

THE PRESTON PILGRIM



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

THE SUMMER IN REVIEW & SEPTEMBER 2018

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. 9 – May 19, 2019)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

8:45 A.M.
(Sept. 9 – May 19, 2019)

EMAIL: PCCC@SNET.NET

WEBSITE: prestoncitycongregational.org

Visit us on **FACEBOOK**

News and information for the October newsletter must be received by **September 16th**. You may leave information in the holder located on the wall in the kitchen.



WHY GO TO CHURCH?

If you've been away from the church this summer, **WELCOME BACK!** *You were missed.* If you've been at worship during the summer, I say, *I'm glad you were here!*

I read an article recently titled, "Why Go to Church?" I thought the writer made some good points that were worth passing on to you as another church year gets underway.

Church gives us a chance to pause. Many of us lead such busy lives that we can lose touch with our spiritual selves. Church gives us a chance to "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10).

Church connects us with caring people. You meet people at church that can possibly become life-long friends; they will be there for you when you need them the most.

Church gives us opportunities to serve others, and to work together for a positive result.

Church inspires and instructs us in how to get through life's hard times. You learn to cope by observing others dealing with, and overcoming their challenges -- with faith and trust in God to see them through their circumstances.

Church brings us closer to God. There's something meaningful about sitting in a place with other people who are present for the same reason as you -- to worship and experience the presence of God.

I hope you'll plan to be present at worship every Sunday, and I pray that your life will be blessed because you began your week in God's House!

Stay close to God,
Rev. Stan

PASTORAL EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE REPORT

It's hard to believe that summer is over. Now that we are getting back into the routines of life (school, church, work, etc.), the Pastoral Exploratory Committee (PEC) wants to share with you, what we have been working on through the summer. As you may recall, the purpose of the PEC is to prepare and gather information about best practices when searching for a qualified candidate to fill a pastoral position. The information you provide will be supplied to the Pastoral Search Committee when determined by the Standing Committee and congregation. With that purpose in mind, the PEC has been engaged in developing the Church Planning Survey for the members and friends of the church. The committee drew upon examples provided by the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NA), as well as our experiences from previous projects, both secular and church-related. We are happy to announce that the survey we put together will be available on Sunday, September 23rd, after both services and will continue to be available until October 28th. The survey touches on the various aspects of church life such as the worship service, Christian education, theology, relationships, and pastoral responsibilities. We hope that you will assist us in planning for our future by completing this survey. The survey will help tell our story: Who we are, what we believe, and how we serve God.

We ask that you pick up the survey from our information table during the coffee hour after each service. We want to make sure that you and your family have an opportunity to complete the survey, so take as many copies as you need for your household. The surveys are also available on the church website: (www.prestoncitycongregational.org), through email, or by U.S. mail. We will have sign-up sheets posted at our information table and on the hallway bulletin board for those who want the surveys sent via email or US mail. You may also send your request for a survey to PCCCPastoralSearch@gmail.com. Be sure to indicate how many copies you need for your household. We will send the survey(s) and a return envelope for your convenience, if you are requesting them to be sent by mail.

Please return your completed survey as soon as possible. We will have two boxes available: one at the information table in the coffee hour room, and one as you exit the Sanctuary next to the elevator. You may also mail the survey to the attention of the Pastoral Exploratory Committee at the church address: 321 Route 164, Preston, CT 06365. The surveys that are available through the website or by email can be filled out electronically and sent to the PEC email as stated above.

We look forward to sharing the outcome of the survey at the church's annual meeting in February 2019. If you have any questions, please speak with one of the PEC members: Sharon Breen, Sandy Dudek, Pat Marino, Bob Onderdonk, Barbara Perry, Shari Purcell, or Scott Van Alst. You can also send an email to the gmail address mentioned in this article.

For the Committee,
Scott Van Alst, Chair



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

7-22, *Quinn Alexandra Pingalore*, daughter of Kimberly & Richard Pingalore of Salem, CT

8-12, *Charlotte Monroe Messier*, daughter of Nicole & Daniel Messier, Sr. of Preston, CT



WE CONGRATULATED the following couples who were united in marriage:

6-30, *Cara Brown to Evan Honsberger*

7-13, *Alison Westcott to Robin G. Hopkins*,
Lake of Isles, Ledyard, CT

8-3, *Erin Hayes to Matthew Kazana*

8-24, *Angela West to Jesse Burns*,
Park Congregational Church, Norwich, CT

DOOR MONITORS

Volunteers are needed for September and October to monitor the doors on the mid-level. Please lend a hand if you are able. All the details pertaining to the responsibilities of 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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FINANCIAL REPORT

July Expenses \$19,032.24
July Deposits \$24,432.36

August Expenses \$18,199.87
August Deposits \$19,605.72

Total expenses as of 8/26 \$171,846.34
Total received as of August \$148,410.09

Is your pledge up-to-date? We appreciate your faithful support of the church, and all we seek to do through the year. We can't do it without YOUR help. Thank you SO MUCH!

WEBSTREAMING NEWS

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. Jim & Sandra Wright, along with Sue Brosnan and Patrick Magowan will be glad to answer any questions you have.

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NEW CLOTHING SHED

Clothing no longer being worn, and items no longer being used are now being accepted at the shed located in the lower parking lot. It was put in place in July by *St. Pauly Textile, Inc.* out of New York. They have more than 1,000 sheds located throughout the northeastern U.S. *St. Pauly* distributes clothing all across the U.S. and world. For hosting a clothing shed, the church receives 4 cents for every pound collected (paid monthly). Richard Thiffeault and Laurie Bowers will serve as coordinators for the clothing project and oversight of the shed. Donated clothing may be given to help families and individuals in our church and community. Speak with Rich or Laurie if you know of a need and they will arrange a time to meet you at the shed to see what's available. We thank those of you, and those in the community who have already started filling the shed. A list of acceptable items is posted on the shed. Contact the church office if you have any questions, or wish to learn more about *St. Pauly Textile, Inc.*



RED SOX vs. ORIOLES

Wednesday, September 26
Leaves Dayville, CT at 5:30 P.M.

Tickets: \$75

(Includes Bus & Game, Box seats in Right Field)

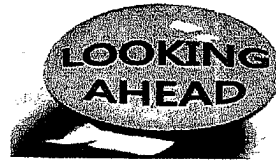
Call: Norm's trips 860.564.6999

JOIN US!

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CHURCH SWEATSHIRTS

People have seen others wearing sweatshirts created especially for the church and have asked about where they can get one. Arrangements have been made with an area company to produce these quality sweatshirts for us at a cost of \$35 each (\$2-3 more for XX & XXX sizes). The image of our church is on the front of the shirt, and the church motto is on the back (*Where Friends Become Family*). A sample sweatshirt will be on display starting October 7th in the coffee hour room. Orders will be taken through October 28th. Any profit made from the sale of the sweatshirts will go towards our Christmas outreach program for children. Please speak with Bunny Perry if you have any questions.



Monday morning Bible study will resume in Halls' Hall beginning September 17th. We'll conclude our study of the Gospel of John over the next few weeks. All are welcome to attend whenever you are able. Rev. White leads the group, and the coffee pot is always on! Please bring your Bible if you have one. If you'd like a Bible, speak with Rev. Stan. There are some available from the Deacons' Fund.



The Tuesday evening Bible Study continues through the fall, led by Scott Van Alst. The group meets at 6:30 P.M. in Halls' Hall and is presently exploring the books of the Old Testament.



A HOLIDAY BAZAAR MEETING is planned for Wednesday, September 5th, at 6:30 P.M. in the Meeting Room. The bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 17th. We're hoping people will come and share new ideas for this popular event. Got something Christmas-related you'd like to sell. You can reserve a table and be part of the fun. The cost of a table will be determined soon. Alison Lowe will serve as the event's coordinator. Plan to join us on the 5th, and bring your ideas!

THE FALL SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING is scheduled for September 16th, at noon in Dudek Hall. Come and hear the reports of boards and committees; and learn where things stand as we enter the final quarter of the church year. This meeting is a congregational meeting (for you). It is held twice each year to keep the congregation informed and up-to-date on church matters. A light luncheon, for a nominal fee, will be available before the meeting. We hope you will plan attend.





SCARECROW FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 22, 9 – 4 P.M.

(Rain or Shine)

It's a family event. It's fun. And it's FREE! Chicken BBQ tickets are now on sale. Get your tickets before they're all gone. You can purchase tickets during the coffee hours on Sunday mornings, or by calling the office.

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FIRST COMMUNION REHEARSAL for children in grade three will be held on Friday night, October 5th, at 6 P.M. in Halls' Hall. Sandy Dudek will instruct the children on the meaning of this most sacred event in preparation for receiving Holy Communion on Sunday, October 7th, (World Communion Sunday) during the 9 A.M. worship service. Please let Sandy know if your son or daughter will participate in this meaningful event.

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COMING IN OCTOBER

MEN'S GROUP

All men of the church are invited to the first meeting of the Men's Group. It is slated for Saturday morning, October 6th in Halls' Hall from 8 – 9:30. Coffee and donuts will be served. It's a great group of men, and there's always room for more. Call Tim Bowles if you have questions: 860.705.5613.

FALL YARD SALE

October 13th, (Rain date: October 27th)

8 – 2 P.M.



Start cleaning out those basements and attics, the sale will be here before you know it! You can drop off your donations during the week, but call Stella Dawley first (860. 887.6452). She'll meet you at the annex basement to receive your treasures. Volunteers will be needed to set-up for the sale (6 A.M.) and clean-up (1:30 P.M.) following the sale. A sign-up sheet is posted on the mid-level bulletin board. **Please remember: no clothes, tires, or electronics.**



ANNUAL TURKEY SUPPER

Saturday, October 20th

Save the date. Tickets will go on sale soon.

Lots of help will be needed for this very popular community supper. Please sign-up to lend a hand. A sheet will soon be posted on the mid-level bulletin board.

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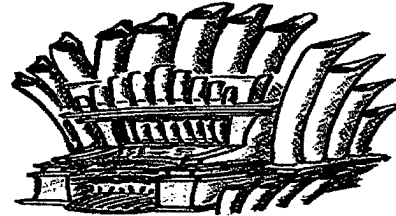
ORGAN CONCERT

October 28, 4 P.M.

~ FREE ADMISSION ~

Reception to follow

Robert Potterton III, Guest Organist



The concert will feature a variety of musical styles showcasing our organ's versatility. It will be held in our Sanctuary. Invite your family and friends to join you! It's going to be a memorable afternoon. The concert is being presented as a gift from the *Lois Grodotzke* memorial fund.

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READING MATERIALS

Copies of *The Upper Room* and *Our Daily Bread* are available on the Information Center table. These are great daily devotional booklets, written to encourage you in your faith journey. Please pick up a copy, they're "FREE."

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CAN YOU HELP

From time-to-time, a meal is needed for a family/individual in the church family. It may be needed for a family following the birth of a child, or for someone recovering at home following a hospital stay, or following the death of a loved one. If you would be willing to make a meal for someone (or a family) who could truly benefit from this kind act, please sign your name on the sheet posted on the mid-level bulletin board. We thank those who have already signed up to do so. Those on the receiving end of these meals truly appreciate the generosity of those who prepare them. Contact the church office if you have any questions. *Thank you!*

The Preston Junior Pilgrim



A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION...

**“Walk with me
I will walk with you,
and build the land
that God has planned
where love shines through.”**

WELCOME back everyone. I hope you have had a safe and refreshing summer. It's been a busy summer at church for me with new equipment in the church office to learn! Learning should be life-long. How true that is!

SUNDAY SCHOOL reopens Sunday, September 9th and I am happy to say we have a full teaching staff. We couldn't have Sunday School here without them! I am proud to be working with the following volunteers: Anne Klewin, Megan Linevitch, Kristin Rider, Elizabeth Bartoshevich, (Toddler 3's); Lisa Fessenden, Lauren Jurczyk, Haley Price, Kiana Burdick, (Toddler 4's); Linda Bruckner, Angelika Larkin, (Kindergarten); Mckenzie Gauthier, Julia Rider, (Grades 1 & 2); Susan Mattern, Maggie Tourangeau, (Grade 3); Kimberly Lang, Kimberly Tucker, (Grades 4 & 5); Sarah Noiseux, Cathy Rider, (Grade 6); Susan Brosnan, Lois Woodmansee, (Grades 7 & 8); Elizabeth Stammel, Lisa & Scott Van Alst, (High School); Ethan Lehr, Michelle Wisniewski (Mrs. Dudek Aides).

BABY NURSERY: Melissa Blondet, Denise Luft, (Coordinators); Margaret Veloce, Lisa Willard, Christian Swanson, Katy Harrelle, Amy Rowe, Christian Swanson, Jennifer Gileau.



WE ASK YOUR PRAYERS as we begin a new Sunday School year; the children need to learn of God and develop a faith life that will carry them through all the challenges in life.

May the **SON**shine through me, *Sandy Dudek*

SEPTEMBER BIBLE VERSES

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1) Grades Toddler 3-Grade 2

“For I know the plans I have for you”, declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11 (Grades 3-12)

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2019...Mark your calendars...July 8th-12th. This year's Vacation Bible School was just awesome! We had 50 kids and a small waiting list. Shipwrecked...Rescued by Jesus by Group Publishing was presented. Kid Vid was viewed which featured each day a child with a story to tell that would impact our kids. In Imagination Station, the students got to participate with Talk Starter questions to illustrate the Bible Point of the Day. All the snacks, games, and wonderful songs were all coordinated with the theme of the week. We were all stranded on an island for the week but were rescued by Jesus to find our way back again. On behalf of the Food Pantry, Stella Dawley thanked the students for all the donations they brought in to stock the shelves. Many thanks to all the adults and teens who participated in it as well as thanks to the people who provided items that we needed to run the school. Generous donations from our leaders cut the cost considerably. *Directors Sandy Dudek and Shari Purcell. Thank you Shari for those marvelous decorations you were committed to making!*

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALEXANDRA KOBELSKI who graduated from UCONN last spring as a math major.

THE SCRIP PROGRAM is an ongoing fundraiser that greatly benefits the youth mission trips program. Scrip (debit) cards are available to purchase for many stores, gas stations, donut shops, grocery stores, etc. 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 Stop & Shop, a 4% amount is realized. Questions, call Jerry & Cheryl Giuliano (860.376.8901).

THE CHURCH has purchased a new software program called Servant Keeper that has been installed on the office laptop. A HUGE thank you to Bob Vescovi who has been helping us get set up and running (soon) that we might enjoy all the benefits this software has to offer our church. It's just a learning curve....

September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
To place flowers in church during Sept., sign the Flower chart, fill out the Reservation	form, and call Melanie Scheuermann 860.334.0643	LOST OR FOUND something at church? There is a basket in the Information Center next to the table.	Please check with Rev. Stan or Sandy before using our names as references. This courtesy would be appreciated.			1 Cyclists group stop here for devotions
2 Communion worship 9a Two can Sunday	3 LABOR DAY Office closed Yoga 6:30p	4 Staff mtg. 9a Bible study 8:30p Sunday School teachers/aides meeting 6p Scarecrow Festival mtg. 6:30p	5 Scarecrow Build Event 5:30p Preston Ridge Vineyard Holiday Bazaar Meeting 6:30p AA 7:30p	6 Adult choir 7p	7	8 Sophie Woodmansee memorial service 11a Amos Lake Beach Club
9 Worship 9, 10:30 a Sunday School begins 8:45a Rain date Woodmansee Memorial 1p	10 Yoga 6:30p	11 Board of Religious Ed. 6p	12 St. Jude worship 11a AA 7:30p	13 Adult choir 7p	14	15
16 Worship 9, 10:30a Adult choir 9a Children's Praise Choir 10a Semi-annual meeting Noon	17 Bible study 10a Confirmation Informational Meeting 6:30p Scarecrow Festival meeting 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	18	19	20 Adult choir 7p	21 Scarecrow Festival tables, chairs, set-up 4:30p Scarecrows registration 5-7p	22 SCARECROW FESTIVAL 10a-4p Chicken barbecue 3-5:30p
23 Worship 9, 10:30a	24 Bible study 10a Confirmation class 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	25	26 Creamery Brook worship 3p	27 Adult choir 7p	28	29
30 Worship 9, 10:30a Food distribution Sunday	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.		PLEASE NOTE the correct time for the Festival is <u>10a-4p</u>		Please Note: Active church members who wish to borrow church property, (tables, chairs, etc. call the church office.	Check the worship folder for information on Sr. Pilgrim Fellowship start up.

August 2018

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	

Notes: Did you know the newsletter is posted on our website: Prestoncitycongregational.org

A NEW SOLOIST signup sheet has been posted on the mid-level bulletin board for the fall. Please consider signing up to share your talents and provide offertory music some Sunday.

October 2018

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			

PLEASE NOTE that hand bell rehearsals will resume **AFTER** the Scarecrow Festival. We will meet downstairs (Room 6-8) beginning **9/25** at 6:00 P.M.