

# THE PRESTON PILGRIM

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

**SEPTEMBER  
2015**

**CHURCH ADDRESS**  
321 Route 164  
Preston, CT 06365-8108

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

**FAX**  
(860) 887-4647

**WORSHIP**  
9:00 & 10:30 A.M.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
8:45 A.M.

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

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

Visit us on **FACEBOOK**



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



What a summer it has been; where did the time go? Attendance at summer worship was excellent - some Sunday's nearing 200!

Vacation Bible School was a big hit with the children. Our high school young people returned safely from their summer mission trip to New York. We enjoyed hearing about their travels during an August worship service. Children and youth returned from their week at Singing Hills in New Hampshire, where they joined with other kids from Congregational churches in our fellowship for a great week of summer camp!

I thank you, again, for the amazing 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of my ministry with you! What a fun two days it was; the picnic on Saturday, and Sunday worship with all kinds of surprises and gifts --- and ice cream sundaes to conclude the morning! It was a weekend I will remember for years to come, and I thank you for being part of it!

The mid-level of our building was repainted and new carpeting installed. It looks so nice; thanks Alan Starke and Trustees for your oversight of this project.

Now, many who were away for the summer are returning, and we're glad you're back. There's a lot happening over the next few weeks that you should be aware of:

We return to two services of worship on September 13<sup>th</sup>; 9 & 10:30 A.M. and Sunday School starts at 8:45 A.M. (*see the JR. PILGRIM*)

Our semi-annual meeting of the church will take place on September 20<sup>th</sup>. In addition to the "typical" meeting agenda, the membership will vote on whether or not to proceed with the web-streaming committee's recommendation to begin recording the Sunday services and streaming them on the internet. This will make it possible for anyone, anywhere, to watch our service online via a computer, tablet, or iPhone, etc. This will be especially beneficial to our home-bound church people, college students and friends living out-of-state. Come and hear all the details about this new outreach of our church.

The 10<sup>th</sup> annual Scarecrow Festival is slated for September 26<sup>th</sup>, from 10 - 5 P.M. The committee has been working diligently throughout the year to insure that "all the bases" are covered for this wonderful, community event. Now that we are just a few weeks away, your help is really needed. Please sign up to lend a hand on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Check out the bulletin board in the coffee hour room to see exactly where your help is needed. Be sure to read the Scarecrow flyer in this newsletter also. This event takes LOTS of people to make it a success. Your involvement will help!

As you can see, there's lots of good things happening around our church; something for everyone!

My hope and prayer for our church is that we will continue to do great things for Christ's church, for each other, and for the communities we serve; and that we'll have a good time doing so!

May God continue to have His hand upon this place, and upon our lives.

See you in church!  
*Rev. Stan*  
Rev. Stan

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### DURING THE MONTHS OF JULY & AUGUST

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

- 7.12 *Maranda Viens* (Adult Baptism)
- 8.16 *Joshua David Jopson*, son of Koren Moran and Joel Jopson of Pawcatuck, CT

We congratulated the following couples who were united in marriage:

- 7.10 *Sarah Morse* and *Derek Waldron*
- 7.25 *Colby Caron* and *Matthew Lemieux* at Lake of Isles, North Stonington, CT
- 7.26 *Lori Marino* and *Edward Blair* at Farmington Gardens, Farmington, CT
- 8.1 *Maranda Viens* and *James Soucier* at Veterans Park Gazebo, Jewett City, CT
- 8.14 *Sally Machin* to *Devin Maloney* at Allen Tree Farm, Brooklyn, CT
- 8.22 *Paige Gildart* to *Anthony Signorella* at The Inn at Mystic, Mystic, CT
- 8.29 *Brittany Holmgren* to *Harold West, III* at Park Congregational Church, Norwich, CT

We offered our sympathy to the family of:

- 8.1 *Ernest "Ernie" Dupont*  
On August 15<sup>th</sup>, friends and family gathered at the church for an inspirational and patriotic send-off for a man who loved his family, his church, and his country. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Geri, and his family.

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### NEW MEMBERS

What a joy it was to welcome ten new members into the worship and fellowship of our church on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Get to know these fine people; they are really wonderful additions to the church family: Ialeen Hubbard-Testa & Robert Testa, John "Jack" Dicey, Michelle & Eric Flugum, Paul Vachon, Bridget & Brian Park, and Marisa & Michael Stankiewicz. We're so glad that you've joined us. **WELCOME!**



### WEBSTREAMING UPDATE

Since our semi-annual meeting in May, the Video Streaming Exploration Committee has been hard at work putting together a solution to the challenge of broadcasting our church services over the internet.

At this point we have examined a wide variety of equipment from various manufacturers, have had a demonstration of some of the needed equipment, and feel we have identified the equipment best suited for live streaming our services and events. Further, we have investigated the various services and licenses we will need.

We have also begun to formulate some ideas for how the live streaming could be staffed. For each "event" that will be streamed, we will need two individuals: one to operate video cameras and audio mixing, and one to do the actual video mixing that will be streamed. It is our hope that we can, eventually, put together a cadre of individuals amongst whom we can rotate so that no individual or small number of individuals find themselves always "on the hook."

The prospect of a group of folks sharing their talents as photographers (camerapersons) and video production directors is quite exciting. A good part of the enjoyment of such an effort is the sharing of ideas regarding both content, goals, and style of presentation.

We look forward to presenting our recommendations at the September 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

For the Committee,  
*Jim Wright, Chair*

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### PHASE ONE STEWARDSHIP

Our church now has a two-phase stewardship program. Phase One (the Sanctuary renovation mortgage) is now underway and will conclude October 11. Letters will be mailed to the congregation seeking financial support to pay down the \$60,000 mortgage. Please give as you are able, knowing that whatever amount is pledged will help us reduce the loan amount.

Last year pledges of \$19,220. were made for the mortgage. Pledges received through August 16<sup>th</sup>, totaled \$13,844. We have until the end of September to meet the pledge amount. The current balance of the mortgage is \$49,246.06.

Please feel free to call the Financial Secretary, Mary Ann Coughlin if you think you are behind on your pledge (860.376.0568).

Phase Two (the 2016 church budget) will begin in November and run through the end of the year.

### NEW FLAG!

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

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### BIBLE STUDY

The Monday morning study group will meet beginning September 14<sup>th</sup>, from 10 to 11 in the coffee hour room. This fall we'll explore some of the writings of the "minor prophets" and what they spoke to the people on God's behalf. The study is for anyone wanting to learn more about God and His people. No prior knowledge of the Bible is required. Come and learn, and meet some wonderful people. As always, the coffee pot will be on!

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### FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

This very helpful and insightful 9 week program will begin September 15<sup>th</sup>, at 7 P.M. in Hall's Hall, led by Bob Vescovi. FPU is a series of 9 DVD's where radio host, Dave Ramsey talks about a variety of topics related to money management. Two scholarships are being offered to couples or individuals who'd like to participate but have limited funds available; please speak with the minister. You can go to [daveramsey.com](http://daveramsey.com) to learn more about the program and to register for the class. Feel free to contact Bob with any questions you may have. You can reach Bob at 401.583.7840, or at [RVesco2010@comcast.net](mailto:RVesco2010@comcast.net). The program is open to anyone in the community.



Mark Your Calendar!

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### COLLETTE (Travel)

Plan to be with us on Monday evening, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 7 P.M. for a travel presentation by our new Collette representative, Jason Garrepy. He will talk about 4 possible travel destinations for 2016. This program, and all our travels are open to the community. Spread the word and invite a friend to join you.

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### LOOKING AHEAD...

**October 2,** First Communion rehearsal for grade 3 students; 6 P.M. Please call the church office to let us know if your child will attend.

**October 4,** *World Communion Sunday.* Grade 3 students will receive their first communion during morning worship in the Sanctuary.

**October 3,** Our fall yard sale will be held in the lower parking lot. You may bring your donated items to the annex basement weekday mornings from 9 - noon. PLEASE contact Stella Dawley (860.887.6452) to arrange a time to drop off your items. We will not accept: tires, computers, TV's, or clothing at the sale. Help will be needed to set up tables and put out items beginning at 6 A.M. Another team of helpers is needed for clean-up starting at 1:30 P.M. Please consider lending a hand. A sign-up sheet is posted on the Information Center bulletin board.

**October 18,** Our church will host the "Fall Gathering" of the Northeast Fellowship of Congregational Christian Churches beginning at 3 P.M. and concluding with a dinner at 6 P.M. You are invited to attend but you **MUST** register with the church office for planning purposes.

**October 24,** Our very popular "Turkey Supper" will be held. This supper is always a "sell-out." Don't wait until the day of the supper to get your tickets. Tickets will go on sale after the Scarecrow Festival.

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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 11<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto:lorihall2545@gmail.com) for more information or to sign up.

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### NEEDED...

We're looking for someone to chair the 2016 Scarecrow Festival. Shirley Hodgkinson 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: [Prestoncycongregational.org](http://Prestoncycongregational.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.

# The Preston Junior Pilgrim



## Preston City Congregational Church Sunday School Newsletter



### FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

**THIS SUMMER** has been a summer like no other for me...I've been on a journey I didn't choose to take! At the end of June I was diagnosed with breast cancer and after surgery and a zillion tests I began a journey with chemo therapy that doesn't even skip Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve! It will last at least five months and will probably be followed by radiation. I am told by the cancer doctor that at the end of my journey I will be all right. In my humanness, it's been a scary time. In my faith journey a church member friend pointed out this Bible verse from Isaiah 41:10: "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

I plan to continue my ministry with the children and my administrative assistant duties. There may be times when I have to ask someone to fill in for me or days when I must work from home. Please know that you may still call me with your questions, concerns or anything I can help you with. You are important to me.

**SO MANY GOOD** things can come out of trials that we have. I have met some wonderful people in the medical field that I might not otherwise have met, and have a renewed sense of just how important my family and church family are to me. I ask that you hold me in your prayers.

**WHATEVER TRIALS OR CHALLENGES** you face, I hope 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 **SON**shine through me,

*Sandy Dudek*

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** opens **September 13<sup>th</sup>** at **8:45 a.m.** As of now, 108 students have been registered. There is **always** room for more! Classes are for children 3 years of age through High School. Encourage others to bring their children if they do not have a church home. "**BRING IT**", a contemporary worship service will meet at 10:30 a.m. on **September 13<sup>th</sup>** for High School students through age 22. It is held in the Sunday School Hall. For more information, call the Van Alsts (860.230.9947).

### APRIL BIBLE VERSES

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (Genesis 1:1) (N3-Grade 2)

"For I know the plans I have for you", declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11 (Grades 3-12)

**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:** Bible cutouts will be posted on the bulletin board in the back of the Sunday School Hall. When the child has recited the monthly verse a sticker will be placed in the proper space. Let's hope many students get all nine of them this year!

**OUR YOUTH MISSION TRIP** participants served as missionaries this summer in New York/Niagara Falls. Thank you Chad Deroy, Tienna Deroy, Matthew Kettle, Corey McCaslin, Kyle McCaslin, Sarah McLaughlin, Tabasia Shaw, Seth Strader, Bryan Van Alst, Kaegan Willard, Joshua Wisniewski, Kayla Wisniewski, and Leaders Jerry Giuliano, Lisa and Scott Van Alst who represented our church to serve in Jesus name. **THE 2016** trip has been reserved for 18 participants, 15 students, 3 leaders, to Washington, D.C. from July 24<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup>. High School students will be hearing more about this with the opening of Sunday School.

**DO YOU LIKE** to act and might get excited to tell and portray a Bible story? We have an opening in the Sunday School Storytelling program to do just that! It is great fun and rewarding to see that you're reaching kids for Christ in this venue. Contact Sandy Dudek for further information about this ministry.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL...Hometown Nazareth** was a wonderful learning and fun experience conducted mostly outside this summer for the 41 kids that signed up. Many teens and adults participated and had as much fun as the kids! Thank you, congregation, for all your generous donations. They were appreciated.

**PRESTON CITY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
321 ROUTE 164, PRESTON, CT**



**FREE  
ENTRY**

# Scarecrow Festival 2015

September 26th, 10 A.M.- 5 P.M.

**CHICKEN BBQ: 4:00-6:30 (parking on site after 5:30)**

**Lots of Family Fun!**

**Silent Auction-Lots of great items!**

- Dozens of Vendors & Crafters
- Pumpkin Patch Children's Area
- Crow's Nest & Chowder Shack Refreshments, Bake Shop
- Mason's CHIP Program
- Live Entertainment-" **Uninvited Wilson**"
- Demos: Black Dragons Karate, Blacksmith: Chip Sowalski

**[www.prestoncitycongregational.org](http://www.prestoncitycongregational.org)**

or call 860-887-4647

## **WHY NOT ENTER OUR SCARECROW CONTEST !!!!!**

Individuals, Kids (12 & Under) and Groups/Business

# Win Cash Prizes!!!!



**CHICKEN BARBECUE** tickets are available after worship or through the church office.

**September 26, 2015, 4-6:30 p.m.** Adults: \$11.00, Children 12 and under: \$6.00

On grounds parking available at 5:30 p.m. The menu: Grilled chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, roll, cranberry sauce, roll, and dessert. **GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!**

### ***LOOKING AHEAD...***


**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 4 P.M.** right here at Preston City Congregational Church there will be a Hunger Awareness Concert to benefit local social services and our own Food Pantry. It will be fun for the whole family with the music of Harry Chapin and featuring Grammy Winner and Connecticut State Troubadour Bill Pere, Nashville Recording Artist Kay Pere, and the LUNCH ensemble. You may even recognize some of the people in the LUNCH ensemble from our church! Lunch United Network to Combat Hunger. There will be a Free Will offering. \*Please bring a non-perishable food item the day of the concert.

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

# SEPTEMBER 2015

OCTOBER						
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						

**PLEASE NOTE: On the Junior Pilgrim page above the Bible verses, it should have read *September* not *April*.**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
To place flowers in church during September, sign the Flower chart in the narthex, and call Joyce Brewster at 860.376.4167	<b>PLEASE CHECK</b> with Rev. Stan or Sandy <u>before</u> using our names as references. This courtesy would be appreciated.	1 Friends & Family Cafe 9-11:30a	2 AA 6:30-pp	3 Adult choir 7p	4	5
6 Communion worship 9a Adult choir sings Two-can Sunday	7 Yoga 6:30p	8 Friends & Family Cafe 9-11:30 a Handbells 6-7p Board of Religious Ed. 6p SS Teachers/ Aides meeting 7p	9 St. Jude's worship 11a AA 6:30-9p	10 Adult choir 7p	11	12
13 Worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School begins 8:45a .Bring It 10:30a	14 Bible study 10a Yoga 6:30p	15 Friends & Family Cafe 9-11:30a Handbells 6-7p Financial Peace University 7-9p	16 AA 6:30-9p	17 Adult choir 7p	18	19
20 Worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45 a Adult choir sings 9a Children's choir begins 10a Semi-annual meeting Noon	21 Bible study 10a Yoga 6:30p Confirmation informational meeting 6:30p Collette Vacations 7p	22 Friends & Family Cafe 9-11:30a Handbells 6-7p Financial Peace University 7-9p	23 Creamery Brook Worship 3p Scarecrow Festival Tent raising 4:30p AA 6:30-9p	24 Scarecrow Festival Registration and set-up 3-7p Tables, chairs set-up 4:30-7p Adult choir 7p	25	26 <b>SCARECROW FESTIVAL</b> 10 A.M.-5 P.M. Chicken barbecue 4-8:30p
27 Worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a Baptism 10:30a Food Distribution Sunday	28 Bible study 10a Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	29 Friends & Family Cafe 9-11:30a Handbells 6-7p Financial Peace University 7-9p	30 AA 6:30-9p		<b>PLEASE NOTE:</b> Active church members who wish to borrow church property (table, chairs, etc.), call the church office.	<b>LOST OR FOUND</b> something at church? There is a basket in the Information Center.

**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](http://prestoncitycongregational.org)

**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).