

THE PRESTON PILGRIM

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

MAY 2018

CHURCH ADDRESS
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WORSHIP
9:00 A.M.
(May 27 – Sept. 2)

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Visit us on **FACEBOOK**



News and information for next month's newsletter is **June 17th**. You may leave information in the holder located on the wall in the kitchen.



A MEMORIAL DAY THOUGHT

**"Day is done, gone the sun,
From the lakes, from the hill, from the sky
All is well, safely rest
God is nigh"**

I cannot tell you how many times I've bowed my head while standing beside the grave of a service man or woman as "Taps" is solemnly played in the distance by a bugler. Every time I hear each somber note, it moves me. It's powerful. With gratitude, I bow my head in respect for the deceased, and give thanks to God for those who served their country with honor, dignity, and pride. They did it for you and me, and the country they loved.

I believe we are living in different and disappointing times. America is being challenged for her long-held positions on a variety of issues (watch the news). **Patriotism** and love of country, which once went unquestioned, is almost daily being tested – sometimes with fists and knees, riots, and sadly, too many senseless shootings. Law Enforcement personnel whose job it is to protect law-abiding citizens from those who have little or no respect for human life are being assassinated for doing their job. Is it any wonder

that young recruits to this noble profession are second-guessing their career choice? (*Excuse my diversion!*)

Many of those I bury, I do not know. I wish I *had* known them. What a man. What a woman. What an American – willing to lay down their life for their country. I wonder what they would say about the America we live in today?

As Memorial Day approaches, I encourage you to take some time to think of the thousands of lives snuffed out because of war. Countless soldiers died much too soon. They died so we can be "free."

Here's my **Memorial Day Challenge**: Visit a Veteran's cemetery. Walk around and read the monuments. Try counting ALL the flags. Be sure to take the kids with you. Help them understand why you brought them there. They are growing up in a different kind of America. They are seeing what America IS today, not what she always was: proud, patriotic, united, etc.

Join me in worship on Memorial Day weekend. We'll celebrate the greatness of America and sing the songs of the land we love. The choir will offer special music and the children's message will speak of our great country. Why not invite friends to join you?

If you do nothing more on Memorial Day than eat hot dogs and play corn-hole, that will be what your children think the day is all about. Nothing more. How sad that would be.

Stay close to God,
P.W. Span

DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL

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

4-22, *Emma Jean Gray*, daughter of Melanie & Eric Gray of Norwich.

4-29, *Juliette Marilyn Linevitch*, Daughter of Megan & Kyle Linevitch, Jr. of Griswold.



WE CONGRATULATED the following couples who were united in marriage:

4-5, *Brandy Bonnin to Thomas Horelick*

4-21, *Crystal Soares to Matthew LaLiberte* at Sun Fox Campground, Lisbon, CT

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THANK YOU

to those who helped with the clean-up of the church grounds on April 14th. It looks really nice!

And a word of appreciation to the **Supper Committee** who put on a delicious meatloaf dinner on April 28th. Everything was great, including the rolls and desserts provided by *Poppy & Rye Bakery Caf  * in Taftville. We appreciate their generosity!

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BINGO WORKERS NEEDED

Recreational Bingo began this week (5/5) at Strawberry Park Campground in Preston. We, as a church, are fortunate to receive any proceeds from the games for the work of the church. To date, we have approximately 12 volunteers to help with Bingo; we are looking for a few more helpers. All you need to do is stop by the church office and fill out an application form. We'll send it to the Preston Town Hall, and they will send your "PIN" back to our office. Once you receive it, you're ready to get involved. A calendar of Bingo dates can be found on the Information Center bulletin board across from the table. Sign-up for the days or evenings you're available to help with; it's a lot of fun! Sally Exley is the Coordinator for this fundraising event. Please contact her with any questions you may have (860.822.9005).

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MOTHER'S DAY COFFEE HOUR

May 13th, from 9:45 - 10:30 A.M.

Enjoy some coffee and juices, assorted baked goods, fruit salad, and more!

The Men's Group is sponsoring this special event honoring all mothers and women of the church.

Enjoy!

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DOOR MONITORS

Volunteers are needed. Please lend a hand if you are 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). We especially need volunteers for the 10:30 service. *Thanks!*

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Northeast Fellowship of Congregational Christian Churches will be held in Stony Creek, CT on Sunday afternoon, May 20th beginning at 3 P.M. If you'd like to join Rev. Stan for the meeting, let him know. He'll leave the church parking lot at 2 P.M. and return to Preston by 7 P.M. More information about the meeting is posted on the Information Center bulletin board.

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SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Please note: Our Summer worship service will be at 9 A.M. only, beginning May 27th. We will resume two services of worship starting September 9th. Summer worship will include a children's message, and we hope you and your family will plan to be present.

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STILL LOOKING... Volunteers are needed to assist with the production of our web stream services on Sunday mornings. It's not as hard to do as you may think. Those presently overseeing the production would be glad to show you what's involved. Stop by the room by the TV in Halls' Hall and see what's involved. Jim & Sandra, along with Sue Brosnan and Patrick Magowan will be glad to answer any questions you have.

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NOTES FROM BEHIND

THE HANDLEBARS

Spring has sprung according to the calendar. With warmer weather promised, have faith, flowers, trees, and motorcycles will be popping up everywhere. Please be aware as motorcycles are easily missed, people are just not used to seeing them. Please look twice and save a life.

Our next ride is scheduled for May 19th, leaving the church at 10 A.M. Our destination is Essex Steam Train. The train is scheduled to leave at 11 A.M. for an hour ride along the Connecticut River. Non-riders are welcome to join us. We'll stop for lunch and head back to the church (approximately 3hrs.)

Friday, June 1st will be our first ever Friday night dinner run. We'll leave the church at 6 P.M. and enjoy a short, local ride, grab dinner and return to the church around 9 P.M.

Our June ride will be the popular *Reason to Ride*, Sunday, June 10th. We'll leave the church after the 9 A.M. service. All proceeds go to help local veterans. Please save the dates, and hope to see you on the road. Ride SAFE!!

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PLEASE REMEMBER

to keep your pledge up-to-date when you're away from church. The bills continue to come in, but giving to the church decreases considerably over the summer months. We need your continued financial support, and we appreciate your faithful giving. Thanks for your support!



FALL BUS TRIP PLANNED

"Amishlands Pennsylvania"

November 28 – 30

\$359 per person

\$50 deposit due with reservation

(Make your check payable to PCCC)

Package includes:

2 nights lodging

2 breakfasts, 2 dinners

Performance of *Jesus* at the Millennium Theater

Guided tour of Amish countryside, including

Stops at an Amish Craft Farm and a bake shop

Kitchen Kettle Village

Lil' Country Store & Miniature Horse Farm

Luggage handling

Taxes and Meal, Guide & Driver Gratuities

Cancellation insurance available upon request

This wonderful trip is filling fast! A sign-up sheet is posted on the Information Center bulletin board. A \$50 deposit is required at sign-up. The final payment is due October 7th.

Flyers for this trip can be found on the Information Center table. Feel free to share the details with other interested travelers.

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FOOD PANTRY NEWS

When our "Toucan Food Pantry" was born 9 years ago, the name "Toucan" was chosen in the hope that our church family would bring (donate) two cans (or items) each month. This goal has not been realized, even though we have received many generous gifts of cash from institutions and individuals. Our donation containers have been empty lately. What do we give to families in need each month? Three canned vegetables, fruit, 2 cans of tuna, 2 kinds of dried pasta, pasta sauce, peanut butter & jelly, mac and cheese, 2 soups and rice. We also give cereal, bread, and toilet paper. In addition, we sometimes have "optional" items to offer. These items are very popular, so we must limit people to 4 items. Here are some of the optional items we've been able to offer (these items are not purchased with Food Pantry funds): flour, sugar, salt, etc.), cake and muffin mixes, canned and dried milk, coffee, tea, cocoa, convenience foods (i.e. Hamburger Helper), baby food, soap, detergent, instant meals and toothbrushes. HINT... when traveling, collect the soaps, toothpastes, shampoos and lotions. We offer baskets of these items and our families love them. Please keep the food pantry in mind when you come to church every Sunday. So many people are in need of food assistance. At present, we serve close to 100 families/individuals each month. Your help is needed and appreciated!



Please help us help others. Consider giving a financial gift to the **Toucan Food Pantry** today. You may designate what you would like your gift to purchase from the list of items below. Your contribution will go a long way in helping the growing number of families and individuals who count on our pantry from month-to-month.

- ___ Tuna (12 cans) \$8 \$_____
- ___ Peanut Butter (12 jars) \$20 \$_____
- ___ Canned Fruit (12 cans) \$12 \$_____
- ___ Soup (12 cans) \$8 \$_____
- ___ Mac & Cheese (12 boxes) \$5 \$_____
- ___ Baked Beans (12 cans) \$6 \$_____
- ___ Canned Vegetables (12 cans) \$8 \$_____
- ___ Cereal (12 boxes) \$20 \$_____
- ___ Pasta (12 boxes) \$10 \$_____
- ___ Pasta Sauce (12 bottles) \$10 \$_____
- ___ Toilet Paper (12-4pk) \$12 \$_____
- ___ Jelly (12 jars) \$20 \$_____
- ___ Rice (20lb bag) \$8 \$_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$_____

___ Use my gift for the greatest need \$_____

Please make your check payable to:
The Toucan Food Pantry PCCC.

Donation envelopes can be found on the mid-level bulletin board. You can place your contribution in the offering plate. *Thanks!*

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CHURCH YARD SALE

May 19th, (Rain date: May 26th)

8 – 2 P.M.

Good, clean re-sellable items are now being accepted. No clothing, air conditioners, tires, or computers, please. Call Stella Dawley (860.887.6452) to make arrangements to drop your donations off. Please do not leave items outside the annex. Help will be needed on the day of the sale (6 A.M.) to set up and clean up (1:30 P.M.). Please sign the sheet on the Information center bulletin board if you can lend a hand on this day. Something new this spring... From noontime on, **FILL A BROWN SHOPPING BAG FOR \$3**. All items must be in the bag (shopping bags needed).

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PLAQUES

Have you heard? Stairs will soon be constructed leading down to the "Field of Dreams", and a foot bridge will also be built! All of this will be the Eagle Scout projects of Peter and Nathaniel Crary. Plaques, 3" x 5", will be sold for \$45 each. Consider purchasing one in memory of, in celebration of, in honor of someone. You can determine the wording you would like for your plaque which will be screwed into each stair tread. See Nathaniel during the coffee hour to make your purchase and to fill out a form.

Stop by Peter's plant sale on May 12th, at the Fire House. Proceeds from the sale will go toward the building of the bridge. Talk to these Scouts if you have any further questions.

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LOOKING AHEAD...

June 10, Scholarship Sunday

June 23, Chicken BBQ (tickets on sale soon)

The Preston Junior Pilgrim



Preston City Congregational Church Sunday School Newsletter

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION...



THE LITTLE PEOPLE HAVE SPOKEN AGAIN...we can learn so much about God from the children as I can attest. This week I was with my 2 ½ year old grandson when he wanted me to get on the floor and play trains and other games with him. I said I can't get down on my knees, Levi, I'll never get up. I'll help you get up. He said you have to keep trying...with great effort...keep trying...keep trying...you can do it. He (and the windowsill) helped me get up!

ON THE WAY HOME I was thinking about this whole experience and how often in life we hit spots when we get discouraged and want to give up. And how God encourages us to keep trying and if we fall down, He'll help us get up. Keep trying in your marriage, keep trying with raising your children, keep trying when your health challenges you – don't give up! Know that you are not alone, and know that we are in the hands of God-He will provide us with strength when we need it.

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Isaiah 41:10

May the SONshine through me,

Handy Oudek



AN INVITATION

YOU are cordially invited to attend "CHILDREN'S DAY at "The Field of Dreams"
MAY 20, 2018
10:30 A.M.

Please note that in case of inclement weather, Children's Day will be held at The Preston Veterans Memorial School. A decision will be made by Friday, May 18th.



Sunday School students will do a variety of presentations. Bibles will be presented. This should last one hour.

About 11:30 A.M.; the **ALL CHURCH** picnic will begin.
(Thank you Jerry Giuliano for serving as Coordinator.)



PARKING will be in the church parking lot. Parking for seniors and handicapped will be an area set aside on "The Field of Dreams" (at the bottom of the hill parallel to Krug Road). Food will be served in the pavilion (sunshine) or the Sunday School Hall (rain). Hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, macaroni salad, beverages, and cake will be provided by The Board of Religious Education. There is no cost **but please sign the sheet on the Information Center bulletin board or call the office to sign up** so we might plan accordingly.

We look forward to seeing YOU!



ABRAHAM SOLOMON is the name of the new mission child sponsored by the High School Class. Kalid has now turned 21 and is no longer in the community. We have received a letter from Abraham (World Vision) and he is ever so grateful for our support. Today (May 6th) there is a bake sale to help support taking us through the summer months when Sunday School is not in session; the payment is \$35 monthly.

The emphasis in the High School Class this year has been missions. This past Sunday School class time was spent at Lincoln Park senior housing assisting the seniors in their raised garden.



RETIREMENT INCOME PLANNING WORKSHOP

Seating is limited. For more information or to register call: (860) 556-9296

Social Security & Income Planning Education

Our **Income Planning** seminar educates those nearing the age to draw Social Security benefits and those already in retirement on ways to be financially secure. This seminar is designed to inform attendees on ways to make the most of Social Security, turn savings into income and protect retirement plans, even in volatile markets.

Seminar Overview

- 1 Hour, 15 Minute Presentation starting at 6:00 p.m.
- 10 minute Introduction from an Income Planning specialist
- 55 minute presentation from a National Speaker
- 10 minute Q&A session
- Educational materials provided
- Attendees can request additional information or meet a specialist to arrange for a future no-fee consultation



Save the Date

Social Security & Retirement Income Seminar

Thursday, May 24th, 2018

6:00 PM—7:15 PM

Preston City Congregational Church

321 Rte 164

Preston, CT 06365

~Presented By~

Jim Gannon & Micheline Lavoie—Licensed Producers
Social Security and Retirement Planning

~Guest Speaker~

Matthew Dunn—National Speaker on Social Security & Retirement Issues

What You Will Learn:

- How the budget reform to Social Security affects your retirement income
- How income tax is calculated on benefits & possible tax reduction strategies
- How indexing could potentially maximize your IRA, 401(k), 2 retirement funds
- How certain types of earnings & pensions could be protected without market risk

Call (860) 556-9296 To Register For The Event!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL...Shipwrecked...Rescued by Jesus and put out by Group Publishing is July 9th-13th. We hope your children are planning to attend this popular summer program. Registration forms will be available on Children's Day or by calling the church office. Lots of help is needed. Please call Sandy at the church office to get more information or volunteer.

WHO ARE OUR GRADUATES THIS YEAR? Please call the church office to let us know so we may send them a congratulatory letter. This can be elementary school, high school and college.

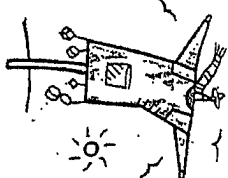
IF YOU WOULD like to give a lasting gift in memory or honor of someone, Children's Bibles will be given out on Children's Day. The cost is \$20.00. Please call Sandy at the church office if you would like to provide one. You may also sign up on the Information Center bulletin board.

YOUTH MISSION TRIP...One spot remains. The trip is July 22nd-28th. Please talk to the Van Alsts or Cheryl Giuliano if you are interested in that spot.

Our camp registrations are due in the church office by May 13, 2018. "Camp Winnie" is in Brooksville, Maine and most of the cost is subsidized by The FCCCC. The cost to our students is just \$50. Call Sandy at the office if you are interested in going.



MAY 2018



SAVE THE DATE...SCARECROW FESTIVAL, SEPTEMBER 22ND, 10 A.M. - 4 P.M., Crafters and Vendors can download registration forms on our website, prestoncitycongregational.org It's a great way to get involved in your church and meet a lot of great people.

SUMMER WORSHIP: 9:00 A.M.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>To place flowers in church during May, sign the Flower Chart in the Information Center, fill out a reservation form and give to it to Melanie Scheuermann (880.334.0643)</p> <p>6 Communion worship 9, 10, 30a Sunday School 8-8:45a SS Communion 8:05a Adult choir 8a Mission child bake sale Baptism 10:30a Two -can Sunday</p>	<p>PLEASE CHECK with Rev. Stan or Sandy before using our names as references. This courtesy would be appreciated.</p> <p>7 Bible study 10a Yoga 6:30p Preston City Cemetery mealing 7p</p>	<p>1 Bible study 6:30p</p>	<p>2 AA 7:30p</p>	<p>3 National Day of Prayer</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 Memorial service Julie Flowers 11a</p>
<p>13 MOTHER'S DAY Worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a Men's Group Mothers Day Coffee hour 9:45-10:30a</p>	<p>14 Bible study 10a Yoga 6:30p</p>	<p>8 Board of Religious Education meeting 6p Bible study 6:30p</p>	<p>9 St. Jude worship 11a AA 7:30p</p>	<p>10 Photo Directory Pictures 2-9p Adult choir 7p</p>	<p>11 Photo Directory Pictures</p>	<p>12 Memorial service Florence Athletic 11a Photo Directory Pictures</p>
<p>20 "Remembering Our Children" 9a, Pentecost Sunday Adult choir sings 8a Children's Day 10:30a Northeast Fellowship annual meeting 3p Stony Creek Cong'l Church</p>	<p>21 Yoga 6:30p</p>	<p>22 Bible study 6:30p</p>	<p>23 Creamery Brook Worship 3p AA 7:30p</p>	<p>24 Social Security/Income planning workshop 6-7:15p Adult choir 7p</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 Yard sale rain date</p>
<p>27 Worship 9 (One service or worship) Baptism Food distribution Sunday (following services)</p>	<p>28 MEMORIAL DAY Office closed "May we never forget the sacrifice so many have made for our freedom."</p>	<p>29 Bible study 6:30p</p>	<p>30 AA 7:30p</p>	<p>31 Adult choir 7p</p>	<p>PLEASE NOTE: Active church members who wish to borrow church property (table, chairs, etc.), call the church office.</p>	<p>LOST OR FOUND something at church? There is a basket in the Information Center.</p>

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: SandraL.MWright@gmail.com

THE SCRIP PROGRAM is an ongoing fundraiser that greatly benefits the youth missions tips 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(860-376-8801).

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.