

THE PRESTON PILGRIM



The newsletter of
The Preston City
Congregational Church
Gathered 1698

(Serving God and Community for 320 years!)

MARCH 2020

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9:00 & 10:30 A.M.

(September 8, 2019 – May 17, 2020)

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News and information for the April newsletter must be received by **March 15th**. 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

If you had a chance to look over the Annual Report, chances are you read in my report that I plan to retire on July 31, 2021. When I arrived in January of 1985, I planned to stay with you 5 to 7 years! Obviously, God had other plans for *us*!

I've learned a lot during my time with you. Some of the most important lessons being:

- The role of a Pastor is to lead the people, and to trust God to take care of the rest. God *has* taken care of "the rest" all these years! He is a faithful God.
- God works in His own time, not mine. For instance, the hope of expanding the church building was a dream in 1991. He made it happen 10 years later! Today we continue to enjoy our beautiful Christian Education wing. His timing could not have been better!
- Each person is different and unique! God didn't create us to all be the same. Some people need more attention than others. Some need extra help figuring out the direction for their lives. We think differently, believe different things, have different talents and abilities. The one thing we do have in common is a desire to know God better (through worship and study), and to serve others who are in need.
- The church should be a welcoming place, a positive place to be on Sunday mornings. After all, we are in the presence of the One who gives us hope and joy, strength and courage to press on in life! Worship should never be mediocre. It should always be uplifting, inspiring, and thought-filled.

These are just some of the things I have learned through the years. Many of them from you. You have had a positive influence on me as a Pastor and as a human being. My prayer for the future of this amazing church is that you will do for your next Pastor what you did for me: love him/her, pray for him/her, be a friend, be kind and respectful when expressing a differing point of view.

I was 27 when I arrived in Preston. The congregation *took a chance* on a city kid, just out of seminary. There were some “bumps” over the years, but here we are today. Give your next Pastor a chance. Help him to grow as a leader. Shape him; he/she will be shaping you!

I will turn 64, just days before my time with you concludes. More than half of my life will have been spent with you; Preston has become my home. I plan to retain my membership in the church, however, out of respect for your next minister, I will not be worshiping with you. It’s important that new bonds be made with him/her.

My plan is to live in Florida part of the year, and who knows where in the summer (I’m still figuring that part out)! This I do know... wherever I go, I will go with many fond memories of our time together.

We still have a little more than a year together. I want our time together to focus on increasing our faith in God, doing great things for the communities around us, and serving God. I want us to laugh and love, and lift each other up.

Stay close to God!
Rev. Stan

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DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

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

2/2, *Logan Henry Kazana*, son of Erin & Matthew Kazana of Uncasville, CT

We ask God’s blessing upon this little one!

WE EXPRESSED OUR SYMPATHY to:

The family of *Peter Knutson* who passed away on January 11th. A service remembering and celebrating his life was held in Centerbrook, CT on February 8th. Please keep his wife Phyllis, and daughter Karleen, as well as his extended family in your prayers.

The family of *Richard Breen* who passed away after a lengthy illness on February 6th. Richard was a much-loved member of the church who will be remembered for singing on Sunday mornings with his guitar. Please keep his wife Sharon, and daughters Amanda, Erin, and Meghan, as well as his extended family in your prayers.

“Whether we live or die, we belong to God.”

Romans 14:8

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WE CONGRATULATED *Meghan Breen* and *Tyler Amado* who were united in marriage at “The Woodwinds” in Branford, CT on February 29th.

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DON’T MISS IT
Confirmation Sunday
March 8, at 10:30

Six young people will confirm their faith through the Rite of Confirmation. Join us for worship!

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SENIOR LUNCH

The next get-together begins at noon on March 10th. The Menu will include: pasta, salad, bread, beverage and dessert prepared by the Migliaccio family. If you would like to attend the meal, please sign the sheet posted on the Information Center bulletin board. Space is limited to 60 people. Join us for a fun afternoon with friends! This will be the last senior lunch until November. Many thanks to Sandy Dudek for coordinating the meals, and the many volunteers from the congregation who prepared, served, and cleaned up following the meals. It was truly a team effort!

BIBLE STUDY

Join us on Monday mornings in Halls' Hall for Bible study. The class is led by Rev. Stan, and runs for one hour. We are beginning a new four-part DVD series: *Why Does Easter Matter* by Andy Stanley. Our first session will be March 2nd. Join with others as we discover something new about Easter. There will be no class on March 9th or 16th.

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SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

The week of March 9th a short survey will be sent via email to the congregation. If you don't have an email address then one will be mailed to you. They will need to be returned by March 23rd. This survey will help us fill out the church information form needed in the process of finding a new pastor. Thank you. *Sharon Breen, Chair of the Search Committee*

ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ The 2020 budget passed, as well as all nominations to serve on boards and committees. *Welcome aboard!*

Thank you to everyone who served the church last year and have retired from their board or committee. We appreciate what you did for your church!

- ✓ All proposed Bylaw revisions passed.
- ✓ In 2020, we will consider renovating the church kitchen. A committee has been formed, and they are exploring how best to update our out-of-date kitchen. Their findings will be brought to the semi-annual meeting on April 15th.
- ✓ This year marks the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrims' historic voyage. A day trip to Plimoth Plantation, Mayflower II, as well as Plymouth Rock is "in the works." We'll keep you posted on the progress being made. Saturday, August 15th, looks like the date. Save it!

If you haven't picked up your copy of the Annual Report, there are copies available on the Information Center table.



NEW MEMBER NEWS

What a joy it is whenever people decide to join the church. Among other things, membership in a church says I believe in this church enough to commit myself to it, and to serve the church of Jesus Christ alongside others. If you would like to become a member on Palm Sunday (April 5th), sign your name to the membership list posted on the mid-level bulletin board. We'll send you all the information having to do with becoming a member of a Congregational church. Those planning to join the church must meet with the Deacons on March 29th, at noon in Dudek Hall for a Q&A/Information session and light luncheon. It will be a time for all of us to get to know each other better. Please be sure to save the date.

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THE ANNUAL BREAD FESTIVAL

This popular Lenten event will be held following both services on Palm Sunday, April 5th. We're asking you to bake your favorite bread and share it with others during the coffee hour. If possible, bring your bread to the church that morning by 8 A.M. It will be sliced and prepared for the morning. The bread festival reminds us that Jesus IS the "Bread of life!" Carolyn Shea is the coordinator for this event. If you can help her on that morning, please let her know. Carolyn will eventually step aside as the coordinator, and we hope someone will take over the organization of this wonderful and meaningful festival.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Their next meeting is scheduled for March 7th, beginning at 9 A.M. in Hall's Hall. Bridget Park is the group's leader. All women of the church are welcome to attend. A Tea is being organized by Pat Marino on this day, and those attending are asked to bring a baby photo of themselves.

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MEN'S GROUP

The next meeting of the Men's Group will be Saturday, April 4th, from 8 – 9:30 A.M. in Halls' Hall. All men are welcome to attend. Please contact Tim Bowles with any questions you may have (860.889.9936).

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The **semi-annual meeting** of the church is scheduled for April 19th, at noon in Dudek Hall. A light lunch will precede the meeting.

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MEATLOAF SUPPER

Saturday, April 25th
(only 100 tickets will be sold)

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FROM THE TRUSTEES

We are seeking a volunteer

to respond to church emergencies on an *as needed basis*.

to be in contact with the Senior Trustee when issues arise needing more attention than the volunteer can manage.

to work with the Administrative Assistant and Minister to ensure emergency issues are handled in a timely manner.

This person will work closely with the Trustees to ensure that issues have been addressed and resolved. From time-to-time, this person may be asked to attend a Trustees meeting (the third Wednesday of the month at 6 P.M.) to inform the board of any concerns or clarifications. This person would review church contracts (i.e. snow removal, lawn care, elevator inspections, pest control, water tests, etc.) as needed, and would report to the board any noteworthy changes.

Please contact the office if you are interested in volunteering, or have questions about this position.

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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. They are provided by the Deacons' Fund, thanks to your giving to the Deacons' Fund offering following communion. You make it possible, and we are grateful!

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. If you're able to help with this important outreach, please sign the sheet posted on the mid-level bulletin board, or call meal coordinator Lois Woodmansee (860.889.2128). Thank you.

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NEW ORLEANS

Join us for this wonderful trip October 26-30. Flyers about this trip are available on the Information Center table. The trip includes: Roundtrip air from Providence, 5 days/4 nights lodging, 4 breakfasts, a Jazz luncheon aboard the Natchez on the Mississippi River, 3 dinners, a tour of the French Quarter, Houmas House Plantation & Garden Tour, a tour of Mardi Gras World, the National WWII Museum, motorcoach transportation in New Orleans, and all taxes & meal gratuities. This trip DOES NOT include the tip for the driver or the step-on guide(s).

The cost is \$1,299 per person (\$1568 for a single). We have reserved 30 spaces for this trip. A deposit of \$525 per person is due July 20th. The final payment is due September 3rd.

Those planning to travel are recommended to purchase the "Trip Cancellation Protection Plan." The details are in the church office. Rev. Stan is planning to go on this trip, why not join him? This trip is open to the community. Tell your friends!

The Preston Junior Pilgrim

A word from the Director of Religious Education...



© Can Stock Photo

HAVE YOU NOTICED that in Dudek Hall a new 75" flat screen TV is mounted below the clock! It is a memorial to a very special lady, **Ann Elizabeth Laliberte**. She died October 5, 2018 and her memorial fund was for the Sunday School. Four of her beloved grandchildren, Brock, Reed, Trey, and Sage Nowakowski are faithful attendees of the Sunday School and the TV seemed a fitting tribute to her where her grandchildren and all Sunday School children will one day be able to view programs on this TV.

WE THANK HER FAMILY for this memorial. We plan to add a Blu-ray player and possibly a cabinet below it. In the future we hope to be able to view special events in the church on it when we have an overflow crowd. Thanks be to God for this wonderful lady who lives on so importantly in the memory of her family and so many others.

May the **SON**shine through me,

Sandy Dudek Please encourage your children to bring their Bibles to Sunday School.

MARCH BIBLE VERSES

"Children, obey your parents..." (Ephesians 6:1) Grades Toddler 3-Grade 2

"...The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control..." Galatians 5:22-23 (Grades 3-12)

Challenge Bible verse: "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." 1 Peter 3:15

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 SPOTS are still available if you are in 8th grade or a teen in High School. The trip is to Harrisburg, PA July 12th-17th. Please call the office or speak to Lisa Van Alst (860.710.1262) if you might have an interest in attending.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Please have your child return this form **as soon as possible for planning purposes**. Good Friday (April 10th) off from school takes on new meaning for the students participating in this meaningful event. I would welcome 8th graders and up as well as adults to help me. If you are free and would like to help, please call me.

Director of Religious Education

21st ANNUAL SPECIAL HOLY WEEK EVENT

When: Good Friday, April 10th 11:45 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Where: Preston City Congregational Church

Age Group: Kindergarten through **Seventh** Grade

An underage child who attends our Sunday School may attend if accompanied by an adult.

Cost: \$5.00, Check can be made out to Preston City Congregational Church and given to Sandy Dudek. In case of hardship, this fee will be waived. Please speak to Mrs. Dudek.

Parents are encouraged to bring their children to the Good Friday service at noon, if possible. If not, please drop your child off to attend the service with the Director of Religious Education, Sandy Dudek. High School young people and other adults will be assisting me. If your children have not been to a Good Friday service before, this should be a very meaningful service to them and also help them to formulate what happened to Jesus on this day and find out why such a day could possibly be considered “good”.

Following the service, we will go downstairs for lunch, which will consist of sandwiches, chips, drink and dessert.

The children will then participate in a variety of activities, some of which will be making things to reinforce the meaning of Lent and Easter for the Christian. Hopefully, this will deepen their understanding of our Christian faith that Christ died for us...our salvation!

Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions (860.887.4647)

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR PLANNING PURPOSES.

Child’s Name _____ Grade _____

Child’s Name _____ Grade _____

Child’s Name _____ Grade _____

Please indicate below if a child is allergic to anything (food)

Parent or Guardian’s Signature _____

If you would like to provide a food or drink item, please check here and I will call you. _____

Phone No. _____ Email address _____

Telephone No. in case of emergency _____ \$5.00 fee paid _____

In the event of an emergency, do we have your permission to take your child to a doctor if you cannot be reached?

MARCH 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion worship 9, 10:30a SS 8:45a SS Comm. 9:05a Halls' Hall in use 1- 5:30p	2 Bible study 10a Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	3 Board of Religious Ed. 6p Handbell rehearsal 6p	4 AA 7:30p	5 Adult choir rehearsal 7p	6 Youth Volunteers Appreciation Dinner 6p	7 Women's Fellowship Ladies Tea 9-10:30a PCCC Riders Tulli's Taphouse Noon
8 Worship 9, 10:30a Confirmation 10:30a SS 8:45a	9 NO Bible study Deacons' mtg. 5p Pastoral Search Comm. 6p Yoga 6:30p	10 Senior Lunch Noon	11 AA 7:30p	12 Adult choir rehearsal 7p	13	14
15 Worship 9, 10:30a SS 8:45a	16 NO Bible study Yoga 6:30p	17	18 Trustees' mtg. 6p Standing Comm. Meeting 7p AA 7:30p	19 SPRING! Adult choir rehearsal 7p	20	21
22 Worship, 9, 10:30a SS 8:45a	23 Bible study 10a Yoga 6:30p	24	25 Creamery Brook 3p AA 7:30p	26 Adult choir rehearsal 7p	27	28 Halls' Hall in use 10a-Noon
29 Palm Sunday Worship 9, 10:30a SS 8:45a Baptisms 10:30a New Members meeting Food Distribution Sunday	30 Bible study 10a Yoga 6:30p,	31	To place flowers in church during March, sign the Flower Chart, fill out the Reservation form and call Doris MacLachlan (860 564-2609)		Please check with Rev. Stan or Sandy before using our name for a reference. This courtesy would be appreciated.	