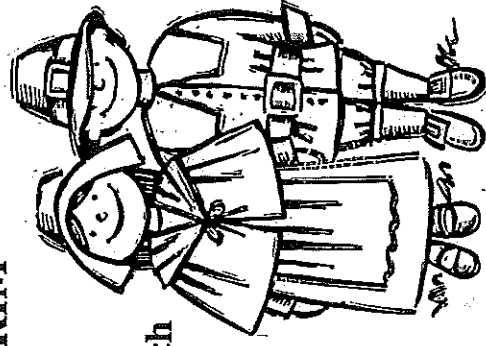


THE PRESTON PILGRIM

The newsletter of
The Preston City
Congregational Church
Gathered 1698



OCTOBER

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.

(Sept. 11 – May 21)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

8:45 A.M.

EMAIL: PCCC@SNET.NET

WEBSITE: prestoncitycongregational.org

Visit us on **FACEBOOK**

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



inexpensive watches, we don't need church bells to tell us when to set for church. So steeples have become decorative – though I understand that their original function is beginning to return.”

(Rev. Kenneth W. Collins)

WHY DO CHURCHES HAVE STEEPLES?

“Until quite recently, accurate clocks were either nonexistent or very expensive. In fact, standard time wasn't invented until the 19th century, so even when clocks became common, each person set his clock by the sun, which meant that they could differ considerably. The time of day was very approximate. People told time by the position of the sun, which is part guess work, and on overcast days they had to go by feel.

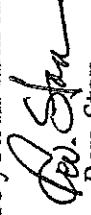
So you can see that until recently, it was impossible to fix Sunday morning worship at, say, 9 a.m. and expect everyone to show up on time.

In the beginning, Christian worship was at sunrise. Sunrise and sunset are the only two times of the day about which everyone can be unanimous without accurate time-pieces. But after Christianity became legal, pious Christians wanted to worship at different times of the day and on all days of the week, so it became necessary to develop some means of announcing the time of worship to the public. Church buildings acquired bell towers for this purpose, and they evolved into today's steeples. Now that we have accurate and

After many years and many seasons of New England weather our church's steeple was in need of some cosmetic attention. So, in late August, with the membership's approval, our steeple received a face lift. The eight louvers (two on each side) were removed and re-fabricated so that rain and snow, birds and bats in the belfry, would remain on the outside. If you have not noticed how simple and beautiful the steeple is, look up!

I remember being told as a boy by my Minister that an additional purpose for a church steeple was to point others to God. To view any steeple you must look up, and when you look up you see the sky, the heavens, and hopefully think of God. Knowing what time it is IS important; likewise, hearing the bell ringing, “It's time for church!”. But more important than these, for me, a steeple is a reminder to *look up* and remember that God is with us – **ALWAYS!**

See you in church!


Rev. Stan

THE ASSOCIATE MINISTER'S MESSAGE

"It is as if something has gone away from me," the woman said. I reflected back to her that it seemed as if something was missing and she had a hole in her soul. She said it was much like that.

This is the way with many people isn't it? Young or old, rich or poor, people often feel a vacancy within themselves and they don't exactly know how to fill that vacancy. Some hope wealth will fill the gap. Some think relationships with others will do it. Still, for others, they turn to substances. In the end, though, those people find themselves having emptiness within.

There is only one solution to this problem of hollowness, and that is Jesus Christ. He said, "I am the same yesterday, today, and forever." He said he would be with us until the end of the age. He is the only one who fills our souls permanently. He heals our spiritual wounds. He binds our spiritual heartaches. That is truly good news we can all spread to others and make their joy complete. Amen. *Rev. Tom*

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DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER...

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

September 11, *Camden Austin Harrelle*, son of Katy & Jason Harrelle of Jewett City.

WE CONGRATULATED *Bobbi MacDonald* and *Gregory Sirois* who were united in marriage on September 17th, here at the church.

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CHECK IT OUT THIS MONTH...

October 4, "Hospice 101" Join Rev. Tom on Tuesday afternoon beginning at 3 P.M. for a 90-minute discussion on the basics of Hospice and its role in today's sometimes confusing healthcare world. We'll meet in Halls' Hall.

October 6 & 13th, the Adult Choir will be holding 2 OPEN REHEARSALS. Have you ever wondered what the choir does at rehearsals? Well, now's your chance to find out. Open rehearsals will begin at 7 P.M. in Halls' Hall (Coffee hour room). There will be extra chairs set up for visitors to sit in and see the fun, fellowship and hard work that go on during our Thursday night practices. Any questions? See me after church. *Robin*

CHURCH YARD SALE

THIS Saturday, October 8th, 8 – 2 P.M.
(Rain date: October 15th)

Please call Stella Dawley before dropping your donations off at the church. Please... no tires, air conditioners, computers, TV's, or clothing. Your help is needed. Please help with set-up at 6 A.M., or clean-up at 1:30 P.M. A sign-up sheet is posted on the Information Center bulletin board.

October 11, Financial Peace University (FPU)

What have you heard about FPU? When we recently asked our congregation's graduates to share a thought or two about their experience in the program, we received comments like this:

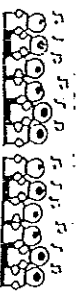
"I was terrified to take any kind of budgeting class', thinking that it would be stressful, preachy, and possibly boring. It was the opposite in all regards."

Here are some of the topics covered in FPU, ask yourself if you could benefit from additional knowledge and understanding in any of these areas: *Relating with Money, Cash Flow Planning, Dumping Debt, Buyer Beware, The Role of Insurance, Retirement and College Planning, Real Estate and Mortgages.*

On October 11th, at 6:30 P.M. in Halls' Hall the next 9-week program will be offered to those who are interested. The class is "free" on the 11th. No commitment required. Come and watch an hour-long DVD hosted by Dave Ramsey. You can decide then if you would like to register for the program which is \$93 and includes all materials.

One last thing... Can't afford to attend? Two scholarships (\$93 each) are available for those who could use some assistance. Just speak with the Minister. Hope to see you on the 11th!
Bob Vescovi, Instructor

October 11, 6-7:30 p.m., there will be a FREE handbell workshop that will teach attendees the fundamental techniques needed to make beautiful music with the bells, as well as some "tricks of the trade." The ability to read music (rhythms) is helpful, but not necessary. If you are interested, contact Robin Lyon at lyon.family@comcast.net or 860.705.5943. The workshop will be held down on the first floor level.



October 12, Labenski Funeral Home (Dignity Memorial) will host a seminar about pre-planning a funeral at *The Yantic River Inn*, Norwich

- *Learn the value and benefits of pre-planning your funeral.*
- *Discover how to bring true peace of mind to your family and yourself.*
- *Find out how to lock in today's prices.*
- *Engage in a candid conversation about pre-need arrangements.*

Each guest that attends will receive a \$500 savings certificate towards pre-arranged funeral goods and services.

A complimentary meal will be served following the presentation. To reserve your seat, call 860.889.2374 and mention this seminar. The cost is **FREE!** Seating is limited, so call today!

October 22, the very popular Turkey Supper will be held in Dudek Hall. The menu consists of: *Roasted Turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, squash, peas, cranberry sauce, rolls, apple crisp, and beverage.* Tickets are now on sale, during the coffee hour on Sunday morning, or by contacting the church office: Adults \$11, Children twelve and under \$6. Lots of help is needed to insure the success of this supper. Please sign up to lend a hand if you are able. A sheet is posted on the Information Center bulletin board.

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October 30, We will welcome back young men from *Teen Challenge, New Haven, CT. Once again*, they will share their faith and music during both services of worship. Come and hear their powerful stories of overcoming alcohol and drug addiction, and how having a faith in Christ helped them to find new meaning for their lives.

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LOOKING AHEAD...

November 8, *Senior Lunch*, noontime. Be sure to sign-up as space is limited to 60 people. These monthly meals are held through March, and are open to seniors in our congregation who regularly attend the church.

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November 15, *The Northeast Fellowship of Congregational Christian Churches* will hold their *Fall Gathering* at the *Courtyard Marriott Hotel* (4 Sebethe Drive) in Cromwell, CT on Friday evening, November 11 from 7 - 9 P.M. and Saturday morning from 7 - 3 P.M. The details of the gathering are posted on the Information Center bulletin board. Plan to attend. Room reservations are \$25/pp. and \$50/single. (This is not a misprint!) and includes: snacks, Breakfast, and Lunch! If you can only attend on Saturday, the cost is \$10 and includes Breakfast (8 A.M.) and Lunch. Make your reservation ASAP. Call: 860.635.1001. Rev. Stan plans to attend Friday and Saturday. Let's meet up at the Marriott! It should be a nice time.

BIBLE STUDY

Save your Monday mornings for an interesting, informative, and educational gathering with fellow worshippers! We meet in Halls' Hall from 10 -11 A.M. This year we're reading and discussing Adam Hamilton's best-selling book, "HALF TRUTHS" - *God helps those who help themselves and other things the Bible doesn't say.* Plan to join us and meet some really nice people. As always, the coffee pot will be on! Rev. Stan will lead this study.

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USHERS STILL 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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BIKER NEWS

This new group of motorcycle riders will hold their next ride on October 15th. They'll meet at the church at 9:30 A.M. for coffee & donuts, then a brief safety review followed by a prayer. Contact Andy Kuvent (860.884.4950) or Cliff Jackson (860.608.6318) with any questions you may have about the ride. A sign-up sheet is posted on the Information Center bulletin board.

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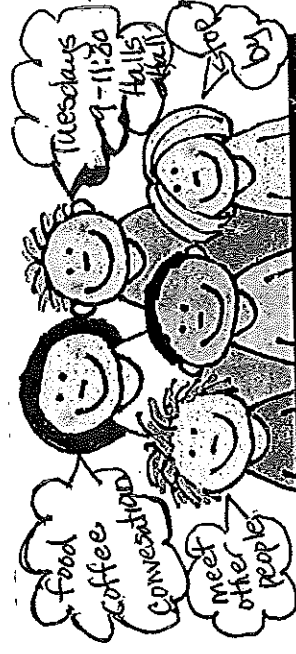
FOOD PANTRY NEWS

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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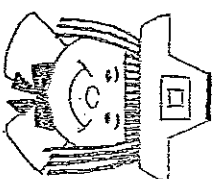
CAN YOU HELP?

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!*



Friends
and Family
COMMUNITY
CENTER

The Preston Junior Pilgrim



Preston City Congregational Church Sunday School Newsletter

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

WHAT AN EXCITING TIME this has been at the church... with returning to two services and Sunday School opening, Confirmation classes beginning, Children and Youth Choirs beginning, and the Scarecrow Festival. How can we ever thank God for His wonderful bounty to all of us! On September 11th, we opened with 115 students enrolled in the Sunday School as well as 33 on the Cradle Roll. We have a full teaching staff of 30 teachers/aides and 2 Baby Nursery Coordinators and 5 volunteers. I am so grateful to be working with volunteers so committed to the children. The children were greeted on opening day by our very own scarecrow chairpersons encouraging them to make a scarecrow.

THE SCARECROW FESTIVAL was just a beautiful day and as I looked out my office window I saw so many people having an awesome day with family and friends. Many thanks go to the countless hours that Chairpersons **Joy Chalifoux** and **Bob Vescovi** put into the Festival along with many dedicated sub-committee chairs. And all the volunteers who helped in any way, heartfelt thanks.

WE HAVE six young people in the Confirmation Class: **Elizabeth Bartoshevich, Lindsay Bernier, Kiana Burdick, Jonathan Daniewicz, Jessica Lavoi, and Haley Price.** Rev. Stan and I look forward to working with these fine young people as they take a deeper look at their faith and the church they will become members of. This is our 24th class and 226 young people that have become members of the church through the Rite of Confirmation.

WE HAVE six children in our Toddler 3 class and it is just the best thing to be teaching them "Jesus Loves Me" on the first day they come to Sunday School. We will help these little ones to embrace the faith their parents first chose for them.

PLEASE HOLD our children and their teachers in your prayers for a meaningful Sunday School year!

May the **SONSHINE** through me,

Hardy Dudek ✂

OCTOBER BIBLE VERSES



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." (Mark 10:14b) Grades Nursery 3 - Grade 2)

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37-39
(Note: This was Jesus' reply when the Pharisees asked Him what the greatest commandment was.)
(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 Dudek 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.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT... We have Sunday School Christmas pageant directors! Thank you to **Tammy Sabados** and **Maggie Tourangeau** for coming forward to direct the children. A pageant is being selected at this time. Rehearsals will begin **Tuesday, October 18th**, at 6:00 P.M. in the Sanctuary for children Grade One and up. The Nativity presented by our Toddler 3's, 4's, and Kindergarten will also meet on Tuesday, but not beginning until late November.

OUR TEENS served a wonderful lunch with terrific desserts on the day of the semi-annual meeting. Although it did not render a profit, it was a service project for them. Thank you to Lisa & Scott Van Alst and Liz Stammel for overseeing our young people in this endeavor.

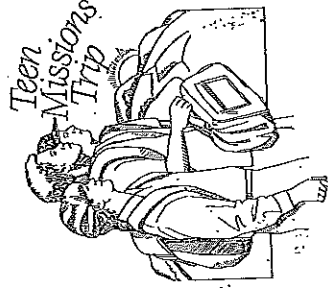


THE SR. PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP (Grades 9-12) were headed to the Preston Farms Corn Maze yesterday and then back to the church for pizza. Sounds like fun! There is always room for more in the group. Contact the Van Alsts (860.230.9947) or Liz Stammel (860.367.5780). if you'd like more information on the group and to join in the fun for future events.

BOARD OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS: At the August meeting, we voted to have background checks on anyone who works with the children through the Sunday School and its programs.

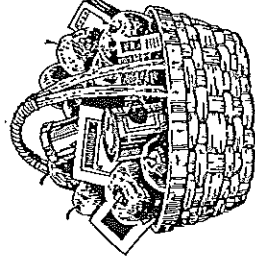
It was also voted that the children's pictures will not be posted on any social media without written permission from their parents.

We continue to move forward in trying to make the church as safe as possible for our young people.



THE 2017 YOUTH MISSION TRIP REGISTRATION FORMS were recently made available to our young people. Those who are presently in 8th grade through those graduating from high school in the spring are eligible to go. If you did not get a form and would like to go on the trip, see the Van Alsts or call the church office. The trip is scheduled for July 16th-21st in Lynn/Boston, MA. The Sept./Oct. deposits for the trip are due at this time (\$60-Sept., \$60-Oct.) Please speak to the Van Alsts if you have any questions.

THE BOARD OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION will have basket drawings at the Holiday Bazaar on November 19th. Can you help us by providing one of the "theme baskets for our table? Theme basket examples might be: "All Chocolate", "A Night at the movies", "A Children's Basket", etc. Your completed basket needs to be received by **November 13th**. It can be left with Sandy Dudek in Dudek Hall or brought to the Annex during the week. Please attach a note marked "Sunday School" and the "theme" as well as your name and a list of the contents of the basket. If you have never put a basket together before, but would like to provide one, you may sign up in the Information Center. The proceeds from the sale will benefit Sunday School programs.



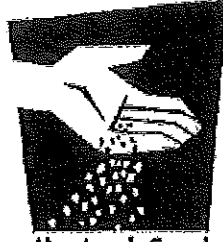
ENVELOPES similar to those the adults use for worship are available to the children. Please ask me if you'd like a box for your child. The Sunday School is self-supporting so even if your child attends church in the summertime, when the offering is placed in a Sunday School envelope, it is given to the Board of Religious Education treasurer.

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).

A Mustard Seed Faith

He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you." Luke 17:6 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 17:5-10 (NIV).



Mustard Seed Faith

H G T P M P W O K U Y P T U B
M G E Q K U W L P D I P A S S
W U W I X Y S R F R U T E U E
B P L O P Z W T G I E T E P E
U P V B B L S E A C K P Y P D
I G B E E F A I T R E E V E F
A N J Y I R P N B O D S W R G
P U C G A T R X T S P H Z I R
O P P R A H O Y R E P L I E D
S R R E E A S K U A D I D B F
T O E B E A N M F I L O R D M
L O P T P X S K A A E X O C O
E T A R W T B E Y L I W L J F
S E R S E R V A N T L T O A O
X D E Z S A K D R I N K H D K

| | | | | |
|---------|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| DRINK | SEA | DUTY | OBEY | APOSTLES |
| FAITH | EAT | INCREASE | PLANTED | SMALL |
| SERVANT | LORD | UPROOTED | MUSTARD | PREPARE |
| SEED | REPLIED | TREE | MULBERRY | SUPPER |

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| SEPTEMBER | | | | | | |
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| 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 | |



OCTOBER 2016

| |
|------------------------|
| 1 |
| Men's Group |
| 8-9:30a |
| Sr. Pilgrim Fellowship |
| 4p |

Sat

Fri

Thu

Wed

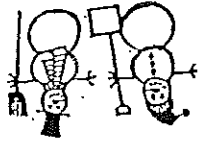
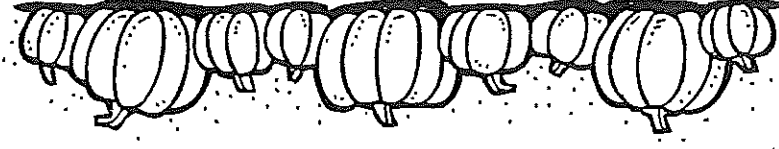
Tue

Mon

Sun

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|-----------------------------|
| 2 World Communion- Sun. worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a SS communion 8:05a Adult choir sings 9a Two Can Sunday | 3 Bible study 10a Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p | 4 Friends & Family Cafe 9-11:30a Hospice 101 3p Hospice 101 3p Scarecrow Festival wrap-up meeting 6:30p | 5 AA 7:30p | 6 Adult choir 7p | 7 Newcomers Dinner 6p | 8 Yard sale 8a-2p |
| 9 Worship 9, 10:30a FIRE PREVENTION WEEK (Fire drill during Sunday School) Office closed NO Bible study Yoga 6:30p | 10 Columbus Day | 11 Friends & Family Cafe 9-11:30a Board of Rel. Ed. 6p St. Jude worship 11a Finance Comm. meeting 7p Handbell workshop 6-7:30p | 12 Staff meeting 9a St. Jude worship 11a Finance Comm. meeting 7p AA 7:30p | 13 Adult choir 7p | 14 Yard sale raindate | 15 Motorcycle ride 9:30a |
| 16 Worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a Adult choir sings 9a Baptisms 9a | 17 Bible study 10a Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p | 18 Friends & Family Cafe 9-11:30a SS Christmas pageant rehearsal 6p Financial Peace Unit- versity 6:30-8:30p | 19 Trustees' meeting 6p Standing Committee Meeting 7p AA 7:30p | 20 Adult choir 7p | 21 Turkey supper 4-6:30p | 22 |
| 23 Worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a Baptism 10:30a | 24 Bible study 10a Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p | 25 Friends & Family Cafe Pre-planning funeral presentation and complementary meal Yantic River Inn 5p AA 7:30p | 26 Creamery Brook 3p | 27 Adult choir 7p | 28 | 29 |
| 30 Worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a | 31 Bible study 10 NO Confirmation Yoga 6:30p | NOVEMBER 5 M T W T F S 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 | Please check with Rev. Stan or Sandy before using our names as references. This courtesy would be appreciated. | LOST OR FOUND There is a basket in the Information Center. Please note: Active church members who wish to borrow church property (tables, chairs), call the church office. | To place flowers in church during October, sign the Flower chart in the narthex, and call Sallie Quinn at 860.546.2021 | |

Fall



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: 10-10:25 a.m.
Youth Choir: 10-10:25 a.m.
Senior Pilgrim Fellowship
Check church bulletin
The newsletter is posted on our website:
prestonctycongregational.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 Dudek 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.

CANCELLATIONS: Tune in to Television Channel 3 or you may check Facebook or our website: prestonctycongregational.org, or call the office. A message will be announced on the answering machine. When Sunday School is cancelled, church is **NOT CANCELLED** unless specifically announced.

INCLEMENT WEATHER
CANCELLATIONS: Tune in to Television Channel 3 or you may check Facebook or our website: prestonctycongregational.org, or call the office. A message will be announced on the answering machine. When Sunday School is cancelled, church is **NOT CANCELLED** unless specifically announced.