

# THE PRESTON PILGRIM



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

**NOVEMBER 2018**

## **CHURCH ADDRESS**

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Preston, CT 06365-8108

## **TELEPHONE**

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## **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](mailto:PCCC@SNET.NET)

**WEBSITE:** [prestoncitycongregational.org](http://prestoncitycongregational.org)

Visit us on **FACEBOOK**

News and information for the December newsletter must be received by **November 18th**. You may leave information in the holder located on the wall in the kitchen.



## **WHAT TIME IS IT?**

It's time (actually, it's past the time) for people (society) to be civil! -- to treat others with respect. To refrain from using unnecessary and unkind language when talking about people who think differently, or hold an opposing point of view, or worship in a way that is different. ***It's time to stop the hate and the senseless killing*** that is occurring all-too often in our country.

*It's time* for our President to stop saying words that often offend, anger, and upset people (Democrats, Republicans, and Independents alike). *It's time* for ALL people and ALL political persuasions to think about their words and actions *before they say them, or before they act.* *It's time* to stop all the talk about impeachment.

*It's time* to accept that Donald Trump IS our president. *It's time* to come together as a nation and become the *United* States of America once again. I fear that if we do not unite soon, we, the people, will destroy the country we love; no outside enemy will be necessary. *It's time* to live better than we have been living. We CAN do it!

Seven days ago, we witnessed the horror of another mass killing by a deranged man with a gun in Pittsburgh. Eleven lives ended that Saturday morning as people (family and friends) gathered for services in the Tree of Life Synagogue. Lives were wiped out instantly, on a day when worshippers gathered for a joyful event – the naming of a newborn baby. *It's time* for people of all faiths, to pray for each other and our troubled country.

*It's time* to look at our lives and assess how we are living. To think carefully about the things we value, or believe to be important.

What about your church? Where does it fit on your list of what's important in your life? Sadly, many will answer, "It's not high on my list, or even on my list of important things."

That's too bad, because the church (and Sunday School) teaches us how we should treat others. How to get along with people who are different than us. How to act and react to the challenges that come into our lives. The church teaches us to see beyond ourselves, with the hope of gaining a better appreciation of people, and the world we share. It encourages us to care for others, and to help those in need; those who are hurting.

In this out-of-control and unsettling world, *it's time* (now more than ever) for America to get back to Church, the Synagogue, the Mosque, and to think about things that should matter most: PEOPLE, and the Creator of us all.

The wisest man who ever lived wrote:

*"To everything there is a season... a time to love and a time to hate." (Ecclesiastes 3:8)*

America, *it's time*. It's time to return to God.

Stay close to God,

Rev. Stan

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

10/7 *Kayde Zander Riley*, son of Allyson Shields and Kristopher Riley of Irvine, CA

10/21 *Corbin Hunter Swanson*, son of Christian & Michael Swanson of Preston

10/28 *Grace Alexis Hoffman*, daughter of Alicia & Gregory Hoffman of Bristol, RI



**WE CONGRATULATED** the following couples who were united in marriage:

9/29 *Erin Breen* to *Matthew Duggan* at Great Neck Country Club, Waterford, CT

10/5 *Amanda Riley* to *Brandon Sparks* at Spring Hill, South Berwick, Maine



**WE EXPRESSED OUR SYMPATHY** to the family of *Robert Bruckner* who passed away on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Please keep his wife Linda, and children Rob and Jenny in your prayers.



## SENIOR LUNCH

The next get-together begins at noon on December 11<sup>th</sup>. These once-a-month meals are held on the second Tuesday November through March. You MUST sign up to attend these popular lunches as space is limited to 60 people. Watch the bulletin board each month for the sign-up sheet. It's a great afternoon outing!

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## FINANCIAL REPORT

We are now less than 10 weeks away from the end of the church year. Although the numbers look doubtful that we will end the year meeting our budget, we're remaining hopeful that we will. Please help keep the church financially strong as 2018 winds down. Is your pledge up-to-date? We appreciate your faithful support of the church, and all we seek to do through the year. If you have a question about where you stand with your pledge, contact the Financial Secretary, Sue Creamer at 860.376.2731 and she'll answer any questions you may have. Thank you SO MUCH!

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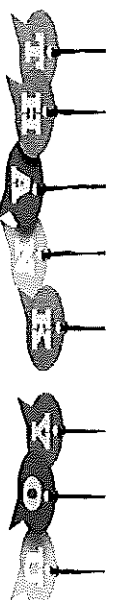
## DOOR MONITORS

Volunteers are needed for December to monitor the doors on the mid-level during the 10:30 service. 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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## WEBSTREAMING NEWS

Volunteers are still 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. Stop by and see how it's done. Consider sitting in on a recording session some Sunday morning. The Web streaming room is off the coffee hour room.



## DID YOU HEAR?

The Co-Chairs of the 2018 Scarecrow Festival, Joy Chalifoux and Bob Vescovi announced that \$11,700 was being turned over to the church to benefit the budget? We thank the Chairs, the Committee, and you, the congregation for everything you did to ensure the festival was a success again this year. Well done, church!

(Cont.)

If you missed the organ concert on October 28<sup>th</sup>, you missed an *amazing* event. The hour-long concert featured, classical pieces, hymn tunes, as well as music from Broadway shows and well-known movies. We appreciate all the work that went into making the concert possible: Robin Lyon and the Music Committee (the reception that followed was wonderful!), John Marino and his crew that moved the organ onto the chancel, Ed Shea for removing the chancel walls, and the memorial fund of Lois Grodotzke who sponsored the event for so many people to enjoy.

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### **SPEAKING OF JOHN MARINO...**

Not long-ago John was selected as "Italian of the Year" by the Italian Heritage and Cultural Committee of Norwich. A wonderful article about John's award is posted on the mid-level bulletin board. Earlier in October, a banquet was held in his honor to celebrate his many achievements. He is a very dedicated man, not only to his heritage, but to his church. Congratulations, John! We appreciate everything you do for the church.

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### **OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE**

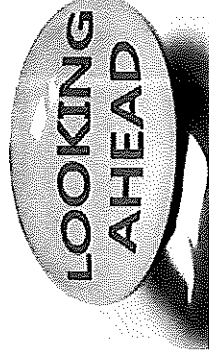
Several people have asked that you, the congregation, consider one or all the opportunities below this Thanksgiving & Christmas season:

**COATS** for the homeless and those in need. Again this year **Laurie Bowers** is collecting coats and bringing them to area shelters and centers for those in need. Please put your unwanted coats in the library at the back of the Sunday School hall (NOT in the clothing bin in the parking lot). Last year, more than 200 coats were collected and distributed thanks to your generosity! Coats will be collected through December 16<sup>th</sup>.

**TOYS** for kids at the Children's Hospital in Hartford. Consider donating something new to a child who will most likely be spending the holidays in the hospital this year. A list of suggested gifts and needs is posted on the mid-level bulletin board. **Koren Jopson** is coordinating this opportunity. You may leave your gift(s) at the back the Sunday School hall. Toys will be collected through December 16<sup>th</sup>.

**MEALS** for Mary & Justin Nylen are being gratefully collected through November 18<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are asked to make (or bake) and freeze a meal and bring it to the church on Sunday morning. Your meal will be put in the freezer, and Sue Nylen will take the meals to Maine for the Nylens. Justin has a brain tumor, and these meals, homemade or store-bought will make meal preparation much easier during this very difficult time. Many thanks to those who have already donated a meal. **Debbi Harrison** is coordinating this opportunity.

Please note the "stop dates" for these various opportunities. In the weeks following, we'll assess the needs of these opportunities to see if they need to be extended. Thank you for whatever you are able to do. It will mean so much to those on the receiving end.



**Monday morning Bible study** continues in November in Halls' Hall. We're nearing the end of our study of the Gospel of John. Our next study will be an interesting video series (*Follow*) by Andy Stanley. *No matter what you believe, no matter how you behave, Jesus invites you to... FOLLOW.* Watch the worship folder for the start date. 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. They are available from the Deacons' Fund.



The **Tuesday evening Bible Study** continues through the fall and winter, 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.

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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."



### **HOLIDAY BAZAAR**

This annual tradition will be held on Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, from 9 - 2 p.m. 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 again this year.

## MEN'S GROUP

All men of the church are invited to the next meeting of the Men's Group, slated for Saturday morning, December 3rd 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 (860.705.5613) or Ken Sebastian (860.887.4323) if you need more information.

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### ALSO COMING UP IN DECEMBER...

12/9 **CHRISTMAS CAROLING** through the neighborhoods. We'll meet in Halls' Hall at 1:45 p.m. and leave by 2 p.m. Following the caroling, we'll come back to the church for soup & sandwiches. Sign-up on the mid-level bulletin board if you plan to join us.

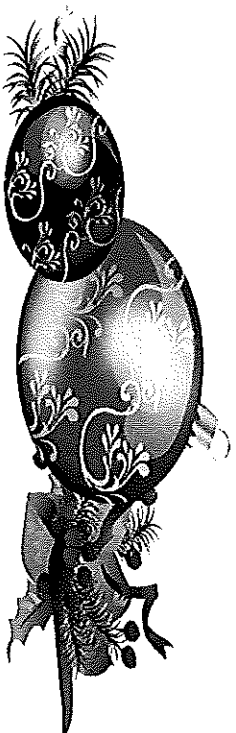
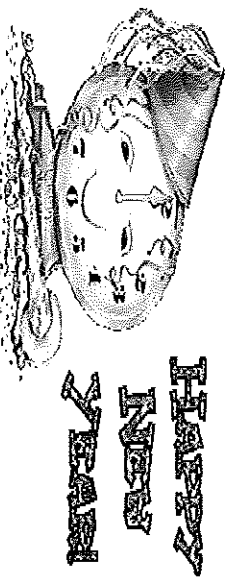
12/11 **SENIOR LUNCH**, noontime. Be sure to sign up as seating is limited to 60 people.

12/16 **THE ANNUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**, at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Don't miss this wonderful presentation of the Christmas story as told by the children of the Sunday School. Pizza and refreshments will be served in Dudek Hall afterwards. Join us!

12/23 **CHRISTMAS SUNDAY**, 9 & 10:30 a.m. The Sunday School will NOT be in session. Families are encouraged to worship together. A children's message will be offered by Sandy Dudek.

12/24 **CHRISTMAS EVE**, 4p.m., Sandy will lead a service for children and their families. Arrive early as it's usually a "full house!"  
At 11 p.m., join Rev. White for service which includes candle lighting, readings, special music, and a Christmas message. Join us as we welcome the Child.

12/30 **NEW YEAR'S EVE MORNING WORSHIP**  
There will be one service of worship; 9 a.m. The Sunday School will NOT be in session. Families are encouraged to worship together. A children's message will be offered by Sandy Dudek. We will return to two services of worship on January 6<sup>th</sup>, and the Sunday School will resume on this day also.



## MEMORIAL ORNAMENTS

Again, this year, you're invited to hang an ornament on the *Christmas Memory Tree* located in the Fessenden Foyer (mid-level). Be sure your name is on the ornament, and fill out a slip of paper beside the tree stating who the ornament is in memory of. Then, place the paper in the box nearby. We'll list all the memorials in the worship folder each week throughout Advent. You may place your ornament on the tree beginning November 25<sup>th</sup>.

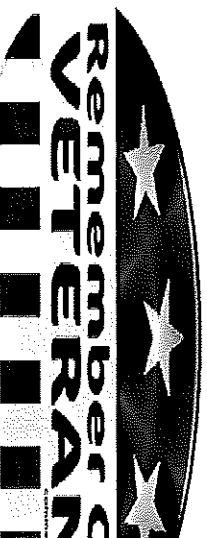
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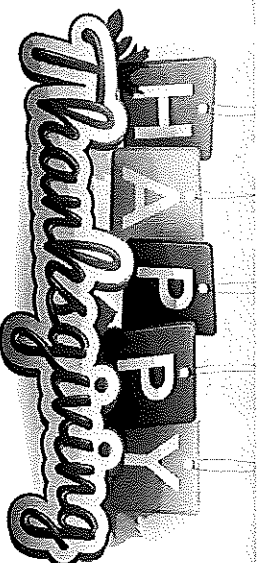
## PENN DUTCH BUS TRIP TRAVELLERS

Please note...

The motor coach will leave from the church parking lot at 7 a.m. on November 28<sup>th</sup> and will return November 30<sup>th</sup> around 7:30 p.m. If you plan to leave your car in the lower parking lot, please park it behind the annex. Thanks.



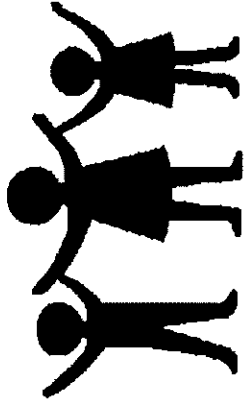
WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!



AND



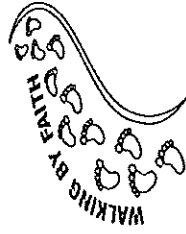
# The Preston Junior Pilgrim



A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ...

**THIS WEEK** at the Confirmation Class, one of the students asked me what the minister does in between the Sundays he needs to be here. I was ready for that question...I did not have to do any research on it! I outlined the events of just that one day for him: at 6 a.m. taking a church member to the hospital that needed to be there, back to make the coffee for Bible study, then 10-11:30 he had Bible study, then he was in his office working on his newsletter, and then on to visit an ill church member in the late afternoon, back to the church to assist with lifting the organ back into place after the wonderful concert the previous day! In between all that are phone calls, office visits. Yes, this is a busy place and there are no two days the same with all the different activities and church requests. I'd like to think that, not only the staff, but the people in our church are doing their best to serve God. I am thinking of a song we sing in Sunday School that is titled "I Am Sent By God" ... Here are some of the words in that song: "I am sent by God, I'm ready to serve; to make the world a place of justice and shalom. The angels cannot do the work that must be done, to change a hurting world into a world of peace. The task is giv'n to us to build a better world. Please help us, God, to do the things you ask of me."

All of us need to work hard in any way we can to make this a better place than it is right now. It starts with caring and kindness and sacrifice, of giving up something we *want*, oftentimes to help others who have needs. Do you get paid – absolutely – it is the good feeling you have at the end of the day when someone's life has been better because they have passed your way. Our challenges are forever with us, but know that God makes the impossible, possible. I know God has *never* let me down. Keep believing and working for the Lord; I believe He has need of you and me!



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

## NOVEMBER BIBLE VERSES

Toddler 3 – Grade 2: "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Mark 12:31)  
(Mark 10:14b)

Grades 3-12:

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19 **The Great Commission**

**SOME THINGS** I'd like you to know:

Sunday School pageants rehearsals start Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 in the church (Sanctuary) for students Toddler 3 – Grade 6. Please sign the sheet on the hallway bulletin board if you have not already.

**NOONE** has signed up to date for this year's Youth Mission Trip to the Adirondacks, NY July 14<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The first deposit was due October 28<sup>th</sup>. Please speak to the VanAlstis if you plan to go and give your deposit to hold your spot.

**THE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS** was on hand at Preston Senior Housing to do fall clean-up which was very much appreciated. They also prepared Meals that Heal that were delivered.

**FRIENDSGIVING SUNDAY** is planned for our high school class on **November 18<sup>th</sup>** following worship.

**A CHRISTMAS PARTY** is planned for our Sr. Pilgrim Fellowship **December 9<sup>th</sup>** following

**A PAINT NIGHT** is planned for **January 11<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 p.m. Please save the date to paint a winter scene. The cost will be \$30.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who signed up to provide a basket for the Christmas Bazaar the Board of Religious Education is sponsoring as a fundraiser. Please know how much your efforts are appreciated and the profit realized will go to support Sunday School programs.

**THE SUNDAY SCHOOL** is bringing in items to put together some Thanksgiving baskets. If you would like to help them buy providing a turkey or a donation for pies, please give it to Sandy Dudek.

# November 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
The newsletter is posted on our website: <a href="http://prestoncitycongregational.org">prestoncitycongregational.org</a>	<i>Kids Praise Choir meets</i> Sunday mornings in Room 13 from 10-10:25a	9:00 a.m. service is web streamed.	Sunday School meets at <b>8:45a</b>	<b>1</b> Adult choir 7p	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> Communion Worship 9, 10:30a Confirm. Class Bake sale Choir sings 9a SS communion 905a Two can Sunday Turn clocks back 1 hour	<b>5</b> Bible study 10a  Confirmation 6:30p  Yoga 6:30p	<b>6</b> Handbells 6p SS pageant Rehearsal 6p  Bible study 6:30p	<b>7</b>  AA 7:30p	<b>8</b>  Adult choir 7p	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Fall clean-up 8:30a (bring rakes)  Yard sale 8a-2p
<b>11</b> <u>Veterans Day</u> Worship 9, 10:30a Stewardship Sunday New members Information meeting noon	<b>12</b> Veterans Day observed  Office closed  <b>NO</b> Bible study  Confirmation	<b>13</b> Senior Lunch Noon Handbells 6p SS pageant Rehearsal 6p Board of Religious Ed. 6p	<b>14</b> St. Jude worship 11a Trustees 6p Standing Comm. Mtg. 7p AA 7:30p	<b>15</b>  Adult choir 7p	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Christmas Bazaar 9a-2p
<b>18</b> New Members Sunday Worship 9, 10:30a Choir sings 9a Friendsgiving Sunday Food distribution Sunday	<b>19</b> Bible study 10a  Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	<b>20</b> <b>NO</b> Handbells SS pageant rehearsal 6p Adult choir 7p	<b>21</b> AA 7:30p	<b>22</b> <u>Thanksgiving Day</u>  Thank you, Lord, for all your gifts!	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> Worship 9, 10:30a  <b>*Teen Challenge</b> during both services of worship.	<b>26</b> Bible study 10a  Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	<b>27</b> Handbells 6p SS pageant rehearsal 6p	<b>28</b> ----- Pennsyl- AA 7:30p	<b>29</b> ----- vania Adult choir 7p	<b>30</b> ----- trip	

## 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			

**Notes:** To place flowers in church during November, sign the Flower Chart, fill out the Reservation form and call Doris McLachlan (860.564.2609).

## December 2018

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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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30	31					