



## THE LITTLE PILGRIM

*A weekly update of church happenings for  
Preston City Congregational Church  
Week of June 8, 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 114 viewers tuned in from 19 states last Sunday? Were you one of them?

### WE'RE OPEN AGAIN

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. We thank those who attended last Sunday's service and followed the guidelines established for everyone's safety.

### IMPORTANT:

Those who wish to attend a service **MUST** contact the church office (860.887.4647) no later than Friday 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:

- Face 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.
- If necessary, 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 plate 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.

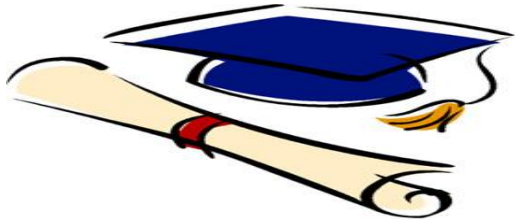
Service times will be 9 and 11 a.m. (please note the hours). Pews will be wiped down between services, and mid-level bathrooms will be cleaned. There will be no coffee hour, and no hand shaking.

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 Sunday.

### GIVING TO YOUR CHURCH

Your financial support of the church from week-to-week is very important during this time, and we appreciate your faithful giving! Keep in mind that the 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.



### CONGRATULATIONS

2020 will be remembered as a most unusual year for those graduating from high school and college. The Coronavirus kept many graduation ceremonies from taking place this spring. This rite of passage for many young people has been observed and celebrated in some very unusual and creative ways in Connecticut; signs on lawns, caravans of honking cars driving through neighborhoods, virtual graduations, etc. Although it's not the same, and we wish it could be otherwise, we want all graduates, and especially those connected to our church, to know how proud we are of your accomplishments. **YOU MADE IT!** We wish every success and better days in the future. May the challenges of today encourage you to persevere and achieve your dreams and goals in the future. **YOU CAN DO IT!**

### PASTORAL SEARCH SURVEY SUMMARY

We were pleased with the participation as we had 176 individuals complete the survey. The congregation's top priorities were to find an effective worship leader that could deliver organized sermons, effectively deal with a crisis, maintain confidentiality, and create relationships with different groups within the church. The personal characteristics with highest priority were integrity, maturity, leadership, and being an effective role model. Thank you for your participation. This information is extremely valuable in our search for a new leader.

*For the Search Committee, Marisa Stankiewicz*



### NEED FOOD?

Do you or someone you know need food? If so, please contact Stella Dawley or 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. *Thank you!*

### BOOKS AND MORE BOOKS!

Many people have looked over the books that are available for "free" in the back of Dudek Hall. If you're interested in looking them over, please call the office and we'll arrange a time to let you in the building. At the end of June, any remaining books will be offered to Congregational churches in our fellowship of churches. There are many wonderful and inspirational books, children's books also. Check them out.

### HOW WELL WERE YOU LISTENING?

Last Sunday during the sermon, I mentioned the Rabbi's Blessing. Can you state it? "May you be... The first person to correctly send me the quote ([sewhite3022@gmail.com](mailto:sewhite3022@gmail.com)) will receive a \$25 gift card to *Panera Bread*.

### FLOWERS IN CHURCH

Please call Merrie Hedler (860.886.0466) to place flowers in the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings during the month of June.



### THE FINAL WORD

A visiting pastor was attending a men's breakfast in the middle of a rural farming area of the country. The group had asked an old farmer, decked out in bib overalls, to say grace for the morning breakfast. "Lord, I hate buttermilk," the farmer began. The visiting pastor opened one eye to glance at the farmer and wonder where he was going. The farmer loudly proclaimed, "Lord, I hate lard." Now the pastor was growing concerned. Without missing a beat, the farmer continued, "And Lord, you know I don't care much for raw white flour." The pastor once again opened an eye to glance around the room and saw that he wasn't the only one to feel uncomfortable. Then the farmer added, "But Lord, when you mix them all together and bake them, I do love warm fresh biscuits. So, Lord, when things come up that we don't like, when life gets hard, when we don't understand what you're saying to us, help us to just relax and wait until you are done mixing. It will probably be even better than biscuits. Amen."

*-- Submitted by Robin Lyon*

### 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*.