**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](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 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](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 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.

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.