



THE LITTLE PILGRIM

*A weekly update of church happenings for
Preston City Congregational Church
Week of August 31, 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 109 viewers tuned in from 27 states, 75 cities, and 4 countries last Sunday? Were you one of them?

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 (9 & 10:30) **MUST** contact the church office (860.887.4647) no later than **THURSDAY (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 CELEBRATE

the arrival of *Caleb Russell Hoffman*, born August 28th to Alicia (Luft) & Greg Hoffman. Caleb weighed in at 7 lbs. 2 oz. and was 20" long. Denise & Steve Luft are the proud grandparents.



NEWS ABOUT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Happy end to the first week of school! I've been thinking of everyone and praying for all the kids, teachers, and families as we start the new school year.

I want to thank my special little helpers from last Sunday; Delaney and Declan as they helped us learn about Friendship! If you missed it, watch it on the web and learn how to make "Friendship Soup!" I have a new helper coming this Sunday and I'm so excited. If your child would like to be a special helper on Sunday morning, please contact me at: dre.prestoncity@gmail.com or text me and let me know. I love making new friends and helpers.

I'm still accepting Sunday School registration forms. We may have delayed the opening of "in person Sunday School," but your child still matters to us! We are hoping the virus remains low so we can start later this Fall. Don't worry, we have some fun events planned to meet in person as small groups.

Our first event is open to all Toddler 3, 4, and Kindergarteners; Friday, September 11, from 6-7 p.m. Come, take a walk in the jungle because we are *wild about Jesus!* Come and enjoy some family fun. We are looking for a few items for the event: ferns, animal print rugs, material, chinet round plates and bowls, stuffed jungle animals (tiger, elephant, lion, frogs, birds, hippos). Please watch the web stream service as I will be talking about what it means to be wild for Jesus!

God is Good,
Mrs. Lisa Van Alst, DRE
860.710.1262

Rev. Stan

BIBLE STUDY NEWS

We are hoping to begin both the Monday morning and Tuesday evening groups the week of September 22nd. Right now, we are determining the safest way to meet and the arrangement of tables in Halls' Hall. Stay tuned, we'll keep you updated on meeting times and class topics. Rev. Stan will lead the morning group, and Pastor Scott Van Alst will lead the evening session.

VOLUNTEER(S) NEEDED

There are many wonderful, inspirational books that remain in Dudek hall; they are "free" for the taking. Is there someone willing to be outside with the books some Saturday morning, from 9-11, in the upper lot so those driving by can stop in, look them over, and take what they want? If you're able to do this, please contact the office to arrange a Saturday that works best for you. We're still looking for coordinators for this event. Contact the office if you can help us out. *Thanks!*



FROM THE MINISTER

This weekend is the unofficial end to summer! Vacations are over, school buses are back on the road with bus drivers sporting face masks as they make their way through town!

What a strange few months it has been. I've heard people say, "It's like the movie *Groundhog Day* where every day is the same." They are right. So often, we know what day it is by the things we do. Many of the events/occasions we had marked on the calendar didn't happen, making it easy for many of us to lose track of what day it is. In a way, it IS like *Groundhog Day*!

The one day I do not lose sight of is Sunday. The first day of the week is my day to recharge my faith by worshipping with you, in person or via the web stream. Although we must keep a safe distance between us, just physically seeing you makes my days a bit more bearable. The virus has revealed to me just how much I value relationships, and miss being around people like you! I trust you have learned or discovered things about yourself since the unfortunate arrival of Covid-19. Send me an email and let me know about them. One day, hopefully soon, we'll look back at this time in our lives and recall something good that came from it. Hopefully, something good about ourselves!

See you in church, or on the web!

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 September, call Carolyn Shea (860.887.8592).



"Where Friends Become Family"