



THE LITTLE PILGRIM

*A weekly update of church happenings for
Preston City Congregational Church
Week of August 17, 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 74 viewers tuned in from 4 countries, 19 states, and 44 cities last Sunday? Were you one of them? *Our apologies for the "interruptions" in the broadcast last Sunday; uncooperative computer!*

WE'RE OPEN

The State of Connecticut (and our 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 **(11 a.m.)** 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. Attendance is growing; YEAH!!!

WE REMEMBER

We expressed our sympathy to the family of: *Avery Browning* who passed away on August 14.

Also:

Charles "Buddy" Rice who passed away on August 17th. Please keep Buddy's wife, Jan, in your thoughts and prayers. His funeral service will be Saturday, August 22nd, at 1 p.m. in the Sanctuary. His service will be private.

NEWS ABOUT SUNDAY SCHOOL

It's that time of year! Sunday School Registration time! Can you believe how quickly summer has flown by? This year, more than any year in the past, the number of children attending Sunday School is very important for health, safety, and faith reasons. Please take a few minutes to fill out the registration form that was sent to you via email, or pick one up this Sunday while you're at church. If you didn't receive a form please email me at dre.prestoncity@gmail.com and I will be more than happy to get one to you a.s.a.p. This year, I have also included a *Parent Interest Form* to see where we can use your talents and gifts here at the church! Did you know *Patience* or (*Pat*), the pineapple, was spotted at last Sunday's service by Austin Judy.

Congratulations!

In His Name,

Lisa Van Alst, D.R.E.

DOOR MONITORS NEEDED

Can you help us on Sunday mornings in August or September serving as a door monitor at the double door entrance? Guidelines for door monitors are posted above the sign-up sheet posted on the mid-level bulletin board for both the 9:00 and 10:30 service. If you have any questions, please contact Bob Vescovi at RVesco2010@comcast.net or 401.583.7840. *Thanks*

~ SPECIAL MEETING CALL & AGENDA ~
THIS SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2020, at 11:30 A.M.

A special Meeting of the Preston City Congregational Church will be held in the pavilion on the Field of Dreams, on Sunday, August 23, 2020 at 11:30 A.M. for the following action:

To consider and vote on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the Pastoral Search Committee and the Standing Committee, that the new pastor (tentatively starting August 1, 2021) be offered a total financial package of \$85,000.

Susan P. Brosnan
Clerk

WHAT WILL YOU REMEMBER?

Decades from now, when the people of our church look back on the year 2020, most likely at the top of their list of memories will be the life-changing pandemic; the Coronavirus, Covid-19, that changed our world, our country, our lives. They will recall the impact the virus had on our church; briefly closing for in-person worship, the Sunday School coming to an abrupt end for the year in March, children and adults unable to see each other. Hopefully, they will remember the web streaming of Sunday services – an attempt to keep us connected to each other and the *Good News!* What will you remember?

For me, I will remember the *faithfulness of our congregation, the people!* Although a large percentage of the congregation was unable to attend services because of health concerns, they did not forget that their church was still there for them, doing what it could for those who needed help. I'll never forget the day a member ("Anonymous") wrote me a check for \$2,000 and said, "*Use this to help others.*" Anonymous came to me three more times, each occasion with another check (a total of \$8,000) saying the same thing, "*Use this to help others.*" Many in our congregation have been blessed by this person's act of kindness. Likewise, I will remember the faithful giving of our congregation to support the on-going work of our church through their tithes and offerings arriving in the mail. I call their giving, "Statements of Faith!" I have seen **Faith in action**; giving and reaching out to others. I think about the words Jesus' brother James said long ago, "**Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says!**" (James 1:22).

May God continue to have His Hand upon us as we navigate the days still before us. May we stay connected to Him and each other, and may others remember us for being faithful to God and the Church of Jesus Christ.

See you in church (or on the web!). Stay safe.

--- Rev. Stan



GIVING TO YOUR CHURCH

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. Contact Bob Vescovi with any questions you may have: RVesco2010@comcast.net or (401) 583.7840.



YARD SALE NEWS

The date for the next sale is **September 26th**. Donations are now being accepted. Please call Stella Dawley (860.887.6452) to arrange a day and time to drop off your items. If you are able to assist with the set-up of the sale (6 a.m.), or the clean-up (1:30), please let Stella or the office know. When you gather your donations together, keep in mind that we do not take: tires, computers, TV's, or clothing. If it's any easier for you, consider bringing your items early on the morning of the sale. We ask that no items be left outside the annex basement. Pray for another successful sale, and good weather! All proceeds will go toward the church budget.

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. Do you know someone who might benefit from the pantry? Let them know. *Thanks.*

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

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

SEPTEMBER COMMUNION

If you request it, we will bring to you a prepackaged communion packet in time for the September observance on the 6th. Please call the office no later than August 28th, and let us know how many packets you would like delivered to your home. We hope you will join us at the Table of our Lord.

