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.

**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 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)

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
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.

+++ 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.

+++ LOOKING AHEAD...

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

+++ November 15, The Northeast Fellowship of Congregational Christian Churches will hold their Fall Gathering at the Courtyard Marriot 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 Marriot! 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.

+++ 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.

+++ 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 Kuvnets (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.

+++ 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 Riosiene (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!
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).

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The 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.

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

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

The 2017 Youth Mission Trip Registration Forms were recently made available to our young people. Those who are presently in grades 8-11, who are interested, should speak to the Van Alsts if they have any questions.

The trip is scheduled for July 16-23, in Lynchburg, VA. The Sept-Oct, deposits for the trip are due at this time (50% of trip cost). Please speak to the Van Alsts if you have any questions.

The Board of Religious Education will have a bake sale on Saturday, November 12th. All proceeds will benefit the Sunday School program. Please ask if you’d like a box of cookies or other baked goods to take home.

ENVELOPES similar to those the adults use for worship are available to the children. Please ask us 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.

The Scrip Program is an ongoing fundraiser that greatly benefits the youth missions trips program. Scrip (debit) cards are available for purchase from several stores, including gas stations, department stores, and grocery stores. 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 us 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.

Dr. Jason R. C. Giuliano (603-376-6011)
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**WEEKENDS:**
- **Sunday School:** 8:05a, 9:30a
- **Coffee Hour:** 9:50a
- **Children's Choir:** 10:00a
- **Youth Choir:** 10:10a

**CHECKOUT CHECKOUT**
Did you know that we have a church library, filled with lots of interesting books? It's located at the back of the church hall.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER CANCELLATIONS:**
- If it snows or there is a "Prayer Path" located on the path to our church, we will post a text message on our website, Facebook, and the church bulletin. If the weather is bad enough, we will cancel church services. For updates, please check the church bulletin or our website. If you have any questions, please call the office. A message will be announced on the answering machine. If the weather is not suitable, we will cancel church services. Information will be specifically announced.

**BRUNCH**
1. Men's Group: 8:30a
2. Senior Pilgrim Fellowship: 10:00a

**NEWSLETTER**
The newsletter is posted on our website: prestoncongregational.org

**PLographies**
Located at the back of the church hall.

**Yard Sale**
Location: 8:30a-2:00p

**Newcomers Dinner**
Location: 5:30p-7:00p

**Motorcycle ride**
Location: 8:00a-12:00p

**Turkey supper**
Location: 4:00p-6:00p

**Fall Festival**
Location: 9:00a-1:00p

**Food Distribution**
Location: 10:00a-1:00p