

# THE PRESTON PILGRIM

The newsletter of  
The Preston City  
Congregational Church  
Gathered 1698

**APRIL  
2017**

**CHURCH ADDRESS**  
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## **WORSHIP**

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

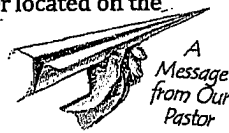
## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

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 May newsletter is due in the church office by **April 23rd**. You may leave information in the holder located on the wall in the kitchen.



## **"LISTEN TO YOUR MOTHER!"**

How many times did I hear those words as a child growing up; maybe you heard them as well. They were usually spoken to me when my mom wanted me to know something important, or do something right away. The longer I live the more I realize the wisdom of her words. I hear her voice more-and-more these days saying,

*"If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all."*

Have you ever known a time in life quite like the times we are living in today? Where so many people, of all ages, from every economic background, in all parts of the country and around the world, -- the rich and the poor, the Hollywood elites and common everyday hard working man and woman, the religious and non-religious, college and university campuses -- students and professors, and very sadly, even in some of America's churches (and the list goes on) are yelling at one another? People are saying some very hateful, hurtful, unkind, demeaning things about many people, and about the issues dominating our communities, our country, and

our world. Everyone's yelling, and no one's listening. Anger intensifies daily, and as we've seen, it's becoming deadly. I don't believe it's getting better, it's getting worse. People have less and less respect or tolerance for people with a differing point of view. Many think that yelling louder will convince opponents that their way is right.

Where is God in all the noise and upset of the world? He's in the midst of it all. He hears everything that's being said -- *everything*. From what I know about God, I believe He is bothered, angered, and disappointed by the way people (created in His image) are treating each other, and speaking to each other. People are yelling so loudly that they cannot hear His voice saying:

*"If my people, which are called by name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14).*

Unfortunately, there are people who could care less about what God has to say about our troubled world. They believe their way of thinking is correct, and His way isn't worth considering. What is happening in our country and world today is nothing new. There have been times throughout history when things were even worse than what we're seeing today.

The answer, I believe, for these troubling times we are experiencing ISN'T yelling louder, or treating others badly. The answer IS remembering your mom's wise words, and listening to God's voice in ALL matters of living. One day, it will be His voice (only) that IS heard. One day, it will be His voice (only) that will ultimately matter. Not ours!

I wish you and the world *Shalom*. Not just peace, but all that *Shalom* encompasses (Google it!).

Stay close to God,  
*Rev. Stan*  
Rev. Stan

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### THE ASSOCIATE MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Paul wrote in Philippians, "Be anxious for nothing..." but anxiety seems to be very common in the world. Peter experienced anxiety and so much more when Christ was tortured and crucified. The feelings of despair and loss Peter felt are common and we experience them ourselves. Would our feelings lead us to deny God and walk away, probably not, but we might be led to moments of doubt. But out of doubt can come renewed and deepened faith, faith that drives us to meaningful ministry. All of us fall short and fall. All of us are imperfect. All of us become anxious, except one, except Jesus, who suffered, died, and rose again.

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### DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH

WE WELCOMED into the Household of Christian Faith through the Sacrament of Baptism: *Molly Sue Gardner*, daughter of *Kimberly & Todd Gardner* of *Preston, CT.* (March 12<sup>th</sup>)

*We ask God's blessing upon this little one.*

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WE EXPRESSED OUR SYMPATHY to the family of *Donald "Don" W. Moxley*. Don passed away on March 19<sup>th</sup>. A husband, father, grandfather, friend and teacher, as well as a man of deep faith, Don did what he could for others. From the young student in the classroom, to those he worshiped with, to the stranger in need of a helping hand or a bit of advice, Don was there for others. He served this church well as a Trustee, Deacon, Standing Committee Chair, and Moderator through the years. This world is a better place for Don having passed through it.

WE EXPRESSED OUR SYMPATHY to the family of *Matthew Veloce* who passed away from a tree cutting accident at the age of 32. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

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### CHICKEN POT PIE SUPPER

TICKETS are available for our Chicken Pot Pie Supper planned for Saturday,

April 29<sup>th</sup> from

4:00-6:00 P.M. The Supper includes fresh-baked chicken pot pie, green beans, Harvard beets, cranberry sauce, rolls, dessert

Take-outs are available.

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

Call the church office today for tickets.

Reserved tickets need to be picked up by 5:00 P.M.

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

We hope you will join us for these important and meaningful services:

*Palm Sunday, April 9.* New members will be welcomed into the church. The annual Bread Festival will be held following both services. Bake your favorite bread and bring it to church Sunday morning for others to enjoy. Be sure to tell us what kind of bread you baked. The Semi-Annual meeting will begin at noon. Be sure to attend this congregational meeting.

*Maundy Thursday, April 13, 7 P.M.* Join us on this night as we remember Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. The Sacrament of Communion will be offered.

*Good Friday, April 14, Worship at Noon.* This service will recall the day Christ died for our sins. Take time from your day to be present at this service of remembrance.

*Easter Sunrise Service, April 16, 6:30 (at Amos Lake, Hollowell Rd., Preston).* This Preston "tradition" has been happening well over 30 years! Come and worship with others from surrounding communities. An Easter morning breakfast will be held back at the church starting at 7 A.M. Reservations are required. Please sign-up on the Information Center Bulletin Board or call the office. We thank *Kim Lang* for coordinating the meal. She's looking for help, if you can lend a hand please contact *Kim*.

*The Celebration of Easter, April 16, 9 & 10:30 A.M.* Join us on this happy morning as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ! The adult choir will sing at both services, a wonderful message for the children will be presented, along with a special Easter message. We hope to see you in church. Why not invite a friend to join you?

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### SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

are now available on the Information Center table. Completed forms are due in the office no later than April 30<sup>th</sup>. Scholarships are awarded to church members seeking their first college/university degree or certificate.

We are grateful to those who made contributions to the scholarship fund in February. It's not too late to still give to this worthwhile fund. You can place your check or monetary gift in an envelope marked *Scholarship Fund* and place it in the offering plate on Sunday morning, or mail it to the church. Be sure to write *Scholarship Fund* in the memo section of your check. Also, let us know if your gift is in memory of/celebration of/or in honor of someone. A list of donors will appear in the worship folder on June 11 (no amounts included). Scholarships will be awarded to some very deserving young people, thanks to your generosity!

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## LAST CHANCE... 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 1<sup>st</sup> – 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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*

**THE SR. PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP & YOUTH MISSION TRIP PARTICIPANTS** thank everyone who supported their Lasagna Dinner in any way.

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Dates are July 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>. Please note these when planning your vacation!

### 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 are 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. Anyone working with BINGO must be licensed with the state of Connecticut; we'll show you how. Likewise, she will instruct those completing financial forms. 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 in the next few weeks. Please consider lending a hand; you are needed!

**THANK YOU SUPPER COMMITTEE** for another wonderful supper on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Your efforts and hard work are greatly appreciated. The next supper is slated for April 29<sup>th</sup>. It will be the very popular homemade **Chicken Pot Pie Supper**. Get your tickets early. You can reserve or purchase your tickets at the office, or during the coffee hour on Sunday mornings.

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### 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 April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Plan to attend whenever you are able. As always, the coffee pot will be on! Rev. Stan will lead the study.

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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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### 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!*

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**SCARECROW FESTIVAL NEWS**  
**THE SCARECROW FESTIVAL COMMITTEE** has been meeting monthly and there is a lot of excitement as we look forward to the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival!



**MUCH** hard work goes into the planning of this event. We're still looking for people to assist with the Crow's Nest this year. For those unfamiliar with the Crow's Nest, it's the food area under the lower pavilion. One person will be responsible for procuring all the food (hamburgers, hot dogs, French fries, etc.) and the supplies for Festival day; a second person will assign and oversee the Crow's Nest volunteers (cooks, line staff, ticket takers, etc.) on Festival Day. If you're interested in either one of these opportunities, or would like more information, please call Bob (401.583.7840) or Joy (860.234.1011).

**DO** you have technical experience working with a sound system? If so, we need one person to assist with the Festival sound system for approximately 3 hours on Festival day. If interested, please call Bob or Joy.

**THANKS** to some generous contributors, we received the \$800 needed to pay for the animal petting zoo from Circle K Farms! So be on the lookout for goats, sheep and an Alpaca again at this year's Festival.

# The Preston Junior Pilgrim



## Preston City Congregational Church Sunday School Newsletter

### FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



**LAST WEEK** I went to the movies to see *Beauty and the Beast* which I had heard was an awesome movie. In fact, the movie was sold out so we bought our tickets for the next showing and waited one hour. The story, all the action, and the music certainly captured my attention. When the movie was over, a woman sitting in my row said, "finally, a 'feel good' movie"!

I thought about that movie during the week along with the Season of Lent we are in leading up to Easter. I thought about the movie and so many things and occasions in life that are just wonderful. These things are fleeting at best. And then thinking what is the lasting "feel good" thing in a Christian's life; one that stands the test of time; one that's not PG13 that is with us, for all ages and for all of time.

**I THOUGHT** about this: What more exciting story could we hear—one about a man who was doing good who is captured and crucified and rises again. And all to save us from our sins and give us all hope of eternal life. Is there any lasting "feel good" story greater than this one. When we are having a challenging time in life, when life seems unfair, when we have a seeming unsolvable problem, are we able to remember our Lord and all that he has done for us. Have you ever felt like you "deserved" all that God has done for you? I know I haven't. And it doesn't depend on your circumstances, but being able to see God in the midst of your trials. Without fail, God is there and is the friend who will never desert, no matter what. Our job is to always be open to God—perhaps God reveals himself through someone in your life, through an unexpected blessing. Ask Jesus to help you to SEE and be open to that revelation. Oftentimes helping someone who needs our help, renders more rewards to us than the person we've helped.

**OUR PRECIOUS CHILDREN**—we spend time thinking about them and go to great lengths to entertain them and "make them happy." This, in itself, is not a bad thing, but the lasting "feel good" feeling comes when we help them to understand the importance of reaching out to others. Ask any of our teens that have gone on the youth mission trip. They don't come back that we went to an IMAX theatre or rode the rapids, but I painted someone's house that needed my help, I played with underprivileged kids, I visited people in the nursing home who didn't have visitors. Showing someone you care has a lasting "feel good" feeling.

**NOT TO** put good movies down because we all need events where our minds can escape at times and "feel good." But especially when you go through rough times, let's remember and let it be written on our children's hearts:

**"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16**

CAN anything be better than this??

May the SONshine through me,

*Sandy Oudek* α



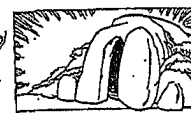
PALM SUNDAY



MAUNDY THURSDAY



GOOD FRIDAY



EASTER

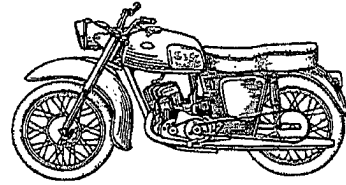
**IT IS NOT** too late to sign your child up for the Holy Week event on Good Friday from 11:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Registration forms are available on the table in the mid-level hallway. The cost is \$5.00 to offset some of the craft costs. The children will go to the Good Friday service at noon and then we will go downstairs to participate in many craft projects. Of course, the wonderful pretzels, the kids (and adults) love will be made and baked in our church kitchen. This event is for children Kindergarten through 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Younger children may come if accompanied by an adults. If you have any questions, call or speak to Sandy.

**JUNIOR PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP** (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. A Christian youth group is different from other groups your child might join. These young people will go on to be in the Sr. Pilgrim Fellowship that has been so active in the past. If you have an interest in developing this group, please speak to Sandy. We have had excellent leadership in the past, we just need kids to "catch the vision."

**CHILDREN'S DAY** is May 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 A.M. Please mark your calendar to be present, hopefully on the "Field of Dreams." Our presentations will be followed by an **ALL CHURCH** picnic. Hope to see you there!

Happy Spring from the P.C.C.C. Riders

**WITH THE** warm weather right around the corner (hopefully), so will be the bikes and motorcycles. Thousands of accidents and deaths happen each year because bikes and motorcyclists just were not seen. We are accustomed to cars, but sometimes miss seeing the bikes. Please beware of bikes and motorcycles as they will be popping out with the flowers and trees. *Andy Kuvent*



Tentative ride schedule:

April : TBD.

May: Investigating a charity poker run. Date and time TBD.

June : Sunday 6/11/2017 - A Reason to Ride. Benefits needy Veterans. Will leave P.C.C.C. @ 10:30am

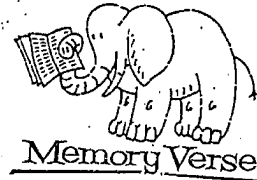
July : Quabbin Reservoir Ride, This will be a longer ride and we will depart earlier than normal. Date and time TBD.

August: Sunday 8/13/17. Take a bite out of Lyme ride. Lyme disease awareness. Depart P.C.C.C. 10:15am.

September : R.I. coast line. Date and time TBD.

October : TBD

We will also be organizing a monthly Friday night dinner ride, stay tuned & ride safe.



APRIL BIBLE VERSES

“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.” (Exodus 20:8) Grades Toddler 3-Grade 2)

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” John 3:16 (Grades 3-12)

**PLEASE ENCOURAGE** students to learn these verses; they will serve them 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.

**Easter Word Search**

<p>APOSTLES CHRIST CROSS CROWN CRUCIFIXION HOLY JESUS KING LAMB LOVE</p>		<p>MARY REDEMPTION RESURRECTION RISEN ROMANS ROOSTER SACRIFICE SALVATION SAVIOR THORNS</p>
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X	C	R	U	C	I	F	I	X	I	O	N	N	K	Q
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O	Y	R	A	M	B	C	S	S	V	Z	U	T	L	R
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S	E	C	I	F	I	R	C	A	S	H	J	E	T	S
A	P	O	S	T	L	E	S	E	Y	S	C	D	I	O
N	O	I	T	C	E	R	R	U	S	E	R	E	O	O
B	M	A	L	M	H	B	B	K	I	N	G	R	N	R



# APRIL 2017



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p>To place flowers in church during April, sign the Flower chart in the narthex and call Joyce Bravster (860-376-4167)</p>	<p><b>PLEASE NOTE:</b> Active church members who wish to borrow church property (tables, chairs, etc.), 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>Is the name and address correct on this mailing? If not, please get in touch with the church office to update this information by phone or email.</p>	<p><b>LOST OR FOUND</b> something at church? There is a basket in the Information Center.</p>		<p>1 Spring cleanup 8a</p>
<p>2 Communion worship 9, 10-30a Sunday School 8:45a SS communion 9:05a Adult choir sings 9a Two-can Sunday Dudek Hall in use 1-5:30p</p>	<p>3 Bible study 10a Yoga 6:30p</p>	<p>4 Handbell choir 6p Bible study 6p Financial Peace University 8:30p</p>	<p>5 Trustees' meeting 6p Finance Committee Meeting 7p AA 7:30p</p>	<p>6 Cooking Matters 4:30-6:30p Adult choir 7p</p>	<p>7 St. P.F. Providence Game &amp; Faith Concert 5:45p-10:30p</p>	<p>8 PCCC Riders 9:00a Organized ride 9a</p>
<p>9 Palm Sunday Worship 9a, 10:30a New Members Sun. Sunday School 8:45a Bread Festival Semi-annual meeting Noon</p>	<p>10 Bible study Yoga 6:30p</p>	<p>11 Handbell choir 6p Bible study 6p Financial Peace University 8:30p</p>	<p>12 St. Jude 11a Adult choir 7p AA 7:30p</p>	<p>13 Cooking Matters 4:30-6:30p Maundy Thursday worship service 7p</p>	<p>14 Good Friday worship service noon Holy Week event 11:45a-2:30p</p>	<p>15 PCCC Riders 9:00a Organized ride 9a</p>
<p>16 <b>EASTER!</b> Sunrise service 6:30a (If rain, Preston City Congregational Church) Easter breakfast 7a NO Sunday School</p>	<p>17 Bible study 10a Yoga 6:30p</p>	<p>18 Handbell choir 6p Bible study 6p Board of Rel. Ed. 6p Financial Peace University 8:30p</p>	<p>19 AA 7:30p</p>	<p>20 Adult choir 7p</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 PCCC Riders Organized ride 9a</p>
<p>23 Worship 9a, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a Baptism 10:30a</p>	<p>24 Bible study 10a Yoga 6:30p</p>	<p>25 Handbell choir 6p Bible study 6p Financial Peace University 8:30p</p>	<p>26 Creamery Brook Worship 3p AA 7:30p</p>	<p>27 Adult choir 7p</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 Raindate PCCC Riders Organized ride 9a Sanctuary in use 9a-1p Chicken pot pie supper 4-6p</p>
<p>30 Worship 9a, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a Baptism 10:30a Food Distribution Sunday</p>						

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

**SUNDAYS:**  
Morning worship, 9, 10:30 a.m.  
9:00 a.m. service is web streamed.  
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

**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:  
Sandra.MWright@gmail.com

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**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. 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).