

# THE PRESTON PILGRIM

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

**SEPTEMBER**

**CHURCH ADDRESS**  
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## WORSHIP

9:00 & 10:30 A.M.  
(Sept. 11 – May 21)

## 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 18th**. You may leave information in the holder located on the wall in the kitchen.



## IS IT WORTH IT?

You bet it is!

As the years march onward, you realize how important it is to be connected to a church!

Yes -- a church is about worship, trying to understand God better, and daily living your life in a way that helps others and honors Him.

The church is a place to find hope, peace, encouragement, validation, direction, and people of similar or like beliefs and interests as you. It's a place of discovery, and a place where meaningful, lasting relationships often begin. The church is all these things, and so much more!

In this church, babies are welcomed into the church at Baptism. When other churches say, "Sorry, you don't attend this church, or, you're not married, or, we don't agree with your "lifestyle," I say, "Bring your little one along." Then we watch God to do what He does best --- work in people's lives! He's so good at it.

When a young couple decides to marry, but their clergy refuses to officiate for a myriad of reasons, I say, "Let's meet and talk, let's plan the service!" I can't tell you how many couples have come to our church through the years because another church rejected them. They're here faithfully, growing in their faith! How wonderful. God is pleased, and so am I!

When death calls a loved home, and a family has no church affiliation, no clergy person to turn to, this church is present to them, doing whatever it can to ease the sorrow and loss of those left behind. Again, so many people have found a home in our church because we cared and showed compassion in their time of need.

I'll admit it takes a lot of effort to be the church Christ hoped we would *always* be. We must strive to be better all the time. Many of the characteristics of the church I've mentioned are not found outside of the church these days. Instead, hopelessness, despair, discouragement, criticism, and indecision abounds. Friendships are fleeting.

Only in a healthy, Christ-centered church will you learn to live a meaningful life, a life with purpose, a life lived for others and not only for self.

Is it worth it... being connected to a church? You bet it is. How connected are you?

See you in church!

Rev. Stan  
*Rev. Stan*

## OUR NEW ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Maybe you've been away for the summer and have not yet met *Rev. Thomas Flynn*, our new Associate Minister. He began his ministry with us on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, and has spent the summer meeting the church family, visiting the sick and shut-ins, and preaching. Be sure to introduce yourself to him and get to know him. Tom and his wife, Carole, along with their daughter, Amanda reside in Preston. *Welcome, Rev. Tom!*

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## FROM THE ASSOCIATE MINISTER

The summer has moved swiftly and autumn is before our eyes. I just want to say thanks to everyone at PCCC who has made me and my family feel so welcome. Praise God for all of you! I look forward to what fall brings and the ministry we all will accomplish together, as the Lord wills. See you Sunday! -- *Rev. Tom*

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## DURING THE MONTHS OF JULY & AUGUST

**WE WELCOMED** into the Household of Christian Faith through the Sacrament of Baptism:

July 10, *Avery Lynn Pingalore*, daughter of Kimberly & Richard Pingalore, Jr. of Salem, CT

August 21, *Emma Shea Kilcollum*, daughter of Emily & Ryan Kilcollum of Baltic, CT

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**WE CONGRATULATED** the following couples who were united in marriage:

July 9, *Jordyn Schrage* to *Charles Tuttle* at Wright's Mill Tree Farm, Canterbury, CT

July 16, *Emily Janacek* to *Emerson Fitch* at First Cong. Church, Old Lyme, CT

July 16, *Denise Buonanno* to *Randall Russ* at Harkness Memorial Chapel (Connecticut College), New London, CT

August 20, *Gabrielle Pensis* to *Scott McArthur* at Harkness State Park, Waterford, CT

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**WE EXPRESSED OUR SYMPATHY** to the family of:

July 14, *Paul MacDonald*. Paul was a remarkable man in many ways; church member and Fire Chief for the town of Preston for many years. For the last 10 years, Paul and his wife, Gail lived in Ocala, FL, returning to Preston in the spring to visit with family and friends. Six years ago, Paul received a heart transplant and did remarkably well recovering from that surgery. He was a brave and courageous man; his Doctor's were amazed by his positive attitude throughout his years in- and-out of the hospital for follow-up visits. Paul had no bigger *Cheering squad* than his wife and family. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

July 18, *Douglas Girard*. Doug was a wonderful, faithful, and dedicated servant of God. He served for many years as the church's Treasurer, and was responsible for overseeing the purchase of the nearly 5 acres of land that surround the church property in the 1990's. He was an active member of this church and served as a Deacon. He loved his years spent singing in the choir. His church was a priority in his life. He would do everything possible to insure that it *Shine for Jesus!* Doug's memorial service will be held on September 10<sup>th</sup>, at 11 A.M. here at the church.

August 25, *John "Jack" Putman*. It is often in the closing years of life that I learn a great deal about what a person is made of. In the last couple years of declining health, I saw the loving and caring nature of Jack; how deeply he loved his wife, Evey, and his family. He always had a smile to greet you. He was respectful of others and genuinely interested to hear what others thought. Quietly he sat in church, (taking it *all in*). In a kind and courteous way, he would tell you what he thought should be done. He was a gentle man, and he will be missed by many, especially his wife, Evey, of 67 years. Please keep Jack's family in your thoughts and prayers.

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## DEDICATION SERVICE

August 21<sup>st</sup> was a happy day at the church. It was the day we dedicated our web streaming ministry! What some thought to be impossible, God made possible! God always puts the people in place, at just the right time, to accomplish his mission. I've seen this happen so many times through the years; the volunteer committee who investigated the idea, and the three donors who willingly funded this important outreach program: the late Bob Muttart, Lynne & Paul Vachon, and Sandra & Jim Wright. This new ministry allows us to fulfill Christ's *Great Commission*. We now have the ability to *go into all the world!* Our Sunday morning services can be viewed anywhere in the world, on any day at any time! *That's amazing.* Interestingly, we've already had people from Australia, Puerto Rico, and India tune in. Likewise, we've had viewers from 17 states discover our positive and uplifting services on the web! The possibilities are endless. Thank you donors, and thank you congregation, for taking on this new and vital ministry to others - especially our shut-ins, and those living away from the church who want to stay connected. *Thanks be to God!*

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## 25 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE

On Saturday afternoon, July 30<sup>th</sup>, the weekend celebration for our Director of Religious Education, Sandy Dudek began on the "Field of Dreams". A cookout took place to honor Sandy's many years of service to the church, especially to our children and young people. We thank the Board of Religious Education for serving as the anniversary committee, the many volunteers, and YOU, the congregation for everything you did to make the day and weekend a memorable

one for the one who does so much for others. Be sure to read Sandy's remarks on her anniversary in the *Junior Pilgrim*. We were pleased to let her know during the Sunday celebration that the Sunday School hall was renamed in her honor: *DUDEK HALL - Where seeds of FAITH are planted and nurtured*. If you have not yet seen the attractive sign over the entry into the hall, stop by and take a look. Note the sunflowers, too!

### SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

September 18<sup>th</sup> is the date of this important meeting. We encourage church members to be present to hear the reports of Officers, Boards and Committees, and all that's been happening around our church, as well as where we stand financially in the final quarter of the church year. These meetings are held twice each year because we believe you, the congregation, should be aware of what's going on in your church.

A sandwich luncheon will precede the meeting starting at 11:30 for a nominal fee. We thank the Sr. Pilgrim Fellowship for making this meal possible. The meeting itself will begin promptly at noon in Dudek Hall. We hope you will attend.

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### USHERS ARE NEEDED

Your help is needed during the Sunday services. You will collect the offering, count the people in the section where you collect the offering, ring the church bell before the start of the worship service (if able), and dim the lights during the sermon. You will not be asked to usher more than 2 times during a 3 month period. I will mail you a list every 3 months to remind you when it's your time to usher. Please consider helping out; a sign-up sheet is posted on the hallway bulletin board at the back of the Sanctuary. Please speak with me if you have any questions. Thanks, Bunny Perry.

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### BIBLE STUDY

Save your Monday mornings for a fun, informative, and educational gathering with fellow worshippers! We will gather in Halls' Hall from 10 -11 A.M. starting September 12. This year we will be reading and discussing Adam Hamilton's best-selling book, "*HALF TRUTH*" - *God helps those who help themselves and other things the Bible doesn't say.*"

*"They're simple phrases. They sound Christian. They capture some element of truth, yet they miss the point in important ways. This is a five-week (+/-) study that will help us understand and apply God's Word to these simple Christian clichés."*

-- Hamilton

We have 10 copies of *Half Truth* available in the church office for \$17.25 each. You can also order a copy online at Amazon.com. Plan to attend the study and meet some really nice people. As always, the coffee pot will be on! Rev. Stan will lead this study.

### BIKER NEWS

This new group of motorcycle riders will hold their next ride following the 10:30 service on September 18<sup>th</sup>. Contact Andy Kuvent (860.884.4950) or Cliff Jackson (860.608.6318) with any questions about the ride which will leave from the church parking lot and end at Rev. Stan's home for a cookout. Please sign the sheet on the Information Center bulletin board if you'd like to take a ride! Plan to be part of this growing group of riders from our church. The last ride of the year will be on October 15<sup>th</sup>, save the date!

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### LOOKING AHEAD...

October 2 - *World Communion Sunday*. Grade three students will meet with Rev. Stan and members of the Diaconate on September 30<sup>th</sup>, at 6 P.M. to prepare for this special Sunday where children will receive their first communion. Please call the office and let us know if your child will attend.

October 8 - *Church Yard Sale*, 8 A.M. - 2 P.M. in the lower parking lot. Please call Stella Dawley before dropping your donations off at the church. Please... no tires, air conditioners, computers, TV's, or clothing. Do you know of a non-profit group interested in taking the remaining items left over from the sale? If so, please call the church office. Rain date: October 15<sup>th</sup>.

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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!

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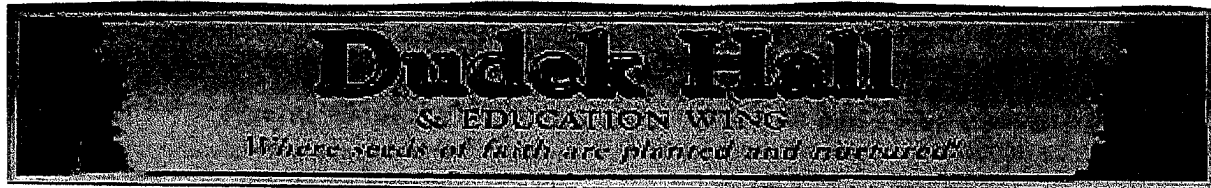
### CAN YOU HELP?

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!*

# The Preston Junior Pilgrim



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:



**WHAT AN HONOR! WHAT A CELEBRATION!** My heart is full of thankfulness and gratitude for the unforgettable **SURPRISE** two day celebration given in honor of my 25 years with you. The dedication of the Sunday School Hall to now be **Dudek Hall** is something I could never have imagined and I am humbled by such an honor. The generous purse that was given to me has been tucked away for a trip; hopefully, to Mount Rushmore and surrounding attractions in South Dakota. I would love for Joe and I to go there by ground so that we might enjoy some of this beautiful country we live in. May God grant us good health for that to come to fruition.

**SPECIAL THANKS** to the Celebration Committee chaired by Shari Purcell and consisting of Rev. Stan White, Lisa Fessenden, Stella Dawley, Randy Gallogly, Cheryl & Jerry Giuliano, Rick Alletto, Marisa Stankiewicz, Lisa Van Alst, Debi Berube (*thank you Debi for opening your home for the Anniversary Committee meetings – I've heard about the wonderful desserts you served and your gracious hospitality*).

**THE SPEAKERS BOTH DAYS** and the music presented touched my soul. People cooking and preparing food on two hot days and for those of you who came out in the heat to honor me, I cannot thank you enough. The flowers were absolutely beautiful.

**I COULD GO ON AND ON**, but I will finish up by saying that my journey with you is something that I would not have missed for the world. To be in a congregation that is caring and generous as you are is no small thing. And oh I have loved the children and look forward to more years of ministering to them. As I open Sunday School for the 26<sup>th</sup> year, I am just as excited about it as when I started out and give glory to God that I survived the chemo and radiation journey and whatever happens now *"It is Well With My Soul."*

May the **SON**shine through me,

*Sandy Dudek*



**AS WE RETURN** to two services of worship, 9 & 10:30 A.M., **September 11<sup>th</sup>**, **SUNDAY SCHOOL** opens at 8:45 A.M. for students 3 years of age through high school. We have a full staff and I'm most thankful for the teachers and aides as we work together this year. Melissa Blondet and Denise Luft will be staffing the Baby Nursery again this year. With so much negativity going on in our world, this is our opportunity to impact the many young people who will walk through our doors, for God and the peace that only He can give.

## SEPTEMBER BIBLE VERSES

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (Genesis 1:1) Grades Nursery 3- 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, 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.

**LOOKING AHEAD...PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL DATES:** July 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**YOUTH MISSION TRIP DATES:** July 16<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 to Lynn, MA; 12 spots have been reserved.

**BRING IT...**is our Contemporary Young Adult Worship Service. It will be resuming in the late fall with some sessions during college breaks (for our college students as well as those who are not attending college). Please check the church worship folder as well as the newsletters for further information.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT...**In October we will begin rehearsals; however, before that happens we need a Director! If you might have an interest in doing this, please speak to Sandy Dudek. You may call her at the church office (860.887.4647) or on my cell phone. The pageant is scheduled for December 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 P.M.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** this summer was an awesome experience as we experienced *Cave Quest* by Group Publishing. 41 children were enrolled and many teens and adults served in a variety of leadership roles. It was directed by Shari Purcell and Sandy Dudek. We are grateful to both of them as well as Helen Rocheleau, Jean Bookout and Ahepa Apartments for underwriting some of the costs. We are looking for directors for the summer of 2017 as we begin now to choose curriculum!

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## Scarecrow Festival 2016

September 24<sup>th</sup> 10 A.M. – 5 P.M.

Rain or shine

BBQ 3:00 P.M.-6:30 P.M. (PARKING ON SITE after 5:30)

### Scarecrow contest

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ Win cash prizes \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

Individuals, kids (12 & under) & Groups /Business

For more Information & contest registration forms visit

[www.prestoncitycongregational.org](http://www.prestoncitycongregational.org) or call 860-887-4647

Follow us on Facebook at scarecrow festival 2016

New this year:

Circle k farms petting zoo

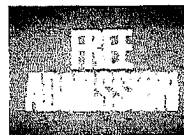
Klyde e. scope the clown

Free parking at Preston Veteran's Memorial School on Route 165

Free shuttle to the church



Family fun  
Silent Auction - Lots of Great Items  
Dozens of Vendors & Crafters  
Pumpkin patch children's area  
Mason's chip program



Live Entertainment  
Thames valley gymnastics  
Ledyard k-9  
Black dragon martial arts  
Nfa fencing team  
Stuart Woronecki beekeeper

Crow's nest  
Chowder shack  
Bake shop

Volunteers are also needed the day of festival you can sign up in halls hall to help come help the festival be a great success




8 A U G U S T  
 1 2 3 4 5 6  
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 14 15 16 17 18 19 20  
 21 22 23 24 25 26 27  
 28 29 30 31

# SEPTEMBER 2016

8 O C T O B E R  
 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

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p>To place flowers in church during September, sign the Flower chart in the narthex, and call Joyce Brewster at</p>	<p>Please note: Active church members who wish to borrow church property (tables, chairs), call the church office.</p>	<p>Please check with Rev. Stan or Sandy before using our names as references. This courtesy would be appreciated.</p>		<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4 Communion worship 8a Two-can Sunday</p>	<p>5 LABOR DAY Office closed NO yoga</p>	<p>6 Friends &amp; Family Café 9-11:30a Scarecrow Festival Committee meeting 6:30p</p>	<p>7 Sunday School leashes meeting 6:30p</p>	<p>8 Adult choir 7p</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 Doug Girard Memorial service 11a</p>
<p>11 Worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School begins 8:45a</p>	<p>12 Bible study 10a Yoga 6:30p</p>	<p>13 Friends &amp; Family Café 9-11:30a Board of Religious Education 6p</p>	<p>14 St. Jude worship 11a AA 7:30p</p>	<p>15 Adult choir 7p</p>	<p>16 Wedding rehearsal 6p</p>	<p>17 Wedding 3p</p>
<p>18 Worship 9, 10:30a Adult choir 9a Baptism 10:30a Semi-annual meeting Noon Halle Hall in use 1-5p</p>	<p>19 Bible study 10a Yoga 6:30p Confirmation informational meeting 6:30p</p>	<p>20 Friends &amp; Family Café 9-11:30a</p>	<p>21 Scarecrow Festival set-up 4:30p AA 7:30p</p>	<p>22 Adult choir 7p</p>	<p>23 Tables, chairs set-up 4:30p Scarecrows registration 5-7p</p>	<p>24 6:30-9:30a Scarecrows registration SCARECROW FESTIVAL 10 A.M.-5 P.M. Chicken barbecue 3-6:30p</p>
<p>25 Worship 9, 10:30a Children's Choir begins 10a Food Distribution Sunday</p>	<p>26 Bible study 10 Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p</p>	<p>27 Friends &amp; Family Café 9-11:30a</p>	<p>28 Creamery Brook worship 3p AA 7:30p</p>	<p>29 Adult choir 7p</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>LOST OR FOUND something at church? There is a basket in the Information Center</p>

**GOD BLESS OUR CHILDREN AND TEACHERS AS THEY BEGIN A NEW SCHOOL YEAR AND SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR! MAY IT BECOME A YEAR OF MUCH LEARNING AND GOOD MEMORIES!**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**  
**SUNDAYS:**  
 Morning worship, 9, 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:  
 Junior & Senior Pilgrim Fellowship  
 Check church bulletin  
 The newsletter is posted on our website:  
[prestoncitycongregational.org](http://prestoncitycongregational.org)

**CHECK IT OUT!**  
 Did you know we have a church library, filled with lots of interesting books? It's located at the back of the Sunday School Hall?

Did you know we have a "Prayer Path" located on the Field of Dreams? Feel free to sit and meditate on the words posted near each bench.

**THE SCRIP PROGRAM** is an ongoing fundraiser that greatly benefits the youth missions trips program. Scrip (debt) 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).