

THE PRESTON PILGRIM

The newsletter of
The Preston City
Congregational Church
Gathered 1698

JUNE - JULY 2017



CHURCH ADDRESS

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WORSHIP

9:00 A.M.

(May 28 - September 3)

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WEBSITE: prestoncitycongregational.org

Visit us on **FACEBOOK**

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

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Today, June 11th, the adult choir sang one last time before taking a well-deserved break for the summer. Faithfully, these dedicated singers, under the leadership of our music director Robin Lyon, met on Thursday evenings (week-after-week) to prepare a choral piece for us to enjoy during worship; *that's dedication, that's commitment*. Many of them have been singing in the choir for years (too many to count!). Why do they do it? They *must* love to sing. They *enjoy* the camaraderie of singing with others and the friendships that are made. But I'd like to think that they enjoy presenting the "Good News" of the faith in song. Each time the choir shares their music they're offering a musical sermon - not just a melody but a message. There were Sundays during the year, where after hearing their message in song that I thought, *We can go home now*. Their words were that powerful!

Music enhances worship, the organ prelude, the hymns we sing, and the music of our faithful choir. I can't imagine a service without it, but I know of some churches where music is not heard. There is no organist, there are no singers. How fortunate and blessed we are to hear fine music on Sunday morning from all of our choirs, handbells, too!

Be present next Sunday (June 11th) for "Choir Appreciation Sunday" as the adult choir sings some of their favorite pieces. A special coffee

hour will follow the service to honor these loyal men and women. I will miss them in the choir loft, but I know I'll hear many of their voices singing joyfully from the congregation. I'll await their return in September. Until then, Robin and choirs, know how much we appreciate your music in worship. I'm sure, God does, too!

Stay close to God!

Rev. Stan

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WE EXPRESSED OUR SYMPATHY to the family of *Bernard G. O'Brien* who passed away on May 16th. Please keep Bernie's wife and family in your thoughts and prayers. He was a member of our church, and a brother of Paula Toland.

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WATCH IT!

If you're not able to be present at worship, join us for worship on the web; from your computer, iPad, or Smartphone. You can watch the service *live* at 9 A.M. or later in the day, any day or night, at any convenient time, from anywhere in the U.S. or around the world! Did you know you can now give to the church online? Several people have already done so, and we are grateful for their financial support. Tell a friend about our services on the web.

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FINANCIAL REPORT

May church expenses	\$18,518.17
May income (pledges/offerings)	\$14,303.82

Other income received in May

Supper Committee	\$2,500.00
Yard Sale	\$1,260.15

Please help us stay financially strong this summer.

THE ASSOCIATE MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Psalm 64:5-8

"My soul, wait in silence for God only, for my hope is from Him; He only is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold; I shall not be shaken. On God my salvation and my glory rest; the rock of my strength, my refuge is in God. Trust in Him at all times, O people, pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us."

I was visiting someone recently in the hospital and I read this: "When storms in our life come, we shouldn't see how to get out from under them, but to dance in the rain." That's a paraphrase, but oftentimes we can't get out of the storms of life so we need to endure them. King David knew that as he faced his storms. He relied upon God, Who is from everlasting to everlasting, the One on whom we must depend. So, though summer is upon us, remember that storms can come in the summer, and God is with us to help us dance. May the Lord's blessings be with you all.
-- Rev. Tom

THE SEARCH COMMITTEE has accepted the resignation of Rev. Thomas Flynn as follows:

30 May 1017

Dear Scott and Committee,

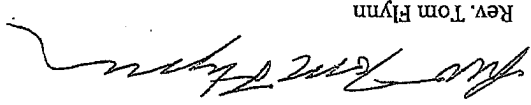
It is with deep sadness and regret that I must officially submit my letter of resignation to the Search Committee and Preston City Congregational Church.

Over the past year the Lord has placed me in a role of which I took very seriously and I believe I have served Him well. But I believe God is moving me away from the church ministry at this time and so I will step away as of 7/31/2017.

I have over the course of the year developed many friendships I will always remember. I have learned much, mostly about myself. I have appreciated so much the opportunity given to me by Christ to serve Him and PCCC.

I pray the Lord continues to lead PCCC long into the future. May you all be blessed.

Yours sincerely in Christ,



Rev. Tom Flynn

WE have recognized Rev. Tom's love and devotion to Christ through his ministry. In the nearly one year of ministry, Rev. Tom never missed a Sunday. His compassion and love for everyone was always visible, especially as he visited the shut-ins of our church. We pray for God's continued guidance for His church and for Rev. Tom. Please join us for a special coffee hour

for Rev. Tom on Sunday, June 25th. We wish to thank Rev. Tom for serving Christ at Preston City Congregational Church over this past year. May the peace and love of our Lord, Jesus Christ, always go with Rev. Tom.

In His service
Scott VanAlst
Chair, Pastoral Search Committee

The additional members of the Search Committee are Sharon Breen, Sandy Dudek, Pat Marino, Bob Onderdonk, Barbara Perry, Shari Purcell, and Rev. Stan White.

THANKS

to Stella Dawley, Kaye Schlouugh, and the many volunteers who helped with the yard sale on May 20th. There were a lot of treasures crammed into the annex basement that needed many hands to be put out for the sale. A total of \$1,260.15 was raised. Well done, team; and thank you congregation for your many donations. Another sale will be held in October. Start saving!

ONLINE GIVING UPDATE

There are 4 ways to sign up for online giving, and you can use your checking account, your savings account, or a debit/credit card:

- 1) Visit the church website and click on "Donate Now" in the upper right hand corner of the home page; or
- 2) Load a free app on your iPhone, Android phone or tablet. Simply go to the App Store or to the Google Play Store and load the app "Give Plus" by Vanco. After loading the app, it will prompt you to type in the church name, so type/select Preston City Congregational; or
- 3) Load a free Bar Code on your iPhone, Android or tablet, and then scan the image below.
- 4) If you don't have access to a computer or Smartphone, or you just want to sign up at the church, stop by the church office to fill out an authorization form, and we will set you up with an online giving account.

If you think you may miss church services this summer due to travel or other commitments, consider setting up an automatic giving schedule. Your consistent support is vital to our church, especially during the summer months.

If you have any questions on this process, please call Bob Vescovi at (401) 583-7840 or email him at RVesco2010@comcast.net

NEWS FROM THE "PCCC BIKERS"

Our next meeting is scheduled for June 24th at 9 A.M. at the church. Hope to see you there. Andy

YAY!

Congratulations to Shirley & Jeffrey Hodkinson. The pharmacy they own and operate; *Uncas Pharmacy* was voted best pharmacy in Norwich this year; it was also selected in 2014 and 2015.

FLOWER & DECORATING COMMITTEE

Our Flower Committee members have now become the "Decorating Committee" for special Sundays during the year (i.e. Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, etc.) This means we are looking for volunteers to serve on the Flower Committee. The FC's basic responsibility is to insure that there are flowers on the altar on Sunday morning. To place flowers upon the altar, the congregation is asked to sign up on the flower chart, which is now located on the mid-level bulletin board. You can offer them in memory of a loved one, a special anniversary or birthday, or other appropriate occasion. If you would like to be part of this committee, please sign the sheet on the bulletin board and you will be contacted. Until this new committee is in place, people wishing to place flowers on the altar should not only sign up on the chart, but also contact the church office by Tuesday so that appropriate wording may be included in the worship folder. Please do not bring flowers to church on Sunday morning without first notifying the office during the week. *Thanks.*

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COMING THIS SUMMER

Jesus often spoke to his followers in parables. These parables were a means to teach us, even today, what the Kingdom of God is like. I invite you to come and explore the words of Jesus in a unique and amazing way. Starting Tuesday, June 13th and ending August 22nd, we will meet every other week from 6-7 P.M. Each session will be scheduled to take place at locations around our community. Bring a Bible, lawn chair, and a friend! Pick up a bookmark from the hallway bulletin board that has the readings and location of the first class. Got questions? Let's talk. *Scott Van Alst*

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SCARECROW FESTIVAL NEWS

Please put September 23rd on your calendar, and remember to volunteer for this year's Scarecrow Festival! Did you know it takes over 200 volunteers to make the festival a success?

We still have a few chairperson positions available. We're looking for two people to assist with the Crow's Nest, which is the food area under the lower level pavilion. One person will coordinate the ordering and delivery of the food and the supplies. A second person will be (Cont.)

responsible for the assignment and oversight of the Crow's Nest volunteers on festival day. This is a change from prior years, when one chairperson was responsible for all Crow's Nest areas.

Also, we need someone to coordinate the Chili/Chowder area, and someone with technical experience to assist with the sound system from 1-4 P.M. on festival day.

If you are interested, or would like more information on any of these areas, please speak with Bob (401) 583.7840 or Joy (860) 234.1011. You can also send an email to: Scarecrowfestival2017@gmail.com. *Thanks for all you do to support the festival!*

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BUS TRIP PLANNED

Join Rev. Stan on a bus trip to NYC, November 30th - December 1st. We'll leave the church parking lot at 8 A.M. and travel to the "Big Apple" where we'll have time for lunch (on our own) and some shopping before going to see the Christmas Show at Radio City Music Hall. After the show we'll head to our motel in NJ. After breakfast (included) the next day, we'll do some sightseeing via our motor coach before having some free time to explore on our own. We'll head back to Preston in the afternoon, arriving back to the church by 8 P.M. The cost for the trip is \$325 per person, based on 40 travelers (\$418 single supplement) which includes: transportation, overnight accommodation, a ticket to the Christmas show, breakfast, sightseeing and gratuity for the driver. A deposit of \$25 is due by September 1st. Final payment is due October 16th. Please make your check payable to: *Preston City Congregational Church*. Brochures for this trip are available on the Information Center table. Friends and neighbors are welcome to join you! Speak with Rev. Stan if you have any questions. A sign-up sheet is posted on the mid-level bulletin board, and 16 people have already signed up.

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WEBSTREAMING NEWS

Many people have been enjoying our worship services streamed on the internet week after week. People have tuned in from around the United States and the world: Australia, Malaysia, Puerto Rico, Singapore, and the United Kingdom to name a few!

Volunteers are needed to assist in webstreaming the services on Sunday mornings at 9 A.M. Please contact Jim Wright (860.535.2709) if you are interested in helping out. You can stop by on Sunday morning and watch them at work; it's fascinating! The present team of "streamers" does an excellent job, but they want and need more help. Consider getting involved!

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CAN YOU HELP?

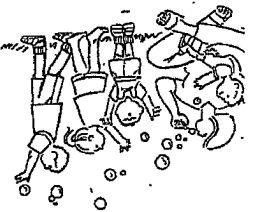
From time-to-time, people/families in our congregation are in need of a home-cooked meal. Maybe it's following a hospital stay, or when a baby is born, or upon the passing of a loved one, etc. If you're interested in helping out with this important outreach, please call meal coordinator Lois Woodmansee at 860.889.2128. *Thank you.*

The Preston Junior Pilgrim

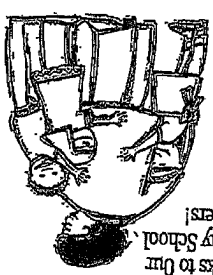
Preston City Congregational Church Sunday School Newsletter

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION...

AN AWESOME DAY... there is no other way to describe the day God graced us with for Children's Day 2017. Our perfect attendance students led us down the hill from the church singing "When The Saints Go Marching In".
Sage Nowakowski, Trey Nowakowski, Reed Nowakowski, Seth Kiewin, Brock Nowakowski, and Noah Kiewin. They held high the Christian flag until all were seated. I am so proud of their faithfulness (and that of their parents)!



Receiving Bible Memory Verse awards were: **Ella Arpin, Zoe Arpin, Bella Kiewin, Joseph Dudek, Kate Dudek, Brent Fessenden, Madelyn Hopkins, Austin Judy, Noah Kiewin, Seth Kiewin, and Reed Nowakowski.** These students recited all the Bible verses month by month during the Sunday School year.



Thanks to Our Sunday School Teachers!

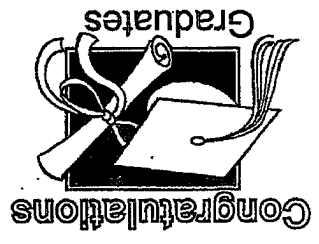
WE cannot thank our Sunday School teachers enough for the time they put into instructing our children. We could not have a Sunday School without them! Today people are very guarded with their time and these teachers plus two very faithful Baby Nursery Coordinators and five volunteers give so willingly in this investment. There is no greater investment than the children.

I am hoping to see the children for Children's messages during worship and hoping many of them can come to Vacation Bible School and invite their friends. After VBS I'll be enlisting teachers for the Fall and will be anxious to enroll your children!

HAVE A VERY safe and restful summer. Take some time to smell the flowers and stay in contact with God daily. He's always ready to hear from you!



May the SONshine through me,
Yorby Dudek



Rachel Ortomoski - Clark University. Rachel has already been accepted into the Master's Degree (Biology) program at Clark and began work on that degree just a few days after receiving a Bachelor of Science degree.
Nicole Coughlin & Harrison McHair - Eastern Connecticut State University.
Rachel Greiner - Quinebaug Valley Community College
Chad Dero, Madison Gileau, & Kayla Wisniewski - Griswold High School (June 16th)
 Are there other graduates? Please call the church office and let us know.

OUR SUMMER YOUTH MISSION TRIP participants depart July 16th-21st to Lynn/Boston, Massachusetts. Please keep our leaders, **Lisa and Scott VanAlst**, and the youth participants, **Elizabeth Bartoshevich, Lindsay Bernier, Chad Dero, Jessica Lavoie, Julia Rider, Kaegan Willard, and Michelle Wisniewski** in your prayers. They go as the hands and feet of Christ and in the name of Preston City Congregational Church to offer their help. May God bless them and keep them safe.

THE SENIOR PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP went to Adventure Park in Storms recently and had a great time! This is a Zipline and Tree-Top Adventures park. If you are in high school and did not go on this excursion, but are interested in future activities of the group, please contact the VanAlsts (860.230.9947).

JUNIOR PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP - (Grades 6, 7, & 8) Is there any interest in starting up this group again? Please contact Mrs. Dudek if you have an interest.





MAY
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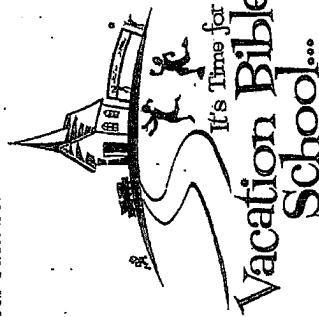
JUNE 2017

JUNE
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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

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.



MAKER FUN FACTORY
 By Group Publishing
 "Created by God... Built for a Purpose"
 July 10-14th, 9-11:30 a.m.

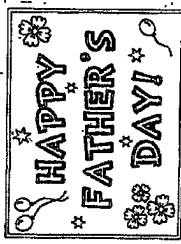
THE time to sign up is now for this great summer program. There is a planning meeting on Monday, June 12th at 6:30 p.m. for those who would like to assist in some way... teens and adults. It will be an unforgettable week as we work with the children.

Children in our church and community are invited to attend who will turn 4 by August 1, 2017 through those completing Grade 7. Those who have attended the Toddler 3 Sunday School class may also attend. Call Mrs. Dudek (860.887.4647) for a registration form or pick one up on the table in the Information Center

Please note: Active church members who wish to borrow church property (tables, chairs) call the church office. (860.887.4647)	Please check with Rev. Stan or Sandy before using our names as references. This courtesy would be appreciated.	LOST OR FOUND something at church? There is a basket in the Information Center	1 Adult choir 7p	2 Adult choir 7p	3 Men's Group 8-9:30a
4 Comm. worship 9a Pentecost Sunday Adult choir sings 9a Baptism Two-car Sunday Halls' Hall in use 1-4:30p	5 Yoga 6:30p	6.	7 AA 7:30p	8 Adult choir 7p	9 10
11 Choir Appreciation & Scholarship Sunday 9a Halls' Hall in use 1-4p	12 Vacation Bible School meeting 6:30p (Annex) Yoga 6:30p	13 Board of Ref. Ed. 6p LET'S GO Bible study (Pavillion) 6p	14 St. Jude worship 11a AA 7:30p	15 AA 7:30p	16 17
18 Worship 9a Father's Day	19 Yoga 6:30p	20	21 Trustees' meeting 6p Standing Committee meeting 7p AA 7:30p	22 Adult choir 7p	23 PCCC Bikers 9a
25 Worship 9a Baptism Coffee hour -Rev. Tom Food distribution (following service)	26 Scarecrow Festival Meeting 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	27 Creamery Brook 3p AA 7:30p	28 AA 7:30p	29 Adult choir 7p	30 31



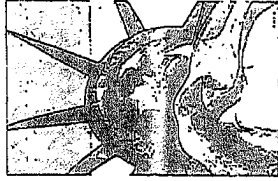
to all the men who have been a caring father to their children or been a "father" figure to someone who could benefit by the interaction. And grateful thanks to our heavenly Father who looks over all of us!



Prayer for the 4th of July

JULY 2017

On this Independence Day, I am reminded of all those who have sacrificed for my freedom, following the example of your Son, Jesus Christ. Let me not take my freedom, both physical and spiritual, for granted. May I always remember that this freedom was purchased with a very high price. Lord, today, bless those who have served and continue to give their lives for our country's freedom. Help me to live my life in a way that glorifies you, Lord. Give me the strength to be a blessing in someone else's life today, and grant me the opportunity to lead others into the freedom that can be found in knowing Christ. Amen.



ONE NATION, UNDER GOD

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
To place flowers in church during July, sign the Flower chart on the mid-level bulletin board and call the church office (860.887.4647)	PLEASE NOTE: Active church members who wish to borrow church property (tables, chairs, etc.), call the church office.	Please check with Rev. Stan or Sandy before using our names as references. This courtesy would be appreciated.	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.	LOST OR FOUND something at church? There is a basket in the Information Center.		1
2 Communion worship 9a Two-can Sunday	Yoga 6:30p	4 Independence Day Office closed	5 AA 7:30p	6	7 Sr. P.F. Providence Game & Faith Concert 5:45p-10:30p	8 Spring cleanup 8a
9 Worship 9a	10 VACATION Yoga 6:30p	11 BIBLE SCHOOL-- 9-11:30a (M-F)	12 St. Jude 11a AA 7:30p	13	14	15
16 Worship 9a	17 Yoga 6:30p	18	19 Trustees' meeting 6p Standing Committee Meeting 7p AA 7:30p	20	21	22
23 Worship 9a	24 Yoga 6:30p	25 Scarecrow Festival meeting 6:30p	26 Creamery Brook Worship 3p AA 7:30p	27	28 Wedding rehearsal 6p	29 Wedding 3p
30 Worship 9a Food Distribution Sunday (following service)	31 Yoga 6:30p					

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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).

JULY							AUGUST						
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