



THE LITTLE PILGRIM

A weekly update of church happenings for
Preston City Congregational Church
Week of September 21, 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 128 viewers tuned in from 29 states, 92 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 services 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!!!



WE CONGRATULATED Daryl Brown and Mark Greczkowski who were united in marriage on September 19th, in Griswold, CT. The couple resides in Columbia, CT.



The Tuesday evening group has begun! It's not too late to get in on the class which is led by Pastor Scott Van Alst. Those planning to attend must call the office, or Pastor Scott to let us know EACH WEEK. Please do so before Friday as space will be limited.

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 ChristianBooks.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.

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.*

GIVING TO YOUR CHURCH

As the pandemic continues in our country and world, it continues to impact people's lives. During these days of uncertainty, we appreciate your financial support of the church. Every gift, large and small, is needed and appreciated at this time, especially as we near the end of 2020. We thank you for your faithful commitment! Please know 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

Words matter! The longer I live, the more I realize just how wise my mother was. I can still hear her voice saying, “If you don’t have anything nice to say, don’t say anything at all!” This was one of her favorite “Momisms” (there were many others!). Her words were telling me and my siblings to think before we speak, and when we speak BE KIND.

The apostle Paul said it this way:

*“Encourage each other
and build each other up.”*

1 Thessalonians 5:11

We are living in a time where people are saying and spewing some pretty ugly words and phrases, with little or no regard for others; especially children. They not only hear what’s being said, but often repeat what they hear. They don’t always understand what they are saying. Out the words come, and they’re not always encouraging.

At times, I get frustrated with people; the thoughtless words they speak, and the unbridled profanity used. Their words do nothing to elevate us as a society. NOTHING!

Today, let’s strive to *encourage and build each other up*. Let’s consider our choice of words before we speak them, remembering that once they’re out of our mouths, they’re out for all to hear. --- Rev. Stan

YARD SALE

TOMORROW, September 26th, 8 – 2 P.M.

Consider helping us with set-up (6a) or clean-up (1:30p) if you can. All proceeds will go to 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. **The Pantry will be open THIS SUNDAY, September 27th, following both services of worship.**

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

To place flowers in church on Sunday mornings during the month of October, please call Merrie Hedler (860) 886.0466.

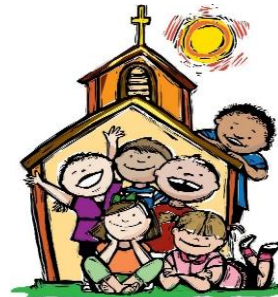
NEWS FROM THE DRE

Attention grades 1, 2, and 3 students and their families: It’s time to go on a trip to the JUNGLE! Friday, October 2nd. Come spend an hour from 6:30-7:30 on the Field of Dreams, as we grab our gear and hunt for wild animals, laugh, sing, and have a great time, because kids are WILD about Jesus! There will be about 8 different stations, socially distanced, where you can make crafts. There will be plenty of hand sanitizer, and plenty of space outside to run and dance around. All you need is a mask, and a reservation. Text 860.710.1262, or email Mrs. Van Alst at: dre.prestoncity@gmail.com.

I’m excited to invite my school-age friends to be my special helper on Sunday mornings during the 9 a.m. service. Let me (and the office) know that you will be attending so we can reserve a seat for you and your family. If you can’t be present, tune in to the live web stream.

I miss seeing all the smiling faces, but with God by our side, we can do this!!

Our God is STILL great!
Mrs. Van Alst, DRE



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”