



THE LITTLE PILGRIM

*A weekly update of church happenings for
Preston City Congregational Church
Week of May 11, 2020*

Have a question? Need help?

Please call:

The Office

860.887.4647 or 860.886.7200

(At the present time the offices are closed)

Sandy Dudek

(H) 860.376.4388

(Cell) 860.608.9266

Rev. Stan

(H) 860.376.2488

(Cell) 860.303.9622

Sr. Deacon Tim Bowles

(H) 860.889.9936

(Cell) 860.705.5613

During this unusual time in Connecticut, our country and our world, we want to be available to you should you need something. Call one of the numbers above and we'll do our best to help you. Numerous people in the congregation have graciously volunteered to pick up items at the store and deliver them to those who are not able to help themselves.

WEB STREAM SERVICES

Until church life returns to "normal," and we can resume worship in our Sanctuary, services may be viewed *live* on the church website: prestoncitycongregational.org at 9 AM, or later in the day via the archive system also on the site. We hope you'll tune in for the service this Sunday. Why not tell your friends about it? Did you know that 154 viewers tuned in from 28 states and 7 countries last Sunday?

A VIRTUAL CHILDREN'S DAY

Sunday, May 17th, 9 A.M.



kindness

SEND A CARD OF CHEER

This week, consider sending a card or note to:

Gerri Dupont

P.O. Box 173

Voluntown, CT 06384

Clara Hopkins

112 River Road

Preston, CT 06365

YOUR OFFERINGS and ONLINE GIVING

How thankful we are from week-to-week to receive your offerings in the mail, online, or dropped off at the office. You are certainly helping your church to "stay afloat" during these uncertain days. The words of the Sunday School song are true, "*The Church is not a building, the Church is a people!*" Your faithful giving continues to make a difference, and we so appreciate it! Our Financial Secretary (Sue Creamer) collects all offerings on Friday and deposits them in the bank in a timely manner. Be assured, if you give online, your contribution will be credited to your pledge. Thank you for remembering your church. Contact Bob Vescovi with questions: RVesco2010@comcast.net or (401) 583.7840.



NEED FOOD?

The pantry **will be open once again**, next Tuesday (5/19), from 9-11 a.m. Please call Stella Dawley if you'd like to stop by for food. You are asked to remain in your vehicle when you arrive. This past Tuesday, three women arrived at the pantry; not to pick up food, but to drop off a lot of food for people in need. Together, they made and sold over \$800 worth of masks! Using that money, they purchased food for local pantries, and ours was one of four recipients! How kind. We thank them.

CAN YOU HELP?

You may know that the Sunday School children sponsor a child (Abraham) from Africa for \$35 per month during the year. Unfortunately, the pandemic kept the children from holding their annual bake sale to raise financial support for Abraham during the summer months (June – August). Are there 3 people willing to contribute \$35 each for his care? If so, send a check to the church office made payable to PCCC. In the memo section write "Abraham." Thanks for your consideration. *The Kids*

THANK YOU, SANDY DUDEK, DRE

This Sunday, May 17th, our Director of Religious Education will finish an amazing 29 years of impressive service and commitment to the children and youth of our church.

Where do you begin when thinking back on Sandy's decades of ministry with our kids? The answer? At the beginning, 1991. Before Sandy officially and unanimously became the church's first Director of Religious Education (DRE), the church had volunteers and superintendents who oversaw the operation of the church school. The number of children attending Sunday School increased dramatically under Sandy's leadership through the years, at times to over 150.

The increase in attendance, I believe, had much to do with Sandy's visible faith and love for each child in her care, no matter what age. She has always looked at children as individuals - "Angels in training" she would often say.

Not only did her faith shine through her years as DRE, so did her creativity. She was always thinking ahead, and thinking of new ways to tell kids about the Love of God – a God who saw potential and possibility in each child. She saw it too. She believed in them, encouraged them, and supported their many endeavors. Each child knew Mrs. Dudek was their biggest fan. She was proud of each one, and they knew it! They will long remember receiving birthday cards, notes of encouragement, and phone calls just to say hello. Likewise, the memories of special events planned and created just for them; the children's Christmas Eve service, the Holy Week event on Good Friday, Children's Day on the "Field of Dreams," VBS, the annual cookie bake, and caroling at Christmas time will long be remembered, and are just some of the many programs Sandy developed during her 29 years as DRE!

Children of all ages are better today because of the impact Mrs. Dudek had on their lives through the years. The countless lessons they have learned will be remembered for years to come. Children and parents, and the congregation as well have been blessed by her ministry -- especially those children's messages on Sunday mornings! Yes, they were presented "for the Kids," and the kid in all of us!

Sandy, on behalf of your church family, thank you for the positive influence you have had on all our lives!

Rev. Stan

HOW WELL WERE YOU LISTENING OR WATCHING?

If you were watching the web stream last Sunday morning, **Sandy showed numerous movie and animated characters from popular films, name Three of them.** The first person to send the correct answer to me (sewhite3022@gmail.com) will win a \$25 gift card to *Panera Bread*. **Betsy Hopkins**, answered last week's question correctly: *Eagles can live 30-50 years, some even longer in captivity.* Those who were in the building last Sunday are ineligible to answer this week's question. Good Luck!

BOOKS AND MORE BOOKS!

The Standing Committee recently voted to close our church library, and repurpose the room as an office for the Director of Religious Education (DRE), Lisa Van Alst. All of the books that were once on the shelves are now on tables at the back of Dudek Hall. The congregation is welcome to look over the books (adult & children's books) and take up to 5 books (for now) home. There will be a money box near the books if you'd like to give a donation for the books you take, however, it is not necessary. We really want the books to go to good homes. If you're interested in looking them over, please call the office and we'll arrange a time to let you in.

THE FINAL WORD

HOPE

*If you only carry one thing throughout your entire life,
let it be hope.*

Let it be hope that better things are always ahead.

*Let it be hope that you can get through even the
toughest of times.*

*Let it be hope that you are stronger than any challenge
that comes your way.*

*Let it be hope that you are exactly where you are meant
to be right now, and that you are on the path to where
you are meant to be...*

*Because during these times, hope will be the very thing
that carries you through.*

Unknown

(Submitted by Sharon Breen)



YOUR TURN

Got a *brief* and encouraging message to share with your church family during this time? Send it to me: SEWhite3022@gmail.com and you may see your message in next week's *Little Pilgrim*.