



## THE LITTLE PILGRIM

*A weekly update of church happenings for  
Preston City Congregational Church  
Week of May 25, 2020*

### Have a question? Need help?

Please call:

The Office

860.887.4647 or 860.886.7200

*During this unusual time in Connecticut, our country and our world, we want to be available to you should you need something. Call the office between 9 and noon 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

Services continue to be web streamed *live* on Sunday mornings starting at 9, at [prestoncitycongregational.org](http://prestoncitycongregational.org). You can also watch the service later in the day via the archive system also on the site. If you can't join us in person, we hope you'll tune in for the service this Sunday. Why not tell your friends about it? Did you know that 139 viewers tuned in from 23 states last Sunday? Were you one of them?

### A MESSAGE FROM THE TRUSTEES and MINISTER

*Information about reopening the church for services*

In preparation for our church reopening on **JUNE 7<sup>th</sup>**, the Minister and Trustees met to discuss the safety of doing so. Following the state's recommendations for religious gatherings ([portal.ct.gov/coronavirus](http://portal.ct.gov/coronavirus)), the Trustees have determined that for now the maximum number of attendees is 50 per service.

### IMPORTANT:

Those who wish to attend a service **MUST** contact the church office (860.887.4647) by Wednesday each week and give their name, as well as the number of people who will be attending, and which service. This information will be given to a Trustee who will determine a safe seating arrangement based on the number of worshipers planning to be present.

### FOR NOW:

- Facial masks **MUST** be worn at all times during the service, and social distancing is expected as much as possible. *Rev. Stan will not be wearing a mask while leading worship.*
- Each worshiper will have his/her temperature taken by the church nurse before entering the building. Those with a cough and/or sneezing should remain at home.
- All worshipers will enter and exit the church through the double doors (only) located in the upper parking area. This lot will be designated for those with physical limitations.
- There will be no congregational singing during the service. Hymnals and Bibles will be removed from the Sanctuary.
- Trustees will assist in seating worshipers. They will do their best to seat you where you want to be seated, however, there is no guarantee.
- An offering container will be placed by the upper level elevator. Collection plates will not be passed during the service.
- Hand sanitizer will be available upon entering the building and the Sanctuary.

Service times will be 9 and 11 a.m. (please note the hours). Pews will be wiped down between services, and mid-level bathrooms will be cleaned. There will be no coffee hour, and no hand shaking.

We suggest that the elderly and those with health concerns/conditions view the service from home. However, the decision to attend is yours to make.

Please be patient as we work through this new way of worshiping. Hopefully, in time, we can ease up on some of the guidelines. Please contact Trustee Rich Chalifoux with any questions you have: (860.639.0149). We hope to see many of you on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

### YOUR OFFERINGS and ONLINE GIVING

We are grateful to everyone who continues to financially support the church during this time of COVID-19. Your giving helps to pay ongoing expenses from week-to-week, and without your help times would be even tougher. Thank you! 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](mailto:RVesco2010@comcast.net) or (401) 583.7840.

## BIBLE STUDY

Scott Van Alst, Pastor of Second Congregational Church, Griswold is leading a study on Galatians. The group meets via ZOOM on Tuesday nights from 7-8 P.M. Please call or email Scott if you'd like to attend: 860.237.7964 or [scottv916@gmail.com](mailto:scottv916@gmail.com). He will send you the invitation information needed to get on ZOOM.



## NEED FOOD?

Please contact the church office and arrangements will be made for food to be picked up. We appreciate the many financial contributions and donations of food that have been dropped off at the pantry since the pandemic first began. There are many kind-hearted people in our church and community. *Thank you!*



## VIEW FROM THE HANDLEBARS

Warmer temperatures have arrived, and so have the familiar rumble of motorcycles filling the air. As much as we love to ride, we acknowledge that there are hazards for our riders out there. The single most dangerous situation for motorcyclists occurs when cars are making left hand turns. These types of collisions account for 42% of all accidents involving a motorcycle and a car. Usually the turning car strikes the motorcycle when it is going straight through an intersection, passing the car or trying to overtake the car. So please keep an eye out for us and help us feel safe! Thanks. -- Andy Kuvent

## FREE SERVSAFE FOOD HANDLER ONLINE COURSE AND EXAM

Go online and fill out a profile to take FREE Food Safety Training. Here is the link: <https://www.servsafe.com/Landing-Pages/Free-Courses> Some people took the course last fall and paid \$25. You must sign up by **May 31<sup>st</sup>** (this Sunday), and you have up to one year to launch, and 60 days to complete once started. Taking the course will be well worth it. Call the office if you have any questions. *Sandy*

## BOOKS AND MORE BOOKS!

The congregation is welcome to look over the books (adult & children's books) that were once in the church library and now in Dudek Hall. You may take up to 5 books 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 building.

## HOW WELL WERE YOU LISTENING OR WATCHING?

During her children's message last Sunday, Lisa Van Alst (Mrs. Van Alst) mentioned the "Fruits of the Spirit." **How many are there, and can you name them?** The first person to send the correct answers to me ([sewhite3022@gmail.com](mailto:sewhite3022@gmail.com)) will win a \$25 gift card to *Panera Bread*. **Lisa Stearnes** answered correctly a couple weeks ago: *Name 3 of the movie characters Mrs. Dudek showed you pictures of.* Those who were in the building last Sunday are ineligible to answer this week's question. Good Luck!

## SCARECROW FESTIVAL NEWS

At the May Standing Committee meeting recently, there was much discussion regarding this year's festival. In the end, it was decided to cancel this popular community event this year. The safety of festival goers and vendors was the determining factor. We'll try again in 2021.

## 111 Questions & Answers Concerning the Pilgrims

written by our own William "Bill" Muttart is on sale in the church office for \$17. Each book is autographed, and all proceeds will go to the church budget. We thank Bill for his kindness and generosity to the church!

## THE FINAL WORD

Next Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, is Communion Sunday, and we hope you can join us at worship to receive the Sacrament along with others. Communion packets (*a sealed wafer and cup of juice*) will be available to worshipers before the service begins. At the appropriate time in the service, the congregation will eat the Bread and drink the Cup. We hope if you're watching online that you will join us using bread and juice from home as you did last month.

## YOUR TURN

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