members who wish to borrow church property (tables, chairs), call the church office.

OUR YOUTH MISSION TRIP PARTICIPANTS will be leaving for New York/Niagara Falls on Sunday morning about 8:45 A.M. Lisa and Scott Van Alst and Jerry Giuliano will serve as adult leaders. The following young people will represent their church and serve as "missionaries" on this trip: Chad Deroy, Tienna Deroy, Matthew Kettle, Corey McCaslin, Kyle McCaslin, Sarah McLaughlin, Olivia Roark, Seth Strader, Bryan Van Alst, Kaegan Willard, Joshua Wisniewski, and Kayla Wisniewski. Please remember in your prayers all the participants on the trip.

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POEM FOR VBS WORKERS

We're going to do some sowing
In a fertile field today:
The tender hearts of children
The Lord has sent our way.
We're glad to leave our housework
For we know these chores can wait.
But with little ones so precious
It soon will be "too late."


We're going to teach of Jesus;
And as we teach, we'll pray
Some little soul will find Him
In Bible School today.

Mrs. Hazel Carlson

JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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	

SEPTEMBER						
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 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
To place flowers in church during August, sign the Flower chart in the narthex, and call Gail Hull at 860.889.5962	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
2 Communion worship 9a	3 Yoga 6:30p	4 Friends & Family Café 9-11:30a	5 AA 7:30p	6	7	8
9 Worship 9a	10 Yoga 8:30p	11 Friends & Family Café 9-11:30a Board of Religious Education 6p	12 St. Jude worship 11a AA 7:30p	13	14	15
16 Worship 9a	17 Yoga 8:30p	18 Friends & Family Café 9-11:30a	19 Trustees meeting 6p Standing Committee mtg. 7:00p AA 7:30p	20	21	22
23 Worship 9a	24 Yoga 8:30p	25 Friends & Family Café 9-11:30a	26 Creamery Brook 3p AA 7:30p	27	28	29 Pavilion in use Noon-4p
30 Worship 9a Food distribution Sunday						

BUILDERS TOGETHER

During a Vacation Bible School held at another church, a class of five-year-olds was interrupted by the arrival of a new person. This little boy had one arm missing. The teacher had no opportunity to learn anything about him; he simply arrived and was there. As an adult, the teacher was nervous, worried that one of the children would comment on this youngster's handicap and possibly embarrass him. There was no way to caution the class members so she proceeded as carefully as possible.

Soon closing time came. Nothing had gone amiss and the teacher began to relax. She asked the children to join in their usual closing activity. "Let's build our churches," she said, "Here's the Church and here's the steeple, open it up and here's..." Suddenly, the awful truth of these actions struck her. The very thing she feared the children would do, she had done. The boy with one arm was excluded from a procedure requiring the use of two hands. As the teacher stood speechless, a little girl sitting next to the boy reached over with her left hand and placed it up against his right hand. "Here, Davey," she said, "let's build the church together."



"Wireless communication is nothing new. I've been praying for 75 years!"