

THE PRESTON PILGRIM

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

**NOVEMBER
2016**

CHURCH ADDRESS
321 Route 164
Preston, CT 06365-8108

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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

WEBSITE: prestoncitycongregational.org

Visit us on **FACEBOOK**



News and information for the December newsletter is due in the church office by **November 20th**. You may leave information in the holder located on the wall in the kitchen.



So much to be thankful for...

I hope you will be at worship on November 20th, *Thanksgiving Sunday*. It will be a special day in many ways. Yes, the young Pilgrims will welcome you to church again this year. They'll tell you of their voyage on the Mayflower from England to Plymouth. New members will also be welcomed into the membership of the church during the services. You'll hear inspirational music from the choir, and sing hymns of thanks and gratitude.

During the service we'll do something we've done only two other times in 31 years; *burn the "Promissory Note" for the Sanctuary renovation!* In 2014, a \$60,000 loan was approved and given to the church by the Fellowship of Northeast Congregational Christian Churches (FNCCCC), to which we belong. This amount, along with other church funds, enabled us to: install air conditioning and insulation in the Sanctuary, to replace the Sanctuary carpet, and reconfigure the chancel; making it easier for people to view events on the platform. Not only was the interior

of the church painted a new color, but the 40-year old drop ceiling was removed revealing 24 beautiful stained glass windows that had been covered with aluminum siding during the energy crisis of the 1970's. We've been enjoying the renovated Sanctuary for just over 2 years! I continue to be amazed by the beauty of it all. Total cost of the renovation was just under \$170,000.

In October, the final payment to the Fellowship was made. The 10-year note was repaid in 2 years, thanks to your generous support of the project, and with thanks to God who makes *all things possible!*

Thanksgiving Sunday will be an uplifting day in many ways, and I hope you will be with us to witness the burning of the note that once indebted us to the Fellowship. We so appreciate the financial support of the FNCCCC!

The story of our church, now 318 years old (November 16), continues to tell of this congregation's faithfulness to Jesus Christ, and God's continued blessing on us.



See you in church!

Rev. Susan

DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER...

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

October 16, *William Shane Doak* and *Lilliana Marie Doak*, children of Kimberly & Joshua Koniecko of Preston and Jesse & Michelle Doak of Griswold.

October 23, *Lucas Joseph Manly*, son of Angella Ciccotti and Anthony Manly of Norwich.

October 23, *Logan Christopher Owens*, son of Shannon & Brian Owens of Moodus.

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WE CONGRATULATED the following couples who were united in marriage:

October 14, *Megan Lake* and *Derek Shaw* at Fox Hopyard Golf Course, East Haddam, CT

October 29, *Lindsay Bakker* and *Joseph Marino* at Lippincott Manor, Wallkill, NY

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YAY!

Another very successful yard sale was held on October 8th. A total of \$1,130.65 was raised. We thank the "Queen" of yard sales, Stella Dawley, for coordinating another sale, and to Kaye Schlough and the many other volunteers who arrived early in the morning to set up for the sale. Likewise, we thank those who were there in the afternoon to put away the left over treasures. A huge thank you goes to Felix Prokop who has been taking the remaining items to Goodwill.

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YAY, AGAIN!

The Supper Committee organized and prepared a wonderful turkey supper on October 22. A supper of this magnitude requires the help of many volunteers; wait-staff, dish washers, line servers, supper prep work, and many more. The amount raised from the supper is not yet available, but will eventually go toward the church budget. Thanks to all who supported the supper in whatever way!

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A REALLY BIG YAY!!

The number is in... the total raised from this year's Scarecrow Festival was \$10,300. The Festival committee gave \$10,000 to the church budget; what wonderful news! This was certainly a team effort; the committee, the volunteers, *the community!* This was the 11th year for the Festival. Credit goes to Joy Chalifoux and Bob Vescovi, co-chairs of this year's event.

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ADULT MISSIONS

Don't forget to bring in your unwanted coats, hats, scarves, boots and mittens for those in need this winter. Place them in the Allyn box located beside the table in the Information Center. This coat drive ends November 13th. *Thanks!*

WEB STREAMING NEWS

If you're interested in learning how to operate the web streaming equipment, contact Jim Wright (860.535.2709). He'll tell you what you need to know, show you what you need to do, and give you the opportunity to experience the various jobs in a hands-on manner. High School young people are especially welcome to get involved. Our Sunday morning (9 A.M.) services have been online since July. Go to the church website and click on the link. Many people (near and far!) are tuning in. We thank the web streaming volunteers who have been involved in this important outreach ministry. Consider getting involved.

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"BINGO!"

Did you know that our church benefits from recreational Bingo held at Strawberry Park campground in Preston? For over 10 years, the church has received proceeds from the weekly games played on Saturday afternoons from April to October. Campers love it, and we benefit financially from it, as the campground cannot retain any of the proceeds. Instead, any profit must be given to a non-profit organization like ours. The games are played with strict oversight from the state of Connecticut. The camping season is now over and we're happy to report that a total of \$6,847.25 (as of 10/27) was received. This amount will go toward the church budget. We thank Bingo coordinator, Mary Lou Jensen for overseeing Bingo these last 10+ years. We also thank the church volunteers who aided her. Well done, Mary Lou and team. *Thanks for your hard work and dedication!*

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ADVENT GIVING

Here's something to consider doing throughout the Advent season this year (November 27 – December 18, – 22 days). As a family or individual, wrap a box with Christmas paper and place one canned good in the box for each day of Advent. Then, on December 18th, bring your box of canned goods to the church and put them around the Christmas tree in the Fessenden Foyer. Be sure to put a note in your box saying who the food is from. All food collected will go to the "Two-Can Food Pantry" here at the church. What a great way to help someone in need this special time of year. We thank Bunny Perry for this idea!

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MEMORIAL ORNAMENTS

Again this year, you're invited to hang an ornament on the Christmas Memory Tree in remembrance of a loved one. Be sure your name is on the ornament, and fill out a slip of paper beside the tree stating who the ornament is in memory of. Then, place the paper in the box nearby. We'll list all the memorials in the worship folder every week throughout Advent. You may place your ornament on the tree beginning November 27th.

BUDGET NEWS

A mailing will go out to the members and friends of the church the week of November 7th, seeking financial support for the 2017 church budget. Please review the mailing, and consider offering a pledge of support to the church. Thank you in advance for your faithful giving!

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YOUR 2016 PLEDGE

Is it up-to-date? With one month to go 'til year's end, we're hoping that all pledges made in January of this year will be paid-in-full by the end of the year. If you have any questions about the status of your pledge, call the Financial Secretary, Sue Creamer at (860.376.2731). We're hoping to end 2016 "in the black" again this year. With your help, we will! *Please note that all giving/donations/contributions must be received before year's end to be given credit for 2016.*

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CONGRATULATIONS

Anita Smiley, a member of our congregation, received impressive news recently. She received the "Cross of Merit of the Order of the White Rose of Finland." She was awarded a medal and diploma from the Ambassador of Finland to the United States at a special ceremony held at the Embassy of Finland in Washington, D.C. on November 4th. We celebrate your achievement with you, Anita!

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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. We just finished reading and discussing Adam Hamilton's book, *Half Truths*. Beginning November 14th, we'll study the New Testament book of James; the little book with lots of insights! Plan to attend whatever week fits your schedule. As always, the coffee pot will be on! Rev. Stan will lead this study.

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HOLIDAY BAZAAR NEWS

Circle the date, November 19th, from 9 - 2 P.M. Our annual church bazaar is a community favorite. It will take place in Dudek Hall and other rooms throughout the mid-level. Crafts, baked goods, a basket and quilt raffle, as well as a luncheon are just some of the things you will see on this day. Some area vendors will also be present. Nuts and candies will also be available for purchase. Get them early, they're a fast seller! You can also purchase them on Sunday mornings during the coffee hour. Plan to arrive early for the best buys. Please consider baking an item for the bake table, or donating items for the re-gifting table (*those gifts you received that you never opened, or you'll never use... shhh!*). You can leave items in the box at the back of Dudek Hall. Contact the church office if you'd like to help out on the day of the bazaar. We'll find a spot for you!

PLEASE NOTE

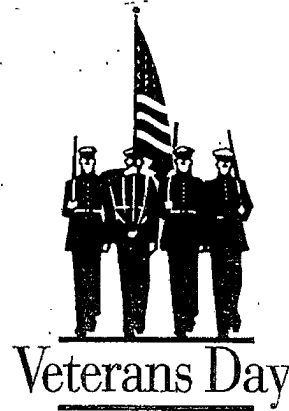
On Christmas morning, there will be one service of worship starting at 10:30 A.M.

On New Year's Day morning, There will be one service of worship starting at 10:30 A.M.

Both holidays are on a Sunday this year.

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WE REMEMBER



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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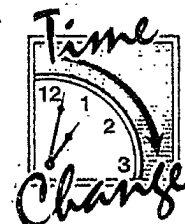
CAN YOU HELP?

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!*

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ONE LAST THING...

Don't forget to turn your clock BACK ONE HOUR on Saturday night, November 5th. Daylight Saving Time ends on November 6th.

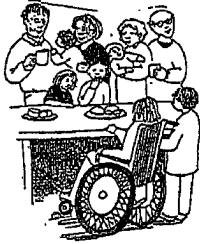


The Preston Junior Pilgrim



Preston City Congregational Church Sunday School Newsletter

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:



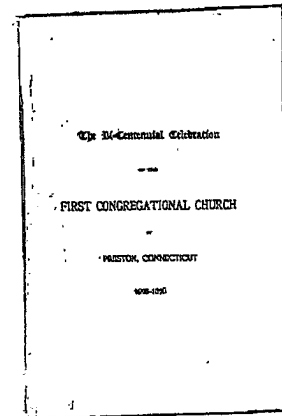
ON NOVEMBER 16, 2016, Preston City Congregational Church will become 318 years old! It is Preston's first church and was essential to the Town of Preston to be organized as well! In 1917, the church became a corporation and was no longer called The First Congregational Church of Preston. How remarkable it is to have survived the test of time, that in good times and bad, this church (the people), are still here today worshipping and giving glory to God!

IF YOU are interested in the history of our church, which is interesting beyond measure, you may borrow from our library the book "THE BI-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF PRESTON, CONNECTICUT" 1698-1898. I can promise you this book will be anything but boring for a winter's night read...you will not be able to put it down! I can tell you that through the years, the church certainly has had its challenges. During the time called The Separate Movement that began near the close of our first minister, Rev. Salmon Treat's 46 year pastorate and continued through the next three pastorates, gravely affected our church. During the time of our second pastorate, Mr. Rosseter, we see a comparison of membership...at the beginning males 42; females, 64 =106. At the end, males 4; females 13=17. You can read all about this, if you like, and see for yourself what we have come through.

Lest I leave this brief commentary on a rather negative note, I will end with the following --Herein, I copy for you a small portion of the Address of Welcome to the Bi-Centennial Celebration (1898) given by Prof. John H. Hewitt, L.L.D.:

The occasion is, in one sense, a celebration of the town, for the foundation of the church is almost coeval with the settlement of the township, and the church was established by act of the town. In the town records we find these entries;—of date, Jan. 26, 1687, "Town takes first steps to secure a minister at £50 a year," and of date, June 21, 1693, "Town made tax to build meeting-house 35 feet long, 25 feet wide, 16 feet between joints." And we are to bear in mind to-day that the influence of this church has not been confined to those families whose names have been enrolled in its membership, but every one who has dwelt within sound of this church bell has, Sabbath by Sabbath, been reminded of his higher and better nature, been reminded, too, of that beneficent commandment given for the highest good of man — *Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.*

It is quiet scenes to which you come back to-day. Neither steam nor electric car has yet invaded the precincts of the town as it is now bounded. This church has ever been far removed from "the madding crowd," yet the sweet influences of many a home in other parts of this land may be traced back to this rural church. Here, amid scenery almost idyllic, the process of character building has been going noiselessly forward for 200 years, and other towns and other commonwealths are enjoying the rich fruitage.



I WOULD LIKE to think that the character building continues, not only in the Sunday School, but in our adult congregation. I would like to think you and I, the present congregation of PCCC, as workers in the vineyard of Christ continuing to produce fruit...hoping there are others near and far (thank you committed web streaming volunteers) who are seeing Christ clearly through you and I. Let's do our share to continue the rich heritage begun by our forebears...

May the SONshine through me,

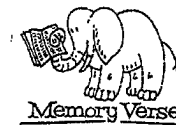
Louise Ouedes α

The best exercise for the heart. "Helping to pick someone up who needs a helping hand."

THE CHRISTIAN FLAG waving proudly on the Annex lawn is given in honor of Stella Dawley, for everything she does for the church; given by Shirley and Don Walsh.



NOVEMBER BIBLE VERSES



Jesus said, "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Mark 12:31) Grades Toddler 3- Grade 2)

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:219 **The Great Commission** (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... "*The Reason for the Season*" directed by Tammy Sabados and Maggie Tourangeau and performed by grade 1 and up will be presented December 11th at 4:00 p.m. I hope you will mark your calendar and plan to attend. Rehearsals will begin for "*The Nativity*", **Tuesday, November 22nd**, at 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary for Toddlers 3 & 4 and kindergarten. The children will not be speaking, but will have great fun and learning as they dress up as the various people and animals in the story of Jesus' birth. A sign-up sheet is posted on the Information Center bulletin board.

TEEN CHALLENGE was here on October 30th and presented their testimonies on overcoming alcohol and drug addiction and presented songs from their choir. Their presentation was very meaningful; our 7th & 8th grade Sunday School students as well as our High School students attended the service. We thank **Lisa and Scott Van Alst** and **Liz Stammel** for preparing a delicious lunch for them.

OUR OWN EVELYN COURNOYER will present a *Winter Wonderland* harp performance at 1:00 p.m. on **November 26th** at the Preston Library. The concert will feature original and contemporary Celtic music and a few Christmas favorites. It is always special to hear and see Evelyn perform on her harp; why not plan to be there.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS will be assembled by the Sunday School children this year. Papers have been sent home with the children to provide a segment of this dinner. If you would like to provide a turkey or a cash donation for pies, please speak to Sandy.

SECRET SANTA... If you attend this church and are in need this Christmas season of a gift or two for yourself or your child(ren), please contact the church office. We will match a "Secret Santa" up to help. Be assured of confidentiality.

LOOKING AHEAD... Friday, December 2nd, Mrs. Dudek and Deacon Keith Harrison are planning our annual cookie bake. We will need some adults to make cookies ahead and some to make batter that the children can bake. The cookie bake starts at 3 p.m. but children 3rd grade and up can still come if they get home later than that from school. If you would like to help us, but have children younger than Grade 3, please speak to Sandy. These cookies will be packaged for delivery on our all church caroling event planned for **Sunday, December 4th at 1:45 p.m.** If you have not gone on this caroling trip before, it is one of the most meaningful outreach activities we have. It is so important that our elderly and shut-ins know they are not forgotten.

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).

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:

"The will of God never takes you to where the Grace of God will not protect you."

"You can tell how big a person is by what it takes to discourage him."

OCTOBER


8	M	T	W	T	F	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

NOVEMBER 2016

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	31		

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

6 Communion worship 9:10:30a Sunday School 8:45a SS Communion 8:50a Adult choir 8a Two-ean Sunday	7 NO Bible study Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	8 Friends & Family Cafe 9-11:30a Senior Lunch noon SS pageant rehearsal 6p Handbell rehearsal 6p Financial Peace University 6:30p	9 AA 7:30p	10 Adult choir 7p	11 VETERANS DAY We remember and appreciate your sacrifice!	12 Remember to turn your clocks back one hour tonight!
13 Stewardship Sunday Worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a New members/Diacons Meeting 8:50/11:30a	14 Bible study 10a Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	15 Friends & Family Cafe 9-11:30a SS pageant rehearsal 6p Handbell rehearsal 6p Financial Peace University 6:30p Search Committee mtg. 6p	16 St. Jude worship 1p Trustees' meeting 6p Standing Comm. Meeting 7p AA 7:30p	17 Adult choir 7p	18	19 Holiday Bazaar 9a-2p
20 New Members Sunday Worship 9, 10:30a Adult choir sings 9a Baptism 10:30a Food distribution Sunday	21 Bible study 10a Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	22 F & F Cafe 9-11:30a Handbell rehearsal 6p Toddler 3/4, Kindergarten pageant rehearsal 6:30p, Gr. 1 & up, 6p Financial Peace 6:30p Adult choir 7p	23 Creamery Brook Worship 3p AA 7:30p	24 Thanksgiving Let us remember to thank God for our many blessings	25 PLEASE NOTE: Active church members who wish to borrow church property (table, chairs, etc.), call the church office.	26 LOST OR FOUND something at church? There is a basket in the Information Center.
27 First Sunday of Advent Worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a	28 Bible study 10a Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	29 F & F Cafe 9-11:30a Handbell rehearsal 6p Toddler 3/4, Kindergarten pageant rehearsal 6:30p, Gr. 1 & up, 6p Financial Peace 6:30p Adult choir 7p	30 AA 7:30p			

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:
prestonicitycongregational.org

DID YOU KNOW that our Faith Community Nurse, Sandra Wright is available on the First Sunday of each month, between services in Room 18. You can drop in for a quick blood pressure check or bring your "health & wellness" questions along, too. Her email address is:
SandraLMWright@gmail.com

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.

INCLEMENT WEATHER
CANCELLATIONS: Tune in to Television Channel 3 or you may check Facebook or our website: prestonicitycongregational.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.

