



THE LITTLE PILGRIM

*A weekly update of church happenings for
Preston City Congregational Church
Week of June 15, 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. 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 94 viewers tuned in from 17 states last Sunday? Were you one of them?

WE'RE OPEN AGAIN

Following the state's recommendations for religious gatherings (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 noontime 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.

At the present time, services are at 9 & 11 a.m.

PLEASE REMEMBER:

- Face masks **MUST** be worn at all times during the service,
- Each worshiper will have his/her temperature taken by the church nurse before entering the building.
- All worshipers will enter the church through the double doors (only) located in the upper parking area. This lot will be designated for those with physical limitations.
- 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. Offering plates will not be passed during the service.
- Hand sanitizer will be available upon entering the building and the Sanctuary.

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.

As the weeks go on, we hope more and more of our church family will return to worship. Until then, know that you are missed (A LOT!).

OOPS!

Last Sunday, during the presentation of church scholarships, the following names were omitted from the list of donors to the Scholarship fund:

Mary Ann & Bob Coughlin

Howard Dickenman

We apologize for the mix up.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PRESENTED

Four high school graduates were given scholarships on June 14th. Deacon Tim Bowles presented the awards to: Lindsay Bernier, Haley Price, Kiana Burdick, and Jonathan Daniewicz. We wish them a great future!



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 that are mailed to the church 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.



YARD SALE NEWS

At the Standing Committee meeting last night (6/17), there was talk about the possibility of having yard sales at the church this summer. As you know, most of our fundraising events, including the Scarecrow Festival, have been canceled for the year. Yard Sales in July, August, and September (one per month) would be a way of making up some of the deficit we presently face (\$20,000). The SC wants to know what you think about this idea. Tables would be spaced out in the lower lot for the safety of all people. Would you be willing to help with the sale? Volunteers would be needed for set up and clean up. Please let us know what you think. Email the church: pccc@snet.net or Rev. Stan: sewhite3022@gmail.com. Thanks!

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 July, 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, in the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), Jesus asked the *expert in the Law*, "How do you read it?" What was the expert's answer? The first person to correctly send me the quote (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

In the image of God

Did you know that you were created *in the image of God* (Genesis 1:26)? We have a soul, a spirit, that sets us apart from animals. It is our spiritual nature that enables us to commune with God and makes us like Him; mentally, morally, and socially. This does not mean we are like "little gods" but rather that we share some of His characteristics, although on a limited, finite scale. Like Him, we can create; great music like Beethoven did, or poetry like Robert Frost, or invent a new or improved machine, like a ventilator to keep people alive.

If we believe that God created all people, then, like Him, we should believe that ALL LIVES MATTER. We can choose (and should choose) to be a reflection of who He is. It's time for humanity to remember that every life has value in the eyes of God. What we are witnessing in our world today is chaos. It's what we "created" when we began thinking only about our selfish selves, with little or no consideration for our Creator.

I believe God has a plan for what is happening in this out-of-control world. We will realize what it is when we truly want to know it; when we listen for His voice, and begin to live our lives with respect for others.

Be who He made you to be!

Rev. Stan

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*.

