

THE PRESTON PILGRIM

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

JULY - AUGUST

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WORSHIP
9:00 A.M.
(May 22 - September 11)

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WEBSITE: prestoncitycongregational.org
Visit us on **FACEBOOK**

News and information for the September newsletter is due in the church office by **August 21st**. You may leave information in the holder located on the wall in the kitchen.

WELCOME!

It's official! Following the worship service on June 19, the membership voted unanimously to employ *The Rev. Thomas Flynn* as Associate Minister of our church. Following the vote, Tom and his wife Carole were welcomed into the Sanctuary with applause from the congregation.

Rev. Tom will begin his ministry on July 3, and we wish him well as he ministers to the church family. Be sure to introduce yourself to the Flynn's (and their daughter, Amanda).

The following bio was printed in the worship folder on June 19th:

"Rev Tom is a native of California; just an hour's drive south of San Francisco. He came to know the Lord while attending a community college and becoming friends with a campus minister. It was through this man that Tom grew in faith and knowledge of Christ's redemptive work on the cross. But it wasn't until a number of years after graduating from San Jose State University that Tom felt God calling him to the ministry.

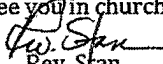
With the total support of his wife Carole, Tom attended Western Theological Seminary in Portland, Oregon and graduated in 1997.

Since 1998, Rev. Tom has been working as a hospice chaplain, being at the bedside of people with only a short time to live. He has been able to share his faith and hope in the Lord so others

might have the same. Rev. Tom and Carole have four children and eight grandchildren. In 2014, Tom & Carole and their daughter Amanda moved to Preston where he continues in his hospice ministry. Besides sports, Tom loves both writing and reading, and fixing up their old house."

As you have helped me to grow in my faith, and have encouraged me in my ministry, be a support to Rev. Tom. Encourage him. Pray for him - that God would do amazing things through Tom's ministry in Preston.

May God's Hand continue to be upon us!

See you in church!

Rev. Stan

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DURING THE MONTH OF MAY & JUNE
WE WELCOMED into the Household of Christian Faith through the Sacrament of Baptism:

May 15, *Connor Michael Swanson*, son of Christian & Michael Swanson of Preston.

May 22, *Declan Richard Duggan*, son of Erin Breen & Matthew Duggan of Uncasville.

May 29, *Reagan Lawler Tourangeau*, daughter of Margaret & Andrew Tourangeau of Preston.

June 25, *Marcus Owen Castiglione*, son of Michelle & Adam Castiglione of Red Hook, NY.



WE CONGRATULATED the following couples who were united in marriage:

May 28, *Megan Maynard to Kyle Linevitch, Jr.*

May 28, *Jocelyn Miner to Steven Tedisky at The Meadows (Stonington)*

June 18, *Jessica Heavenor to Trevor Burgess*

WE EXPRESSED OUR SYMPATHY to the family of *Olivia Roark* whose sudden passing at the young age of 17 left her peers, community and church family shocked, stunned, and saddened. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family; parents: Sherry & Bob Roark, brother: Robby, grandparents: Betsy & Dwight Hopkins, as well as Olivia's extended family.

Well over 500 people packed the Sanctuary, hallways, and rooms on the lower level to support Olivia's family in their time of grief. People even stood in the driveway and on the church lawn to be part of the service.

The annex garden is planted in remembrance of Olivia. She will be missed, but God's Word reminds us that we shall see her again one day! Please keep the family in your prayers.

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DEDICATION SERVICE

On June 19, with joy and gratitude, we named the mid-level entry way the *Fessenden Foyer*. Charles Fessenden was a long-time member of this church who wore many different "hats." He served as church Moderator, Deacon, choir member, Superintendent of the Sunday School, as well as church Clerk for many years. He was the "Clerk of the Works" when the Sunday School expansion was added to the church in 2001.

Charlie loved the "lobby stair tower" (as he referred to it). It seemed appropriate to name this area of the building after him. You'll notice a beautifully carved sign on the wall as you enter this area, and a plaque as well. On the upper level of foyer is a handsome Westminster chiming wall clock, given by Charlie's family and friends. It chimes every quarter hour and sounds so nice throughout the foyer. Stop by and take a look. We thank those who made this memorial gift possible. We thank God for Charlie's years among us.

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~Yard Sale News~

Thanks to your help and your donations to the spring yard sale, a total of \$1,273.85 was raised! Special thanks to Stella Dawley, Kaye Schlough, and the countless volunteers who helped set-up and break down the sale. Your help was much appreciated! We plan to have another sale in the fall. Keep your church in mind.

**THANK
YOU!**

WEB STREAMING NEWS

We're up and streaming! You can now watch the Sunday service online, live at 9 A.M. or in the evening around 8 P.M. After Sunday, you can watch the broadcast anytime, any day, anywhere from your computer, smart phone, iPad, etc. We thank the web-streaming committee for their dedication to this project. Well done!

Generous monetary contributions from: the Robert Muttart memorial fund, a gift from Lynne & Paul Vachon, and Sandra & Jim Wright made it possible to purchase top-quality cameras and recording equipment as well as accessories. We cannot thank these wonderful people enough for what they have done.

Check it out; let us know what you think. Go to prestoncitycongregational.org and click on the web streaming address.

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SCARECROW NEWS

The festival is just 3 short months away and the committee has been busy. We have 5 demonstrations scheduled this year, including: Thames Valley Gymnastics, the NFA Fencing team, Black Dragons Martial Arts, Ledyard Police K-9 Unit, and Beekeeper Stuart Woronecki from Stonewall Apiary. Also, Klyde E Scope the clown will be here, sponsored by the Jewett City Savings Bank. We are excited to announce there will be goats and sheep from Circle K Farms Petting Zoo! We are currently soliciting several businesses for sponsorships, to assist with the cost of the petting zoo.

All our sub-committees are busy doing their part to help make the festival a big success. We still need committee co-chairs for the football toss and golf putting competition. Each co-chair would cover 3-1/2 hours on festival day, and would need to be present to oversee those two events. All items are already in place, and the volunteers needed to staff each event will be provided. The co-chairs would just need to contact the volunteers before the festival. Football and golf knowledge is NOT necessary. Please contact Bob Vescovi at 401.583.7840 or Joy Chalifoux at 860.234.1011 with any questions.

It's not too early to start thinking about the scarecrow you would like to enter in the scarecrow contest.

Our next SCF meetings will be: July 12 and August 9, each at 6:30 P.M. We hope to see you there!

The Scarecrow Festival will be Saturday, September 24th, from 10 A.M. - 5 P.M. Put the date on your calendar, you don't want to miss it!

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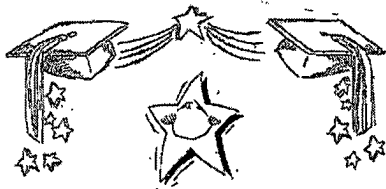
FOOD PANTRY NEWS

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!

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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CONGRATULATIONS to the following graduates we have knowledge of: **Jeffrey Talbot**, UCONN School of Pharmacy; **Alison Lowe**, QVCC, Associate, Medical Assistant; **Jeffrey Houghton**, Boston University, Linguistics and Computer Science; **Colleen Cournoyer**, Cornell University; **Alexis Luft**, Bryant; **Michelle Swierczynski**, Nursing School; **Chelsea Houston**, Three Rivers; **Jessica Berube**, Windham Hospital – Xray Tech; **Tyler Allyn**, Ledyard High; **Ryan Miller**, Zachary York, High School; **Dustin Judy**, NFA Lead Program; **Zachary Houghton and Seth Strader**, NFA; **Sarah McLaughlin**; **McKenzie Gauthier** and **Joshua Wisniewski**, Griswold High School; **Lindsay Bernier**, Kiana Burdick, Jonathan **Daniewicz**, Kayla Houghton, Jessica Lavoie, and **Haley Price**, Preston Plains.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY... Claude Flory is organizing a church group to work at a Habitat for Humanity Project that would occur during August. The group must consist of six people or more. The work day would probably be on a Saturday. But if six or more want to work during the week, that could be arranged. You could also volunteer individually or as a smaller group by signing up on the Habitat for Humanity website. If you have an interest, email at claudeflory47@yahoo.com.



EAGLE SCOUT CHAD (C.J. DEROY)

On January 26, 2016, Chad (C.J.) Deroy became an Eagle Scout! On June 12th, an Eagle Court of Honor was held in our Sanctuary to celebrate this great accomplishment with his family, Scout family and friends.

C.J.'s Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project was to clear a trail around the Sheldon Field Complex for the Griswold Park and Recreation Department. After the trail was cleared, woodchips were laid down in order to create a nice walking trail for people. A bench was also placed at one part along the trail for people to sit down and relax.

We are proud of you, C.J. for attaining the highest award in scouting and that accomplishment will follow you for life. We know whatever you have achieved will be used to help others in life.

C.J. has helped Mrs. Dudek out for a few years in the Sunday School and has always been someone who could be counted on to do whatever was asked of him.

Congratulations! Your church family applauds you

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OUR YOUTH MISSION TRIP

PARTICIPANTS will be leaving for Washington D.C. on Sunday morning, July 24th. Lisa and Scott Van Alst will serve as adult leaders. The following young people will represent their church and serve as "missionaries" on this trip: Lindsay Bernier, Chad Deroy, Jessica Lavoie, Sarah McLaughlin, Tabasia Shaw, Seth Strader, Kaegan Willard, and Michelle Wisniewski. Please remember in your prayers all the participants going on the trip.

CAVEQUEST...

"Following Jesus the Light of the World" is the theme of Vacation Bible School this year.

July 11th-15th, 9-11:30 A.M.

Open to children in our church and community who are 4 by August 1st through those completing grade 7. **We still have openings left...** spread the word. An awesome week of fun and learning is planned. Call Shari Purcell (860.917.9011) or Sandy Dudek (860.887.4647) who are directing the school to get a registration form or further information.

The Preston Junior Pilgrim



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:



SUMMERTIME is a time for me when I finally tackle all the accumulation in my office! I ran across "Some remembrances of our time at Preston City Congregational Church" sent to us in June 2014 by the Rev. Lawrence A. Washburn who served as minister of this church from December 1955 – December 1959. I hope you find these excerpts as interesting as I did:

LENORE, Bonnie Jean, our 11 month old daughter and I moved in (to the parsonage). There was no kitchen to speak of and one of our requests before accepting the position was for a proper kitchen to be installed. Soon after we arrived that was done. There were other problems with the house, however, one by one taken care of over the years. One story involved the living room ceiling. The plaster was hanging down so much that at any moment the entire ceiling could come down. The trustees looked at it and decided it would last a few more years, but I was worried it would fall on my little daughter, but there didn't seem to be enough money to fix it. About a year later, there was a missionary committee meeting at the parsonage. Most of the women present were 70 years of age or older. Lenore was about 26. She hosted the society every month in the parsonage as was the custom. Right during that meeting the ceiling came crashing down right in the midst of the seven or eight women. The ceiling was fixed the next day!

I WAS thinking, "oh my, things have changed around here!" We no longer have a parsonage, but everything at our church is so well kept up. As much as we have a debt of gratitude to our forebears, we have much to thank our present day stewards for as well!

NEXT is a very interesting story; it is the story of how we *finally* got inside toilets. It was a rainy, muddy day in March and there was a wedding. The bride was dressed in her beautiful white gown, and right before the wedding ceremony was to take place she had to use the toilet, which was outside "Out house". On the way she slipped and fell in the mud. That was the catalyst for our attempts to install inside toilets. We built them between the steeple and the sanctuary on the first floor. By that time I had learned a bit about ministry that they didn't teach you in seminary. In fact I'm sure that this church gave me more of an education than I realized in church politics and getting things done. I learned that you had to go slow and build a coalition of people who wanted to do the same thing that you wanted to do.

THERE are more interesting stories we thank Rev. Washburn for sharing that I will address in future newsletter issues. Thank you Rev. Washburn, for orchestrating those inside toilets!

THANKFULLY we are in a church that always has its eye to the future and someday when we have done what we can do, with God's help and blessing, we will leave well-kept facilities for those who follow us.

May the SONshine through me,

Sandy Oudek



CONGRATULATIONS to our church scholarship winners:

McKenzie Gauthier who plans to attend Johnson & Wales in Providence, RI. She plans to major in Psychology/Counseling.

Sarah McLaughlin who plans to attend Southern Connecticut State University; she plans to major in education.

Seth Strader who plans to attend Mitchell College and major in Environmental Sciences.

Joshua Wisniewski who plans to attend Roger Williams University majoring in Engineering.

THE SCHOLARSHIPS were presented on June 12th during worship by Senior Deacon Sharon Breen. The family of Helen and Winthrop Benjamin was in attendance to offer encouraging word to our soon-to-be college freshmen.





JUNE						
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JULY 2016

AUGUST						
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FOOD FOR FAITH

1st Annual Teachers Training Event
 August 20, 2016 9:30 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.
 Third Congregational Church
 Middletown, CT

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 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 Adventure Park, Storrs 10:30a-5:00p	2
3 Communion worship 9a Two can Sunday	4 Independence Day! Let us appreciate the Freedoms we enjoy. Office closed	5 Friends & Family Caf� 9-11:30a	6 AA 7:30p	7	8	9
10 Worship 9 Baptism	11 VACATION BIBLE 9-11:30a Yoga 8:30p	12 NO Friends & Family Caf� Scarecrow Festival Meeting 6:30p	13 St. Jude worship 11a Finance Comm. mtg. 7p AA 7:30p	14	15	16
17 Worship 9	18 Yoga 6:30p	19 Friends & Family Caf� 9-11:30a	20 Trustees 6:00p Standing Committee meeting 7:00p AA 7:30p	21	22	23
24 Worship 9 Youth Mission trip participants depart	25 Yoga 6:30p	26 Friends & Family Caf� 9-11:30a	27 Creamery Brook worship 3p AA 7:30p	28	29 Youth Mission trip participants return	30
31 Worship 9 Food distribution Sun.				PLEASE NOTE: Active church members who wish to borrow church property, (tables, chairs, etc.) call the church office	Did you know...the newsletter is posted on our website: Prestoncitycongregational.org	

THE NORTHEAST FELLOWSHIP OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES is sponsoring this event to reach out to those involved with Christian Education. If you are a Sunday School teacher, or might like to be one, or a Christian Education person, this workshop is for you!

Two presenters are from our church: *Rev. Stan White* who will be presenting "Music: Songs that Feed the Faith" *Sandy Dudek* who will be presenting: "The Master Gardener Plants The Word/Sunday School Growth."

You see and hear us all the time...but there are several other presenters who will present some very interesting topics: 3 most spiritual food groups that all growing students need; discovering (or re-discovering) our gifts and learn how to best use them for the nurture of our students; technology that fuels the faith; discipline helps and some special needs student strategies.

They all sound great to me. If you would like to go, the registration fee is just \$10.00 which covers all classes and a lunch of sandwiches, salads, fruit, dessert and coffee, tea, water and juice.

A team from the NFCCC has put a lot of effort into planning a wonderful event. Day Care at a cost of \$15.00 is also offered for this event which includes an activity and lunch.



JULY						
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AUGUST 2016

SEPTEMBER						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	

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 (860.889.6962)	1 Yoga 8:30p	2 Friends & Family Café 9-11:30a	3 AA 7:30p	4	5	6
7 Communion Worship 9a *Two-Can Sunday*	8 Yoga 6:30p	9 Friends & Family Café 9-11:30a Board of Rel. Ed. 6p	10 St. Jude worship 11a AA 7:30p	11	12	13
14 Worship 9a	15 Yoga 8:30p	16 Friends & Family Café 9-11:30p	17 Creamery Brook worship 3p Trustees meeting 6p Standing Committee meeting 7p AA 7:30p	18	19	20 1st Annual Teachers Training event Middletown 9:30-6:30p
21 Worship 9a Baptism	22 Yoga 6:30p	23 Friends & Family Café 9-11:30a	24 AA 7:30p	25	26	27
28 Worship 9 Food distribution Sunday	29 Yoga 6:30p	30 Friends & Family Café 9-11:30a	Did you know...the newsletter is posted on our website: prestonclycongregational.org	Please check with Rev. Stan or Sandy Balora 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.	PLEASE NOTE: Active church members who wish to borrow church property, (tables, chairs, etc.) call the church office at 860.887.4647.



Sunday School Start-up
September 11th

