



THE LITTLE PILGRIM

*A weekly update of church happenings for
Preston City Congregational Church
Week of September 7, 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 116 viewers tuned in from 32 states, 89 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 continues to grow, YEAH!!!



BIBLE STUDY NEWS

We are planning to begin the Tuesday evening group on September 22nd. Those planning to attend must call the office to let us know **EACH WEEK**. Please do so before Friday as space will be limited.

Monday class, 10 A.M., led by Rev. Stan; *Feeling Secure in a Troubled World*. No matter what hardship you experience, God promises you will emerge stronger in faith, wiser in His ways, more confident in His power. Our first class will address Faith and Fear. Join us, and bring your Bible. Don't have one? No problem, we have a Bible we'd like to give you from the Deacons' Fund of our church. *Our first meeting will be October 5th.*

Tuesday class, 7 P.M., led by Pastor Scott Van Alst. This class will offer Zoom to those who want to join in remotely. We will be studying the book *Twelve Extraordinary Women* by John MacArthur. The books can be ordered on either ChristianBook.com or Amazon.com. The pricing is similar (\$10.50).

Please contact Scott (scotty916@gmail.com) or 860.237.7964 to RSVP or to request assistance ordering the book. Please read through the introduction and chapter 1 prior to the first class.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

It's been a long time since we have been able to connect. We're planning to meet on September 19th, under the pavilion, at 9 A.M., since outside is considered to be a better option due to Covid-19. We can catch up with each other and make cards to be sent to the homebound. I hope to see many of you there.

Bridget Park

GIVING TO YOUR CHURCH

Your support of the church through prayer and offerings keeps us going during this most unusual time. We are grateful to the many people who regularly, and faithfully give to the work of the 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



FROM THE MINISTER

From the time we get up in the morning, we are busy. Many people rush off to work or begin their tasks around the house without even eating breakfast. It is easy to let the day pass by without a moment of *peace* and *quiet*.

In Psalm 46:10 the command to *be quiet* is coupled with the result of *knowing that He is God*. Could it be that in order to truly recognize God's presence in our lives, we must make time to silence ourselves before Him?

Sitting quietly is a discipline that requires practice. Just as in our relationships with each other, learning to be a good listener as we pray to God is important. If prayer remains one-sided (all talk, no listening), we miss out on what He wants to say to us.

Although God may not speak to us in an audible voice, He will direct our thinking and speak to our hearts. Stillness allows us to dwell on God's sovereignty (authority), His goodness, and His love for us. He wants us to remember that He is God and that He is in control, regardless of our circumstances or what is going on in our world. *Be quiet... and know that I am God.*

COOKIES

It's not too early to think about Christmas Cookies! As things stand now, the church plans to go ahead with the annual *PCCC Christmas Cookie Sale* (time & date to be determined). So now that the days have cooled a bit, please consider putting some cookie dough in the freezer with the sale in mind. Freeze in bulk or roll, shape and cut cookie dough before freezing as an extra time saver later. Need recipe ideas, contact Jean Miller at 860.608.1904 or jmilleribia@aol.com

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING CANCELED

For the safety of our church family, this meeting has been canceled for September 20th at noon. The Standing Committee will meet via ZOOM on September 23rd, and the congregation will be updated in the *Little Pilgrim* on where things stand going into the final quarter of the church year.



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.

The Pantry will be open on September 16th, from 10 – noon, and again after services on September 27th.

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

To place flowers in church on Sunday mornings during the month of September, call Carolyn Shea (860.887.8592)

PLEASE NOTE

Everyone is asked to please check their meeting date, or event, as well as the start and end time with Sandy in the church office. We don't want to double book the use of church facilities. *Thanks!*



"Where Friends Become Family"