

THE PRESTON PILGRIM

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

**MARCH
2017**

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 April newsletter is due in the church office by **March 19th**. You may leave information in the holder located on the wall in the kitchen.

LENT

The Christian Church observes numerous "seasons." However, two of them seem to shine brighter than the others: Advent and Lent. The former leads us to Christmas, Lent leads us to Holy Week, Easter – the resurrection, and eternal life for the believer!

Today is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. It is typically a quiet, somber, and reflective day; recalling the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness before the start of his public ministry. It's a season that calls the believer to examine him/herself (heart, soul, and mind) in relation to God, and to discover ways of improving one's relationship, commitment, and devotion to Him.

I like this season because of the reflective tone it sets for me. It encourages me to look inward, to be a better, more dedicated follower. Likewise, Lent reminds me to trust God more, and to remember that it's about His ways, and not my own.

So, over these next 40 days I will pray daily, asking God to show me His plan for my life, not only during Lent, but beyond the season. That's what Jesus did in the desert, and when that experience was over, He came forth with strength and power -- and determination to do

the things God planned for him over the next three years; to proclaim the Good News of God's love for *all*, and to redeem us of our sins.

When I consider what God did for the world through Jesus Christ, how can I not pause during these 40 days and reflect on what He did for me?

Consider joining me on this Lenten journey. At the end of the 40 days, we, like Christ, will come forth with strength and power – and the determination to follow Him to the cross and far beyond the empty tomb!

Stay close to God!


Rev. Stan

+++

THE ASSOCIATE MINISTER'S MESSAGE

It is normal and easy enough to think of many ways to please God. Doing good works are part of being a good person, and the church needs many people to do God's will. On the other hand, we sometimes forget that everything good comes from God. As Christians, the good things we do are inspired by God through the prompting of the Holy Spirit. That is what is different between the works we do and the works the rest of the world does. The works may be the same, but what we do has eternal origins and eternal rewards, for others as well as us. So as we plunge into the new year, let us pray that God would inspire us to do wonderful things for His purpose. Amen.

Rev. Tom

DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

WE WELCOMED into the Household of Christian Faith through the Sacrament of Baptism: **Edison James Matteson**, son of Jennifer & Shaun Matteson of Groton, CT.

We ask God's blessing upon this little one.

+++

WE EXPRESSED OUR SYMPATHY to the family of **William "Will" Edward McLaughlin**. Will passed away unexpectedly on February 11th, at the age of 23. Will was a wonderful young man with a promising future/career ahead of him. He was a student at the UCONN School of Law and was one year away from graduating. Will was so loved by those who knew him here at the church, especially the young people. Please keep his parents; Wenona & Edward McLaughlin in your prayers. Also, his twin brother, Ed, and sister Sarah. Will has numerous extended family including his grandmother, Wenona Tedeschi of California and Connecticut. The memories of Will's years among us will forever remain with those who knew him and called him *friend*.

+++

ANNUAL REPORTS

Did you pick up your copy? They are available on the Information Center table (mid-level). Please contact the church office if you'd like us to mail you a copy.

+++

RIGHT NOW MEDIA (RNM)

Here's a "possible" new ministry for our church, and it will benefit you and your family...

"RNM is like the Netflix of video Bible studies. It gives every member and friend of our church INSTANT, UNLIMITED access to over 16,000 video Bible studies and training videos that they can watch anytime and anywhere: on their TVs, phones, tablets, and computers at home, work, the church."

We (the church, YOU) have any opportunity to preview RNM programming now through May 1st - FREE of charge. However, before you can begin watching, I (Rev. Stan) need to send your email address to RNM. They will contact you via email, granting you access to the site.

I'd like to know your thoughts about RNM. Do you think it would be beneficial for our church families? If so, then after May 1st, it *might be purchased* for one year. As I said it would be "a gift," "Free-of-charge!" Several people have already offered their email address. If you'd like to check out RNM, please sign the email list on the Information Center bulletin board. Please speak with me if you have any questions. *Rev. Stan*



REMEMBER!!!

SCARECROW NEWS

Do you know it takes over 200 volunteers to make the Scarecrow Festival a success? Whatever your interests, the festival is a great place to volunteer. Do you enjoy working with children and crafts? If so, consider the Pumpkin Patch. Are sports and games more your flavor? If so, there's the Dunk Tank and Football Throw. With all the day's events and activities, there are many volunteer opportunities. So please put Saturday, September 23rd on your calendar, and make plans to volunteer at this year's Scarecrow Festival!

Did you happen to see the goats, sheep and alpaca from Circle K Farm at last year's festival? They were a huge hit with the kids and the adults! We'd like to bring them back again this year, so we're asking for donations of any amount to help offset the \$800 cost. If you would like to contribute, please make your check payable to the Scarecrow Festival and put a note in the memo section that it is for the animals. We're looking for someone to lead the charge at the Crow's Nest for this year's festival. This would include coordinating the food, ordering, and distribution at the lower level Pavilion. If you are interested in this opportunity, please speak with Bob (401.583.7840) or Joy (860.234.1011). You can also send an email to Scarecrowfestival2017@gmail.com. We're also looking for someone to lead the Chili/Chowder area this year. If you are interested, please contact Bob or Joy. Thanks for all you do to support the festival!

+++

NEW MEMBERS

We will welcome new members into the church on Palm Sunday, April 9th. If you're interested in joining the church, sign the sheet on the hallway bulletin board and plan to attend the informational meeting scheduled for March 12th starting at noon. Please speak with the Minister or a member of the Diaconate if you have any questions.

+++

FRIENDS & FAMILY CAFÉ

The Tuesday morning café will be closed until the fall. We thank Mary Lou Jensen for her oversight of the café since it first opened.

+++

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.*

YOU CAN
HELP!

BIBLE STUDY

Save your Monday mornings for an interesting, informative, and educational gathering with others! We meet in Halls' Hall from 10 -11 A.M. We're beginning the book of First Peter starting March 13th. Plan to attend whenever you are able. As always, the coffee pot will be on! Rev. Stan will lead the study.

+++

DOOR MONITORS

Volunteers are needed to lock church doors during the 10:30 service. Please lend a hand if you able. All the details pertaining to door monitors are posted on the Information Center bulletin board. Contact Lowell Calkins if you have any questions (860.887.5939). Thanks!

+++

BINGO NEWS

Recreational Bingo at Strawberry Park (Preston) will soon begin, and we are looking for volunteers to help oversee the games on Saturday afternoons (most of the time, April - October) for about 3 hours. We're also looking for volunteers to complete the financial paper work for the games from week-to-week. Mary Lou Jensen will train volunteers before the games begin in April. Likewise, she will instruct those completing financial forms. Anyone working with Bingo in any way must register with the State of CT. We'll be happy to tell you how. Bingo is operated by Strawberry Park, and any monies that remain after prizes are awarded must be given to a non-profit organization (the church).

In 2016, nearly \$10,000 was received by the church. You can imagine how much these monies aid us in our efforts here at the church. **WE NEED YOUR HELP** this year. Please contact Mary Lou if you have any questions, or Pat Marino (860.887.3359), or the church office if you'd like more information. We hope to have volunteers in place and ready to go by the end of March. Your consideration of this matter is greatly appreciated.

MEATLOAF SUPPER

TICKETS are available for our Meatloaf Supper planned for **Saturday, March 11th** from 4:00-6:00 P.M. The Supper includes homemade meatloaf, mashed potatoes/gravy, green bean casserole, Harvard beets, rolls, dessert

Take-outs are available.

Adults: \$11.00 Children 12 and under: \$6.00

Call the church office today for tickets.

JUNIOR PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP for students grades 6, 7, and 8 is nonexistent right now. It is our hope that our young people will have an interest in forming a group. Please contact the D.R.E.

THE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS has posted a review with a picture of **Bill and Jean Muttart** on a bulletin board across from the table in the Information Center hallway. Be sure to check it out!

LOOKING AHEAD TO APRIL

Scholarship application forms will be available on the Information Center table beginning April 1st. Completed forms are due in the office no later than April 30th. Scholarships are awarded to church members seeking their first college/university degree or certificate.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Plan to be present...

Palm Sunday, April 9. New members will be welcomed into the church... The Bread Festival will be followed by the Semi-Annual meeting at noon.

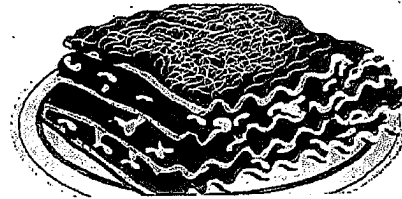
Maundy Thursday, April 13, 7 P.M.

Good Friday, April 14, Worship at Noon

Easter Sunrise, April 16, 6:30 (Amos Lake, Preston)

The Celebration of Easter; April 16, 9 & 10:30 A.M.

JOIN US!



LASAGNA DINNER

TICKETS are available for the Lasagna Dinner to be held **Saturday, March 25th** from 5-7 p.m. The dinner includes lasagna, salad, dessert, and beverages. Take-outs are available after worship or by calling the church office. Adults: \$10.00 Children 12 and under: \$5.00 The proceeds benefit the Youth Mission Trip and the Sr. Pilgrim Fellowship.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Dates are **July 10th-14th**. Please note these when planning your vacation!

YOUTH VOLUNTEERS APPRECIATION DINNER

THIS turkey dinner with homemade pies was held February 25th and was enjoyed by all. **THANK YOU** to Nan Abrahamson and Linda, Gabby, and Delaney Farinha who made the favors and centerpieces. **THANK YOU** to those who baked pies and contributed needed items. **SPECIAL THANKS** to Clara Hopkins, Jean Craig, Stella Dawley, Judy Webster, Rich Lavoie, Robin Hopkins, and Sally Exley for all the help you gave me. I couldn't have done it without you! And heartfelt thanks to those adults and teens who came in to serve and clean-up. You were great and helped me to enjoy the evening as well!

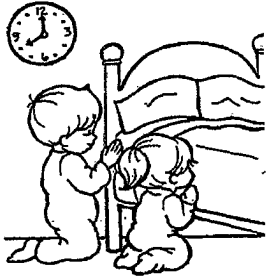
ENVELOPES similar to those the adults use for worship are available to the children. Please ask me if you'd like a box for your child. The Sunday School is self-supporting so even if your child attends church in the summertime, when the offering is placed in a Sunday School envelope, it is given to the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

The Preston Junior Pilgrim



Preston City Congregational Church Sunday School Newsletter

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:



YESTERDAY...ASH WEDNESDAY was one of the most meaningful days at our church as congregants came and prayed for 15 minute time slots for a period of six hours. The people that stopped into my office were very moved by the whole experience wishing it were a longer time! Yes, we can never underestimate the power of prayer, not only for those prayed for, but for the prayer as well. I have the distinct privilege of leading worship for our Toddler 3 and 4 year olds and it is moving to see and hear them pray. They are so trusting and believing...they have much to teach us. Of course, I always teach the children that God hears all our prayers. The answer might not always be "yes" even though we end our prayers with **Amen** ("so be it.") God is all-knowing, and knows far better than us what we need and when.

WHATEVER your burdens, do you trust that God will take you through them? The hardest part for me is when I'm asked now and then why God lets little children suffer and die or why innocent people suffer when others prosper. My answer always is: "I don't really know why this has to be, but I trust God will make good come of whatever tragedy befalls us." Our real challenge as Christians is to keep trusting and believing even when we do not understand. Those who go to the Lord far too soon in our thinking, we must remember we are all here for a short time whether it be 23 or 103. To return to the Lord who makes all things good is no small thing.

MOST OF US think of prayer when "the chips are down"—when we're really scared, when we're anxious. It always good to remember that we need to **THANK GOD** for the blessings he gives us every day. Everyone has them even in the darkest of situations. We just need to work at recognizing them. Something that comes to mind to me is when I first went in to see my daughter, Amy, who in 1988 was paralyzed in a car accident from the neck down. When I first saw her in ICU, the first words out of her mouth were, "I'm so glad nothing happened to my teeth!" I never forgot that. She taught me to look for the good in the worst of situations. My prayer for my daughter was a "miracle" and God said "YES." Thanks be to a gracious God.

**"And all things whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing,
ye shall receive. Matthew 21:22**

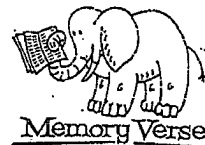
**"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances,
for this in the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

May the SONshine through me,

Sandy Dudek ✕



MARCH BIBLE VERSES



Memory Verse

"Children, obey your parents..." (Ephesians 6:1) Grades Toddler 3-Grade 2)

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control..." Galatians 5:22-23 (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.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY, February 12th, six young people become members of this church: Elizabeth Bartoshevich, Lindsay Bernier, Kiana Burdick, Jonathan Daniewicz, Jessica Lavoie, and Haley Price. This ceremony is always impressive as they stand before God and us and declare their faith. They answered flawlessly questions about their course of study, received "teen" Bibles, received the right hand of fellowship, and went up on the altar to retrieve a white rose to bring to their mother. We all enjoyed cake downstairs following the service to celebrate this special day. These are six fine young people with impressive goals who are added to our rolls. We wish for them the **BEST** always!

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Please have your child return this form as soon as possible for planning purposes. Good Friday (April 14th) off from school takes on new meaning for the students participating in this meaningful event. I would welcome 8th graders and up as well as adults to help me. If you are free and would like to help, please call me.

Director of Religious Education

18th ANNUAL SPECIAL HOLY WEEK EVENT

When: Good Friday, April 14th 11:45 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Where: Preston City Congregational Church

Age Group: Kindergarten through Seventh Grade

Cost; \$5.00, Check can be made out to Preston City Congregational Church and given to Sandy Dudek. In case of hardship, this fee will be waived. Please speak to Mrs. Dudek.

Parents are encouraged to bring their children to the Good Friday service at noon, if possible. If not, please drop your child off to attend the service with the Director of Religious Education, Sandy Dudek. High School young people and other adults will be assisting me. If your children have not been to a Good Friday service before, this should be a very meaningful service to them and also help them to formulate what happened to Jesus on this day and find out why such a day could possibly be considered "good".

Following the service, we will go downstairs for lunch, which will consist of sandwiches, chips, drink and dessert.

The children will then participate in a variety of activities, some of which will be making things to reinforce the meaning of Lent and Easter for the Christian. Hopefully, this will deepen their understanding of our Christian faith that Christ died for us...our salvation!

Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions (860.887.4647)

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR PLANNING PURPOSES.

Child's Name _____ Grade _____

Child's Name _____ Grade _____

Child's Name _____ Grade _____

Please indicate below if a child is allergic to anything (food)

Parent or Guardian's Signature _____

If you would like to provide a food or drink item, please check here and I will call you. _____ Phone No. _____

Telephone No. in case of emergency _____

In the event of an emergency, do we have your permission to take your child to a doctor if you cannot be reached?

Saint Patrick's Day Word Search

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

- GREEN
- LEGEND
- PATRICK
- SAINT
- DUBLIN
- IRISH
- LIMERICK
- RAINBOW
- SNAKES
- CELTIC
- IRELAND
- LEPRECHAUN
- POTEGOLD
- SHAMROCK





FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	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				



MARCH 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	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			

For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

2 Corinthians 5:1

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p><i>To place flowers in church during March, call Joyce Brewster (860.376.4167)</i></p>	<p>Please check with Rev. Stan or Sandy Before using our names as references. This courtesy would be appreciated.</p>	<p>LOST OR FOUND something at church? There is a basket in the Information Center next to the table.</p>	<p>1 Ash Wednesday Prayer Vigil Noon-6p Communion worship. 7p AA 7:30p</p>	<p>2 Adult choir 7p</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Meatloaf 4-6p</p>
<p>5 Communion worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a SS Communion 9:05a Adult choir sings 9a "Two-Cam Sunday"</p>	<p>6 Bible study 10a Staff meeting Noon Yoga 6:30p</p>	<p>7 Handbells 6p Bible study 6-7p Financial Peace University 6:30-8:30p</p>	<p>8 St. Jude worship 11a AA 7:30p</p>	<p>9 Cooking Matters 4:30-6:30p Adult choir 7p</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 Meatloaf 4-6p</p>
<p>12 Daylight Saving time begins Worship 9a, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a New members information meeting Noon</p>	<p>13 Bible study 10a Suicide Prevention 6-7:30p Yoga 6:30p</p>	<p>14 Senior Lunch Noon Handbells 6p Board of Rel. Ed. 6p Bible study 6p Financial Peace University 6:30p</p>	<p>15A Creamery Brook Worship 3p Trustees' meeting 6p Standing Comm. meeting 7p AA 7:30p</p>	<p>16 Cooking Matters 4:30-6:30p Adult choir 7p</p>	<p>17  </p>	<p>18 Dudek Hall in use 11a-4p</p>
<p>19 Worship 9, 10:30a Worship 9a, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a Adult choir sings 9a Eagle Scout bake sale (Michigan) following both services</p>	<p>20 NO Bible study Yoga 6:30p</p>	<p>21 Handbells 6p Bible study 6-7p Financial Peace University 6:30p</p>	<p>22 AA 7:30p</p>	<p>23 Cooking Matters 4:30-6:30p Adult choir 7p</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 PCCC Riders 9a Lassagna Dinner 5-7p</p>
<p>26 Worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a Food distribution Sunday following worship Last day to sign up for church membership</p>	<p>27 Bible study 10a Scarecrow meeting 6:30p Yoga 6:30p</p>	<p>28 Handbells 6p Bible study 6-7p Financial Peace University 6:30p</p>	<p>29 AA 7:30p</p>	<p>30 Cooking Matters 4:30-6:30p Adult choir 7p.</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>Please note: active church members who wish to borrow church property (tables, chairs), call the church office.</p>

Don't forget...
Sunday, March 12th
Daylight savings time begins, move clocks ahead.

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: prestoncitycongregational.org

DDD 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: Sandra.MWright@gmail.com

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