

THE PRESTON PILGRIM

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



APRIL 2016

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.

(September - May)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

8:45 A.M.

(September - May)

EMAIL: PCCC@SNET.NET

WEBSITE: prestoncitycongregational.org

Visit us on **FACEBOOK**

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

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FROM THE MINISTER...

That's what it's all about!



Remember the childhood song, "The Hokey Pokey?" "You put your right hand in... left hand... right leg... left leg...". Each verse/refrain ends with the words, "That's what it's all about!"

Recently, the Monday morning study group viewed a DVD by Dr. David Jeremiah entitled, "I Never Thought I'd See The Day... *When the Church Would Be Irrelevant.*" In that 40 minute video, Jeremiah says what I have believed throughout my ministry. He speaks about the purpose of the Church (C = Universal Church), saying there are three things the Church needs to remember if she wants to remain *relevant* in a changing world.

1. The purpose of the church, he says, is to *glorify God!* The church (c = local church) must do everything possible to *honor and glorify God.* The church ought to always strive for excellence - in preaching, in music, in teaching, in being a witness for Jesus Christ. We should ask ourselves; Is what I am doing my best? Is what I am doing honoring and glorifying God? Can I do it better?
2. Does the way I treat other people honor God? We should always do our very best; in the church and in the world. Mediocrity comes up short.
2. Jeremiah goes on to say, the purpose of the Church is to *go and tell; to share the Good News with others.* Christ refers to this as *The Great Commission (Mark 16:15).* Our world, our nation, our neighborhoods are rapidly declining. There is little or no respect for human life, or a differing point of view. So many people/families don't even attend church anymore. They say, "It's not important. It's irrelevant. I don't understand it. I don't believe." Then, when their life takes an unexpected or unfortunate turn they are lost, in despair, feeling hopeless. People need to hear the Good News; words of hope and encouragement, and we are the messengers of his Good News. We've heard it, therefore, we should not be hesitant to share it with others. Remember, it's Good News. Who doesn't like to hear a little good news?
3. His final point is: the purpose of the Church is to *love your neighbor.* This is not always easy to do. Christ calls this the *Great Commandment (Mt. 22:36-40).* There are people around us who feel unloved, not worthy of being loved; some have never experienced the *unconditional*

love of Jesus Christ. No one has told them about it!

If we, as his followers, don't tell them, how will they ever know? We must not dismiss the Great Commandment. Jesus does not *ask us* to love others, He *commands* that we love our neighbor. Even the *most unlovable* – even our enemies.

How do we do what Jeremiah suggests? *Glorify God. Share the Good News. Love our neighbor.* We do it by committing ourselves whole-heartedly to this task and to him. If we say we are His followers, we must show it.

I like the last verse of the "Hokey Pokey."
"You put your *whole self in...*" That's how we do what Jeremiah suggests, we put our whole selves into making Him known to others. 100%!

That's what it's all about!

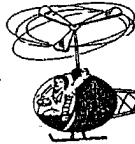
Rev. Stan
Rev. Stan

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CLEAN-UP DAY

We thank those volunteers who showed up the day before Palm Sunday to rake and sweep the church grounds and parking lot. It looks so nice!

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NEW MEMBERS

We were pleased to welcome the following people into the membership of the church on Palm Sunday: Denise A. Dole-Braley, Margaret Tourangeau, Wendy & Lee Gillam, Debra Rockwell, Melinda Gray, Rebekah Little, and Christian Swanson. We're so glad you've joined us!

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BENJAMIN SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE NOW

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 Center 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 12, during the morning worship service.

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GOT TICKETS?

Tickets are on sale for the Chicken Pot Pie Supper on Saturday, April 23rd, from 4-6 P.M. Get your tickets during the coffee hour, or reserve them by calling the church office. Get your tickets before they're all gone!

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SAVE THE DATE
Church Spring Yard Sale
May 7th (rain date: May 14th).
8 - 2 P.M.



Reminder... CHANGE OF DATE

The semi-annual meeting of the church is scheduled for **April 17th**, starting at noon. This is an all-church meeting and everyone is invited to attend. However, only church members may vote on issues that come up. Come and hear what's happening in your church! We'll meet in the Sunday School hall. Deli sandwiches will be available before the meeting for a nominal fee. We hope to see you at the meeting/

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NEWCOMERS DINNER

We had such a good turn-out for the last dinner that we're doing it again! If you're new to the church within the last 6 months to a year, we invite you to join us for dinner here at the church on **Friday night, April 15th, at 6 P.M.** It's an opportunity for us to get to know you better, in a smaller setting. If you'd like to attend, please sign the sheet posted on the Information Center bulletin board. Please indicate how many will attend with you. This will be the last dinner until the fall, so we hope you will join us, enjoy a nice meal, and meet some wonderful people at the same time!

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FOOD PANTRY NEWS

The number of individuals and families that continue to be helped at our pantry (thanks to your generosity and others in the community) continues to grow. However, funding for the "Toucan (*Two Can*) Food Pantry" has decreased considerably this year, affecting what we are able to do for those in need. So, we're trying something new. Donation envelopes for the pantry are now available at the Information Center Bulletin board. Please consider taking one and making a donation. You can designate what you would like your donation to purchase; see the cost, and enclose the amount. Or, you can simply donate and allow pantry personnel to determine the greatest need. If you have any questions, please contact Stella Dawley (860.887.6452) or Harriet Rosiene (860.889.0238). Your contribution/envelope may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church. Your help is needed and appreciated! *We thank you for the many donations received in March via the new pantry envelopes available on the Information Center bulletin board.*

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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. If you're interested in helping out with this important outreach, please call meal coordinator Lois Woodmansee at 860.889.2128. *Thank you!*

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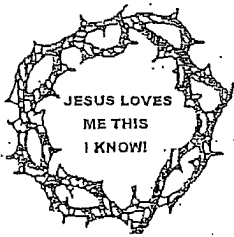


The Preston Junior Pilgrim



Preston City Congregational Church Sunday School Newsletter

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:



GOOD FRIDAY was an awesome day at the church as following the worship service 42 children picked up their nail and descended the stairs to have lunch and participate in a number of crafts. Several of them made large palm crosses this year thanks to the time and effort **Don Walsh** put into getting 40 crosses ready for the children to work with. I thank him so much for his help to make this happen. We have enough crosses for next year and kids who did not get to do them this year will have an opportunity next year. **Joyce Brewster** got pansy plants ready for all the children; her generosity was so appreciated. **Wendy Abrahamson** was here to make pretzels in the church kitchen as she has been since the inception of this event many years ago.

WHAT MADE THIS SUCH an awesome day! Looking around and seeing the event staffed by kids who grew up in the Sunday School and are now teens, a college student, **Hunter Bustamante**, who was here to oversee the Christian birdhouse project, a registered nurse, **Jordyn Schrage**, who came to help (from the time she was a little girl she stayed after to help me pick up), seventh graders who gave up doing the projects themselves to be craft leaders, an ever faithful 80+ years lady, **Stella Dawley**, who shows the children nothing but love and gentleness. Having children ask me to explain the 4 days of Holy Week as displayed on the hallway table, showing children how early Christians drew a fish in the sand to identify with another Christian...I could fill the whole page with stories of those who came to help. To a D.R.E. like myself, this was just an awesome day.

MAY JESUS CHRIST be praised to see his children learning more about him, deepening their faith, and finding so many people willing to help them within these walls we call the church.

"May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes establish the work of our hands." Psalm 90:17 (NIV)

May the SONshine through me,

Sandy Oudek



APRIL BIBLE VERSES

"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." (Exodus 20:8) Grades Nursery 3- 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)

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 are posted on the bulletin board in the back of the Sunday School Hall. When the child has recited the monthly verse, they will place a sticker on the proper month. Let's hope many students get all nine of them this year! Even if they miss one, there will be an opportunity to make up one missed verse.

THANK YOU to everyone who provided an item or two or helped in any way with the Youth Volunteers Recognition Dinner. Though no one looks for it, it is good to recognize the efforts of those who work with our youth.

A **PAMPERED CHEF** fundraiser to benefit the Senior Pilgrim Fellowship. (30% of the total sales) will be held April 13th at 6:30 p.m. in Halls' Hall. You may place an order with Joanne Gallogly (860.710.8329) up until April 24th. Catalogs will be available through her.

CHILDREN'S DAY is right around the corner...yikes! The year has flown way too quickly. I hope you will mark **May 15th** at 10:30 a.m. to join us on the "Field of Dreams" and see and hear what the children have accomplished this year. Our chief cook, **Jerry Giuliano**, (860.376.8901) will be on hand cooking hamburgers and hot dogs for our picnic. Please speak to him if you would like to offer a hand.

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 April dates are the 10th and the 24th. Please come and join us, invite someone to come with you, or tell someone about it.



APRIL 2016

Scarecrow Festival
September 24th
10 A.M.-5 P.M.

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
To place flowers in church during April, sign the Flower chart in the narthex and call Mary Lou Janson (860.889.6400)	PLEASE NOTE: Active church members who wish to borrow church property (tables, chairs, etc.), call the church office.	Please check with Rev. Stan or Sandy before using our names as references. This courtesy would be appreciated.	is the name and address correct on this mailing? If not, please get in touch with the church office to update this information by phone or email.	LOST OR FOUND something at church? There is a basket in the Information Center.	1	2 Baptism 1p Youth Volunteers Recognition Dinner 6p
3 Communion worship 8, 10:30a Adult choir sings 9a SS communion 9:05a Two-can Sunday	4 NO Bible study Yoga 6:30p	5 Friends & Family Café 9-11:30a Handbell choir 6p Financial Peace University 6:30p	6 AA 7:30p	7 Adult choir 7p	8	9
10 Worship 9a, 10:30a Bring It 10:30a	11 NO Bible study Yoga 6:30p	12 Friends & Family Café 9-11:30a Handbell choir 6p Board of Religious Education 6p Financial Peace University 6:30p	13 St. Jude 11a Finance Committee Meeting 7p Pampered Chef Fundraiser 6:30p AA 7:30p	14 Adult choir 7p	15 Newcomers Dinner 6p	16
17 Worship 9a, 10:30a Semi annual meeting Noon	18 Bible study 10a Yoga 6:30p	19 Friends & Family Café 9-11:30a Handbell choir 6p Financial Peace University 6:30p	20 Trustees' meeting 6:30p AA 7:30p	21 Adult choir 7p	22	23 Chicken Pot Pie Supper 4-6p
24 Worship 9a, 10:30a Baptism 10:30a Bring It 10:30a Food Distribution Sunday	25 Bible study 10a Yoga 6:30p	26 Friends & Family Café 9-11:30a Handbell choir 6p	27 AA 7:30p	28 Adult choir 7p	29	30



SAVE THE DATE!!!
Vacation Bible School
July 11-15th
MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

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).