



## THE LITTLE PILGRIM

A weekly update of church happenings for  
**Preston City Congregational Church**  
Week of July 20, 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 81 viewers tuned in from 2 countries, 19 states, and 50 cities last Sunday? Were you one of them?

### WE'RE OPEN

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, **BUT REMEMBER...**

Starting next Sunday, August 2nd

**NEW SERVICE TIMES; 9 & 10:30 a.m.**

## WE ARE THE CHURCH!

Whether we are together or apart during these days of Covid-19, *We are still the church!* The church isn't just a building with walls and pews, it's people; it's YOU and me. Together, we ARE the church. We still count on each other for many things; **encouragement** - when we are going through a disappointing or discouraging time; **prayer** - when we realize we need more than ourselves to help us through an uncertain or stressful situation.

Just as we count on each other for encouragement and prayer, we count on **God** - to fix whatever needs fixing in us, or in His out-of-control world. We "expect" Him to make things better. After all, that's what He does; it's His job! We wonder, where is God? Why is He silent? Doesn't He care? Unfortunately, many people look to God as a "last resort," when all their ideas have been tried without success.

God waits patiently. I wonder, for how much longer?

He waits for the "Know-it-alls" of this world to realize that what they're doing isn't working - it never will. Violence, killing, and destruction is never the solution. His Word tells us to *reason with each other* (Isaiah 1:18), not destroy each other. I would add: respect each other, treat others the way you want them to treat you.

Encourage each other. Pray for one another, and America, return to God by loving one another. You're probably thinking, "Rev. Stan, that's just not possible. It's a different time." And I would answer, "Nothing is impossible with God." We must learn from the past. When people lived their lives according to God's design their lives were blessed. The people prospered. Life was good. Don't we yearn for those days to return?

Joshua's words come to mind: "*Choose this day whom you will serve*" (Joshua 24:15).

Come on America, we're so much better than we are today!

Let change begin with you and me!

*Rev. Stan*



## GIVING TO YOUR CHURCH

Your offerings given to the church each week are helping us financially to keep the church on-track with the bills that must be paid each month. Without your generous, financial support, the operation of our church would be tough to maintain. We sincerely thank you! Please keep in mind that the Financial Secretary (Sue Creamer) collects all offerings that are mailed to the church on Friday afternoon 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 any questions you may have: [RVesco2010@comcast.net](mailto:RVesco2010@comcast.net) or (401) 583.7840.

## YARD SALE

**Tomorrow, July 25<sup>th</sup>  
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 at 6 a.m., and clean-up at 1:30 p.m. 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

This week is your last opportunity to look over the books in Dudek Hall, and to take whatever books you want home with you. Why not check what's available following Sunday's services. After this week, all the 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.



## FLOWERS IN CHURCH

To place flowers in church on Sunday mornings during the month of August, call *Laura Jackson* at 860.710.5688.

## FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

What have you heard about Financial Peace University (FPU)?

When we asked our congregation's FPU graduates to share their experiences, we received comments like this:

*"I was terrified to take any kind of financial or budgeting class, thinking that it would be stressful, preachy, and possibly boring. It was the opposite in all regards."*

Here are some of the topics we cover in FPU, could you benefit from additional knowledge and understanding in any of these areas?

Relating With Money, Cash Flow Planning, Dumping Debt, Buyer Beware, The Role of Insurance, Retirement and College Planning, Real Estate and Mortgages

FPU is now a virtual class! Here's what that means: You can watch the lessons at [financialpeace.com](http://financialpeace.com) and complete the class preparation before our scheduled online meetings. Then we would all join a Zoom video chat to discuss the lessons together for about 40 minutes. There are nine classes over nine weeks, we would meet each Tuesday evening beginning September 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

The cost for the program is \$99 and includes a workbook and access to all online materials. If you're interested in attending a class starting in September or would like to learn more about FPU, please e-mail Bob Vescovi at [RVesco2010@comcast.net](mailto:RVesco2010@comcast.net) or call him at (401)583-7840.



## JULY IS "MONDAY MORNING MUFFIN MONTH"

This Monday is the last Monday in July, and that means *Monday Morning Muffin Month* will conclude. I've had a great time delivering muffins, and I've enjoyed the many conversations along the way!

If you're a senior who would enjoy a muffin (from BJ's), and a brief visit, please call me or email me; I have a few openings. Because of time, deliveries will be limited to 6 seniors. Reserve your "*Monday Morning Muffin Visit*" TODAY.

-- Rev. Stan