

THE PRESTON PILGRIM



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

MAY

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

News and information for the June newsletter must be received by **May 19th**. You may leave information in the holder located on the wall in the kitchen.

CAN'T MAKE IT TO CHURCH?

Now you can watch the services online, Sundays at 9 A.M., or later in the day. All services are archived so you can watch them any day, any time, from anywhere. However, for optimum viewing, join us in person.



"You will be persecuted for my namesake."

Matthew 24:9

Another shooting, this one at a Synagogue in Poway, California. One dead, several injured. People and families were going about their usual Saturday morning routine; attending services, enjoying their time together, conversing with the Rabbi. That morning was no different from any other Sabbath day. But things changed in an instant, in the blink of an eye. Lives were changed forever on April 27th. No one saw it coming. There was no warning.

What happened in California affects ALL places of worship -- ALL around the world. For safety reasons, Catholic services were canceled in Sri Lanka following the Easter Sunday massacre. Services this weekend (4/28) were held via the television. It's unclear as to when worshippers will return to their place of worship. Fear will keep some people away. For how long? The world will watch and see.

How should the Church respond to the horrific events witnessed on the nightly news recently and over the past months? I believe we should continue to worship as we always have. Being cautious, being aware of what is going on around us, and praying that God will keep us, and ALL His people safe.

Over the last few years, our church Safety Committee has taken measures to make our building safe. All doors are locked five minutes after the start of worship, and a door monitor watches for any late arrivals. Experts say NO church is 100% safe, no matter how much security is in place. Our Safety Committee, believes that we should do as much as we can to keep out or *slow down* an intruder from entering our building. I am pleased with what's been accomplished to date.

I encourage you to 1) pray for the safety of the Church UNIVERSAL (world-wide). Realize that we are all in this together, and together we will bring about changes to make places of worship safe places to attend. 2) I also ask you to pray for those who seek to harm people of faith. Pray that God will change their minds and their lives. 3) Finally, stand up for your faith. Be present at worship. Don't allow these recent attacks to keep you from attending. Remember, *God IS our refuge and our strength, an ever-present help in trouble (Psalm 46:1).*

See you in church!
Rev. Stan

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NEW MEMBERS

We were so pleased to welcome seven new members into the church family on Palm Sunday: Jennifer Matteson, Leigh Pappas, Courtney Woodmansee, April Jacques, Carol Onderdonk, Ann J. Orlomoski, and Sharlann Elin Smiley. Get to know these fine people!

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DID YOU KNOW?

Antonio & Linda Kent-Farinha have come forward to chair this year's Scarecrow Festival. Linda was the first Chairperson of the SCF fourteen years ago. She served as Chair for seven years! She's back, along with her husband this time. We're also happy to announce that Leigh Pappas will "shadow" the Farinhas with the hope of chairing the festival in 2020. We look forward to another successful event on September 28th.



MOTHER'S DAY GERANIUMS

Sunday, May 5th, is the last day orders will be taken (after both services) to honor and/or remember this special woman in your life. Beautiful pink geraniums can be ordered for \$8.50. They will be placed on the altar on May 12th, and they can be picked up following the 10:30 service on Mother's Day.

MOTHER'S DAY COFFEE HOUR & BRUNCH

The Men's Group will host their 2nd Annual Mother's Day Coffee Hour & Brunch from 10 A.M. to Noon on Sunday, May 12th. This event will honor all mothers and women of the church. Everyone is invited to join in this event. If you have any questions, please contact Tim Bowles (860.705.5613). We look forward to sharing this celebration with you and yours.

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MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

We meet on Monday mornings from 10 – 11 a.m. in Halls' Hall, and we're currently studying Paul's letter to the Ephesians. You 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 for *FREE* from the Deacons' Fund.

TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

6:30 P.M. in the Meeting Room

Scott Van Alst, Leader

Everyone is welcome to attend as the group continues their overview of the New Testament.

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MEN'S GROUP

Saturday, June 1st, 8 – 9:30 A.M.

Halls' Hall

This will be their last gathering until the fall. All men of the church are welcome to attend. See you then!

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WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

The next meeting of the *Women's Fellowship* (new name) will be this Saturday, May 4th, from 8-9:30 a.m. in Halls' Hall. Among other things, the group will create a springtime flower pot arrangement to enjoy; the cost is \$5. Women of all ages are welcome and encouraged to attend. Bridget Park is the coordinator for the *Women's Fellowship*. Please contact her if you have any questions (860.710.1316).

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SAVE THE DATE

Chicken Barbecue

Saturday, June 29th

Watch for further information
Or call the church office.



REMEMBER

Our summer worship schedule begins May 26th. There will be one service of worship; 9 A.M. until September 8th. The Sunday School will NOT be in session during this time, families are encouraged to worship together. Each Sunday a message will be presented especially for the children to enjoy. Plan to be at worship regularly this summer.

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THE NORTHEAST FELLOWSHIP OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

will hold their Annual Meeting at Westchester Congregational Church in Colchester, CT on Sunday, May 19th, beginning at 3 P.M. Rev. White plans on attending the meeting. If you would also like to attend, please let him know.

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SAFETY COMMITTEE NEWS

On the lower level on the south end of the building we removed the wooden door with glass windows. We installed a new solid metal door with a crash bar. At the north entrance on the lower level, we put a crash bar on the inside door. This door, in addition to the outside door are both locked at the start of Sunday School, making it much more difficult to obtain access to the building.

We are working on a plan to use Walkie-Talkies to communicate with all three levels of the building in the event that anything should happen.

We continue to work with a security professional to help us determine how best to keep our facility safe for all children and adults.

Door Monitor Coordinator,
Lowell Calkins



YARD SALE

Saturday, May 18th, from 8-2 p.m.

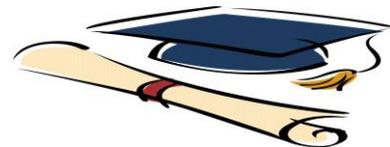
We are filled to overflowing with sale items. No more donations are being accepted at this time. A lot of help will be needed on the 18th. Please lend a hand at 6 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. (or both times, if possible). Got questions? Speak with Stella Dawley (860.887.6452).



CONGRATULATIONS!

On Saturday, April 6th, Peter and Nathaniel Crary received their Eagle Scout award during a ceremony held in the Sanctuary. Following the program of awards and special presentations, everyone was invited outside for the dedication of their Eagle Scout projects; a wooden stairway and bridge leading to the "Field of Dreams" just below the parking area. It is an impressive structure. Each step has two plaques attached to it, given in memory of or in honor of someone. The new stairway will make it so much easier for people to get down to the pavilion. Of course, the children will most likely prefer to continue rolling down the hill! We thank Peter and Nathaniel for this wonderful gift given to the church. We thank the Scouts of Troop 75 who helped in making this project become a reality. Likewise, we are thankful to anyone else who assisted in the construction.

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SCHOLARSHIP SUNDAY

June 9th, 9 A.M.

Be with us as we present awards to deserving young people from our congregation who plan to attend colleges and universities this fall.

LIFE LINE SCREENING RETURNS

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventative health screenings, is pleased to offer a preventative health event at our church on May 28th. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a wellness package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. There are three ways to register for this event and receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call toll free 1-888-653-6441 or visit lifescreeing.com/communitycircle or text the word *circle* to 797979.

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We pause to remember those who paid the ultimate price for FREEDOM.

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LOCK THE DOORS

Any groups or meetings taking place in the church are encouraged to lock the doors once their meeting or event begins.

-- *The Safety Committee*

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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."

PLEASE REMEMBER

to keep your pledge up-to-date when you're away from church this summer. 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.

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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 sign the sheet posted on the mid-level bulletin board, or call meal coordinator Lois Woodmansee at 860.889.2128. *Thank you.*

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JOIN US

We're heading back to beautiful Lancaster, PA from November 18th – 20th. The itinerary is a little different this time:

2 nights lodging

2 breakfasts, 2 dinners (family style dinner & Smorgasbord)

3 hour guided tour of the Amish countryside with various stops along the way.

We'll visit the Lil' Country Store and Miniature Horse Farm

We'll attend the "Miracle of Christmas" at Sight & Sound Theater, as well as "Joy to the World" at the American Music Theater, and enjoy a visit to Kitchen Kettle Village.

The cost is \$415 per person/double occupancy which includes: Motorcoach transportation, guides, a ticket to each show, all meals, and bus driver's gratuity. *Cancellation insurance is available upon request.* If you're interested in going on this trip with Rev. Stan, please sign your name to the sheet posted on the hallway bulletin board, or call the church office (860.887.4647). Flyers with all the trip information can be picked up on the Information Center table.

The Preston Junior Pilgrim



A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION...

VACATION...is it almost time? Rest assured your church will not be on vacation this summer. We will be here with inspirational services, Children's messages, a Tuesday night Bible study that goes through June 25th, a Food Pantry for those experiencing hard times, and lemonade on the lawn! When you are tempted to take the summer off, I

hope you will think again. It is here that we earnestly try to be the family of God, where no one is left out. There's a place here for you. People have repeatedly told me when they have moved away from being at church, their life is out of sync. We need God and a faith community that cares about us.

WE ARE ALREADY working hard to prepare for Vacation Bible School. It is what inspired me to love ministry so much...my years at VBS at the Baptist Church in Jewett were life changing. With all the "tech things" our kids are exposed to these days, this could be a refreshing time for them to interact with adults and kids. This year we are extending the time until noon so we may add a Biblical portion to what the kids are already experiencing. We will need lots of help from teens and adults to fulfill all our goals. If you can lend us a hand, please call us today.

THE SCARECROW FESTIVAL COMMITTEE (which is always open to more volunteers) is in full swing preparing for another great festival on September 28th. There is great value in working together with other Christians. Often lifetime friendships are formed.

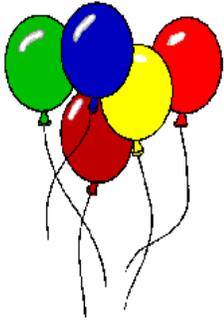
AND ONLY GOD KNOWS what we will be up to. This is a place of surprises at times!

So, I encourage you to join us on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. and be inspired! See you in church.

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Hopefully you have received the newsletter in your inbox! If you have given us your email address and not received it, please call the office. If you do not have an email address, call the office for a hard copy and we'll see that you get it.

THE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS sponsors a mission child, Abraham Solomon at a cost of \$35 per month. It is more difficult to keep this pledge of support up during the summer when Sunday School is not in session. **SUNDAY, MAY 5TH**, the High School Class will be sponsoring a bake sale to offset the cost.



AN INVITATION

YOU are cordially invited to attend “*CHILDREN’S DAY*” at “The Field of Dreams”

MAY 19, 2019

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 17th.*

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

About 11:45 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!

Kidz Praise



Lee Ann Fessenden and her daughter, Katie Fessenden Gates are stepping down from their positions as *Kidz Praise* choir directors for more than a decade they have led the children in inspirational and energetic songs. We thank them for all they have accomplished in the many years of dedicated leadership. Arrangements are being made for new music leadership for the fall 2019.

We are now seeking new leadership for *Kidz Praise*. The Preston City Congregational Church is committed to excellence in worship music and all aspects of Ministry. If you would like to share your love of God, children and music with our young singers, please speak to Robin Lyon.

MAY BIBLE VERSES



Toddler 3 – Grade 2: “When I am afraid, I will trust in you.” (Psalm 56:3)

Grades 3-12: “I can do everything through him who gives me strength.”
Philippians 4:13

TO QUALIFY for an award at the end of the year, a child needs to recite each Bible verse month by month. The May Bible verse needs to be recited by May 5th to allow time for awards to be prepared. Please speak with Mrs. Dudek if you have any questions about this.



NICK GILEAU who was chosen ECC Athlete of the Week April 1-7th!

KIANA BURDICK who was inducted into the National Honor Society and the National Spanish Society! The ceremony will be held in May. (NFA)

AMELIA STEARNES for being chosen for the National Junior Honor Society! (Griswold Middle School).

ROBBY ROARK who will be graduating from Carolina Forest High School in Myrtle Beach, SC in early June!

PLEASE KNOW how proud your church family is of each of you.

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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is scheduled for July 8th-12th, **9:00 A.M. – Noon**. The curriculum will be “**ROAR**” ...**Life is wild – God is Good**; it is put out by Group Publishing.

We are making plans for 50 kids. 10 of these kids will be pre- school. This is the **highlight** of the summer for many kids. It is so much fun and a very special time of learning in a variety of ways.

Children in our church and community who have turned 4 by August 1, 2019, through those completing Grade 7 are invited to attend (**Exception: those who have attended our Toddler 3 Sunday School may also sign up to attend**). Those who have completed grades 8-12 could assist us in

so many ways. The cost for this program is \$12 per child with a family maximum of \$30. Checks should be made payable to Preston City Congregational Church and can be mailed to the church office at any time. Scholarships are available; speak to Sandy Dudek.

REGISTRATION FORMS WILL BE EMAILED TO YOU THIS WEEK IF YOU HAVE A CHILD ENROLLED IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL. PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE ONE.

It will be directed by Shari Purcell and Sandy Dudek; We could use plenty of help. Please call Sandy (860) 887-4747 or Shari (860) 917-9011 to volunteer or if you have questions.

COPIES OF THE SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT are available on the Information Table.

MAY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 AA 7:30p	2 NO Choir	3	4 Women's Fellowship 8-9:30a
5 Communion Worship 9,10:30a Sunday School Communion 9:05 Choir sings 9a Baptism 10:30a Bake sale follow both services	6 Bible study 10a Yoga 6:30p Cemetery Assoc. mtg. 7p	7 Board of Religious Ed. 6p Bible study 6:30p Financial Peace Univ. 6:30p	8 AA 7:30p	9 Adult choir 7p	10	11
12 Worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a Men's Group Mother's Day Coffee hour & brunch 10a-noon	13 Bible study 10a Yoga 6:30p Scarecrow mtg. 6:30p	14 Bible study 6:30p Financial Peace University 6:30p	15 St. Jude worship 11a Trustees 6p Standing Comm. 7p AA 7:30p	16 Adult choir 7p	17	18 Yard Sale 8a-2p
19 "Remembering Our Children" 9a Adult choir sings 9a Children's Day 10:30a Northeast Fellowship	20 Yoga 6:30p	21 Bible study 6:30p Financial Peace University 6:30p	22 Creamery Brook worship 3p AA 7:30p	23 Adult choir 7p	24	25
26 Worship 9a (One service of worship) Food Distribution Sunday following services	27 <u>Memorial Day</u> Office closed "Let us remember"	28 Life Line Screening Bible study 6:30p Financial Peace Univ.University 6:30p	29 AA 7:30p	30 Adult choir 7p	31	

TO PLACE FLOWERS on the altar during May, sign the Flower Chart on the mid-level bulletin board, fill out the reservation form and give it to Carolyn Shea (860) 887-8592 or place it in the envelope to the left of the Flower Chart.