

THE PRESTON PILGRIM



The newsletter of
The Preston City
Congregational Church
Gathered 1698

(Serving God and Community for 320 years!)

NOVEMBER 2019

CHURCH ADDRESS

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WORSHIP

9:00 & 10:30 A.M.

(September 8, 2019 – May 17, 2020)

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News and information for the December newsletter must be received by **November 17th**. You may leave information in the holder located on the wall in the kitchen.

CAN'T MAKE IT TO CHURCH?

You can watch the service 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!



From the Minister

Wasn't it another beautiful day (year) for the 14th annual Scarecrow Festival? More than 75 vendors filled the lower parking lot, while the upper lot offered delicious chowders, chili, mac & cheese, as well as a large variety of delicious baked goods for festival goers to enjoy. On the "Field of Dreams," the food line for the Crow's Nest never let up! The smell of burgers and French fries was in the air attracting hungry patrons who were willing to stand in line and wait patiently! The petting zoo was a big hit again this year. Speaking of "big hits," the Dunk Tank was popular with people of all ages (especially the kids). I saw many "victims" of the tank walking around during the day! Thank God, it was a fairly warm day! I continue to be amazed by the popularity of the Bounce House and slide; the children love it. The entertainment was exceptional this year; Judy, the Hula Hoop lady, the NFA dance team, the country line dancers, along with the Piano Man; Rabbi Jack who rounded out the afternoon. There was something for everyone at the festival this year. Did you get to the Silent Auction in Dudek Hall? Many people did! More than \$2,500 was realized from the auction. The day concluded with a sell-out chicken barbecue; it was delicious! Well done, cooks and supper committee.

We thank Linda Kent-Farinha, festival Chair, and festival committee members, as well as the countless volunteers who came out to ensure the festival's success. It was truly a team effort. Thanks to EVERYONE who supported this amazing event. We could not do it without YOU!

We learned recently that the profit from the festival was **\$13,400**. Congratulations to all on another amazing event, and, as always, *Thank you, God!*

Rev. Stan

DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

We welcomed into the Household of Christian Faith through the Sacrament of Baptism:

10.13 *Killian James Lee*, son of Amanda Lee and Nicholas Dono of North Franklin, CT
We ask God's blessing upon this little one!

We congratulated the following couples who were united in marriage

10.11 *Jamie Musa* to *Kevin Ohar*, Lake of Isles, North Stonington, CT

10.12 *Nisha Kapur* to *Scott Siedor*, Mashantucket Pequot Museum, Mashantucket, CT



Monday morning, 10 A.M. in Halls' Hall. We are currently studying Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Rev. Stan leads the class. Consider joining us!

Tuesday evening, 6:30 p.m. in Halls' Hall. This group is studying the book of Romans with Scott Van Alst. All are welcome to attend, and as always... *The Keurig will be on!*

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TO KEEP YOU BETTER INFORMED

All minutes (notes) and financial reports from the monthly Standing Committee meeting held on the 3rd Wednesday (every month) at 7 P.M. in Halls' Hall are now posted on the hallway bulletin board opposite the Information Center table. Check out the bulletin board. Please know that anyone is welcome to attend this meeting.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

The next meeting of the Women's Fellowship will be November 2nd, from 9 – 10:30 A.M. They will hold their meeting in the Meeting Room (mid-level). All women of the church are welcome to attend. Bridget Park is the group's coordinator. Please contact her with any questions you may have (860.710.1316)

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YARD SALE

It was a very successful yard sale on October 12th. We thank Stella Dawley and Kaye Schlough for overseeing the sale, and the many volunteers who helped with set-up and clean-up. We're happy to report a profit of \$1,333.80. Thanks to those who offered their treasures to the sale!

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2019 BUDGET UPDATE

The year is quickly coming to a close. We want you to know where your church stands financially as we enter the home stretch. To meet our budget, we should be at \$191,444. We are presently at \$172,899.91. If you're not sure where you stand on your pledge, call the Financial Secretary, Sue Creamer at 860.376.2731 and she'll answer any questions.

Thanks for your faithful support of the church!

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NEW MEMBERS

On Thanksgiving Sunday, November 24th, we will welcome new members into the church during both services of worship. This is always a happy day in the life of our church. If you're not yet a member, and would like to join the church, we'd love to have you in the family! Sign up on the Information Center bulletin board. We'll send you all the information regarding membership. New members must meet with the Diaconate on November 17th following the 10:30 service for a luncheon and informational meeting in The Meeting Room. Please speak with the minister, or contact the church office if you have any questions. *Dual Membership* is available for those wishing to join the church while still retaining membership in another Protestant church. Please speak with the minister. **The last day to sign up for membership is November 3rd.**

LOCK THE DOORS

Any groups or meetings being held at the church are encouraged to lock the doors once their meeting or event begins.

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DOOR MONITORS

There always seems to be shortage of monitors for the second service. Please, if you can, sign up to remain by the mid-level double doors during the second service, watching for any late arrivals.

There is a monitor on the table allowing you to hear the service. Guidelines for door monitors, as well as a sign-up sheet is posted on the mid-level bulletin board. Please contact Lowell Calkins if you have any questions (860.887.5939).

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THE MONTH AHEAD

HAM & BEAN SUPPER

Saturday, November 2nd,
4 – 6 P.M. in Halls' Hall

(only 100 tickets will be sold for this supper)

Tickets

\$10 adults

\$6 children 12 and under

You may purchase tickets during the coffee hour on Sunday morning, or from the church office during the week. Help is needed for this supper. See the sign-up sheet posted on the mid-level bulletin board for all the specifics.

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TEEN CHALLENGE will be with us at both services of worship on November 10th. Come and hear the life-changing stories of young men whose lives have been transformed thanks to this ministry from New Haven, CT and the power of Jesus Christ!

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THE FIRST SENIOR LUNCH will be served on Tuesday, November 12, at noon in Dudek Hall. The meal is "free," but is limited to 60 people. Be sure to sign up on the mid-level bulletin board. The menu will include: Chicken Pot Pie, a vegetable, cranberry sauce, and dessert. On this 'day after' Veteran's Day *Quilts of Valor* presentations will be made to four members of our congregation. Plan to be present for the meal and these meaningful presentations.



The Annual Church Bazaar is scheduled for November 16th, from 9-2 P.M. Get here early for the best buys. Alison Lowe is serving as the Chair of this year's bazaar. We thank her for her leadership.

A Beautiful Quilt has been created for the bazaar. It can be seen on Sunday mornings during the coffee hour, where you can purchase tickets for the drawing to be held at the conclusion of the bazaar. Stop by and check it out!

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A NOVEMBER OUTREACH EVENT

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."

(1 John 3:16-18).

The Men's Group, along with the Women's Fellowship is dedicating the month of November to a toiletry drive for the Saint Vincent de Paul soup kitchen in Norwich. We are asking the church community to donate the following items and place them in the *Elizabeth Allyn Memorial Box* next to the information center table (mid-level) anytime throughout the month: *soap or bath gel, deodorant, toothpaste, shampoo, toilet paper*. If the drive is successful, we will be looking to sponsor similar drives in December and January for Preston and our surrounding communities, and the Vet Centers in Norwich and Jewett City. If you have any questions, please contact Tim Bowles at 860.705.5613 or speak with Bridget Park, Ken Sebastian, or Felix Prokop. In this season of Thanksgiving we feel it important to honor this church's commitment to community outreach and to express our gratefulness through concrete action for the many blessings God has provided us.

– Tim Bowles
Men's Group Coordinator

CALLING ALL BAKERS

First our heartfelt thanks to everyone who volunteered to bake cookies for our 1st annual PCCC cookie sale. With that said, we still need additional bakers because the success of any cookie sale depends on the number of cookies baked. There will be covered aluminum containers available in the church kitchen for all bakers starting in November. Bakers are asked to take as many containers as needed to accommodate their baking. Some cookies can tolerate multiple layers between wax paper, but others do not take well to lots of layers and so multiple containers are a better option.

Important dates:

Baked cookie drop off: Friday, December 20, 2019

Cookie sale: Saturday, December 21, 2019 from 9:00-3:00 or until sold out.

If you are unable to bake, you can still be part of the PCCC "Cookie Team" by volunteering to work the day of the sale. There are sign-up sheets for both on the bulletin board outside Dudek Hall or contact Jean Miller jmilleribia@aol.com, or on my Cell: 860.608.1904 (best), Home: 860.889.3176 to volunteer or for more information.

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WE PAUSE AND REMEMBER, AND GIVE THANKS

November 11, 2019

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DID YOU KNOW that your church will celebrate 321 years of ministry on November 16th? Did you know the town of Preston had to be able to

"maintain a minister" before becoming a town in Connecticut? Did you know that Preston City Congregational Church is the town's *first* church? What a history! What a Church! What a witness to Jesus Christ! May God continue to bless us as we serve Him and the communities we represent!



Whether home or away for the holiday, enjoy the blessings of God!

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DON'T MISS THIS

Save the date! On Saturday, December 7th, at 4 p.m. we will be hosting the *Hockanum Valley Ringers*, an auditioned community handbell ensemble led by Lawrence Berdensen. The choir rings five octaves of Malmark handbells, along with five and one-half octaves of chimes. A reception will follow the performance. The concert is FREE, however a "Free Will Offering" will be received. Tell your friends and neighbors. Our church is the group's only southeastern Connecticut's appearance. We are excited to have them with us!

OPEN REHEARSAL – "*To sing is to pray twice.*" *Saint Augustine* The Adult Choir will hold another OPEN rehearsal on Thursday, November 7, at 7 p.m. in the coffee hour room. Everyone is welcome to attend. You can learn what the choir does to prepare for Sunday morning services. Do we work hard? Do we goof off? Come and preview some of the music we are planning to sing. Light refreshments will be served.



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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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THE NEW CHRISTIAN FLAG is given in memory of Don and Dot Moxley and the **NEW AMERICAN FLAG** is given to honor all veterans by Don and Shirley Walsh.

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PENNSYLVANIA TRAVELERS

Those traveling with the church November 18-20, should be at the church, ready to depart, at 7 A.M. Our return time is approximately 9 P.M.

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Turn your clocks back one hour
on November 3rd.

The Preston Junior Pilgrim

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION...



I WOULD LIKE to introduce this year's Confirmation Class to you. It is **Tyler Barry, Jared Gauthier** (Griswold High School); **Jenna Sullivan** (Home Schooled); **Parker Heinzelman, Samantha Heinzelman**, (N.F.A.); and **Jeremy Rider** (Plainfield High). They began a course of study in September that is unlike anything they experience in the Sunday School. We have been studying some of the Reformers-Wycliffe, Hus, and Luther. It is important that they know how we became **PROTESTants** and what a struggle of soul it was for those who went before us, in some cases giving up their lives for the faith. This week we started on the timeline from Pentecost when the Christian church was born up to the present time.

IN MARCH these young people will confirm the faith their parents first chose for them, These are fine young people who will keep the church moving through the ages. At this season of Thanksgiving, we are so grateful for them. May God bless them on this journey to church membership.

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

NOVEMBER BIBLE VERSES



"Love your neighbor as yourself." (Mark 12:31) Grades Toddler 3-Grade 2

"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** (Grades 3-12)

New this year – Challenge Bible Verses – for ALL ages:

November: "I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of your wonderful deeds." Psalm 9:1

THE STUDENT who recites each verse during the month to their teacher or Mrs. Dudek will qualify for an award on Children's Day. The greatest reward will be in carrying these verses in their hearts which will serve them well as they go through life.

YOUTH MISSION TRIP: Ten spots have been reserved for the 2020 mission trip to Harrisburg, PA July 12th-17th. Registration forms are available from Lisa Van Alst, Trip leader. This year's 8th graders through High School are eligible to go. Why not sign up today? To date, one student has signed up.

THE BOARD OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION will have basket drawings at the Church Bazaar on **November 16th**. Can you help us by providing one of the "Theme Baskets" for our table? Theme basket ideas are wide and varied. Examples might be "All Chocolate" or "A Pasta Dinner". Your completed basket needs to be received by **Sunday, November 10th**. It can be left with Sandy Dudek in Dudek Hall or brought to the Annex during the week. Please attach a note marked "Sunday School" as well as your name and a list of the contents of the basket. The proceeds from the sale will benefit Sunday School programs. For more information, contact Lisa Fessenden (860.376.0473) or Cheryl Giuliano (860.376.8901).

PLEASE ENCOURAGE your children to bring their Bibles to Sunday School.

November 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Ham & Bean Supper Food prep. 9a	2 Women's Fellowship 9-10:30a Ham & Bean Supper 4-6:00p
3 Communion Worship 9, 10:30a Baptism 10:30a SS communion 9:05a TURN CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR	4 Bible study 10a SS pageant Rehearsal 5:30p Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30a	5 Board of Religious Ed. 6p Handbells 6p Bible study 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	6 AA 7:30a	7 Adult choir 7p	8	9
10 Worship 9, 10:30a Teen Challenge Baptism 10:30a	11 VETERANS DAY Office closed NO pageant rehearsal Pastoral Search 6p	12 Senior Lunch Noon NO Handbells Bible study 6:30p	13 St. Jude Worship 11a Trustees 6p Standing Comm. Mtg. 7p AA 7:30p	14 NO Adult choir	15	16 Church Bazaar 9a-2p
17 Worship 9, 10:30a Baptisms 9, 10:30a New Members Meeting 11:45a	18 PA Trip- NO Bible study SS pageant Rehearsal 5:30p NO Confirmation Yoga 6:30p	19 ----- No Handbells Bible study 6:30p	20 ----- Return 9p AA 7:30p	21 Adult choir 7p	22	23 Wedding 3p
24 Worship 9, 10:30a Baptisms 9, 10:30 Food Dist. Sun.	25 Bible study 10a Pageant rehearsal Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	26 Handbells 6p Bible study 6:30p	27 AA 7:30p	28 <u>Thanksgiving Day</u> Thanks be to God!	29 Office closed	30

October 2019

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, (place in envelope next to chart) and call Doris MacLachlan (860.564.2609).

FOR ACTIVE CHURCH MEMBERS who wish to borrow church property (tables, chairs, etc.,) call the church office.

December 2019

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				