



THE LITTLE PILGRIM

*A weekly update of church happenings for
Preston City Congregational Church
Week of June 22, 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 87 viewers tuned in from 17 states, 3 countries, and 48 cities last Sunday? Were you one of them?

WE'RE OPEN AGAIN

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 (see the church website above).

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. Masks must be worn, and temperatures will be checked upon entering the building. We hope to see you this Sunday.

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

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.

Last week, I met with my Financial Planner, Chris Aldrich. He asked me how the church was doing during this time of COVID-19. "You must have endowment funds to get you through this time?" he said. I answered no, we have no endowments. We've never had an endowment fund. He was surprised by my answer. He works with many churches in southeastern Connecticut, and says most of them have endowments to keep them going. "How does your church manage to operate, day-to-day without these funds?" I answered, a generous and committed congregation! When there is a need, and the people believe in the need, they do what they can to make it happen. I told him about the land purchase back in the 90's; how we paid off the 20-year mortgage in 9 years. I also told him about the Christian Education wing added in 2001 and how it was paid off in 11 years! It's an amazing congregation I told him. He sat in his chair and thought about it for a moment. Then he said something I will not forget, "*You have a living, breathing, endowment fund!*" That's exactly what it is! YOU, through your generous giving, are the *living, breathing, endowment fund!* You keep the church alive and moving forward, even in these difficult and challenging times. While churches around us are depleting their endowment funds (money left to the church by financially endowed church people many years ago), we continue to stay on course, although it is becoming increasingly more-and-more difficult to do so. Our most challenging days are to come.

Here's what I believe and what I have seen over the years with our congregation. **God is a provider.** He gives us what we need, not always what we want or ask for. If our hearts are in the right place (trusting and believing in the faithfulness of God) He *will* provide. He does so in our lives and in our church. I am convinced!

Thanks for your part in our *living, breathing endowment fund*. Your giving, whatever the amount, keeps us going!

Rev. Stan



At the Standing Committee meeting last week, 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. Your response to this idea in last week's *Little Pilgrim* was very favorable! So, a **Yard Sale is scheduled for July 25th, from 8 -2 p.m.** We hope many of you will be able to help us with the sale? Volunteers will be needed for set up and clean up. Please let us know if you are able to lend a hand. 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!*

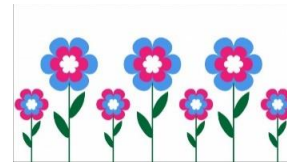


BOOKS AND MORE BOOKS!

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?

In last Sunday's sermon, I mentioned three things Paul said to the Thessalonian people while he was with them. *We dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, _____, _____, _____.* Fill in the blanks and send your answers to me. The first person to correctly do so (sewhite3022@gmail.com) will receive a \$25 gift card to *Panera Bread*.



FLOWERS IN CHURCH

Please call Doris MacLachlan (860.564.2609) to place flowers in church on Sunday mornings during the month of July.



THE FINAL WORD

There was a farmer who grew excellent corn. Every year he won the award for the best grown corn. One year, a reporter discovered that the farmer shared his corn seed with his neighbors. "How can you afford to share your best corn seed with your neighbors when they are entering corn in competition with yours each year?" the reporter asked.

"Why sir," said the farmer, "Didn't you know? The wind picks up pollen from the ripening corn and swirls from field to field. If my neighbors grow inferior corn, cross-pollination will steadily degrade the quality of my corn. If I am to grow good corn, I must help my neighbors grow good corn."

So it is with our lives...

Those who want to live meaningfully and well must help enrich the lives of others, for the value of a life is measured by the lives it touches. And those who choose to be happy must help others find happiness, for the welfare of each is bound up with the welfare of all...

Author Unknown

(Submitted by Robin Lyon)

Proverbs 11:24-25

"One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed."

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*.