



THE LITTLE PILGRIM

*A weekly update of church happenings for
Preston City Congregational Church
Week of November 9, 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 90 viewers tuned in from 23 states, 61 cities, and 4 countries last Sunday? Were you one of them?

WE'RE OPEN

The State of Connecticut (and our Trustees) have determined that we may increase the number of worshippers to **60 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!!!

BIBLE STUDY

Monday class, 10 A.M., led by Rev. White.

Tuesday class, 7 P.M., led by Pastor Scott Van Alst
Classes meet in Halls' Hall, and masks must be worn during the class.

Why not join us? Please bring your Bible. Don't have one? No problem, we have a Bible we'd like to give you from the Deacons' Fund.



WOMENS FELLOWSHIP NEWS

St. Vincent de Paul soup kitchen in Norwich is planning to feed many people on Thanksgiving Day (more than usual because of Covid-19). The kitchen does an amazing job supporting and caring for the needs of those less fortunate in Norwich, as well as surrounding communities all throughout the year. St. Vincent's is looking for your help. Due to the many requests for dinners on the 26th, churches, groups, and individuals are being asked to bake or purchase a pie to complete the meals.

Our Women's Fellowship is hoping you will join them in providing pies this year. If you are able, please bake a pie or purchase one at the supermarket and bring it to the church on the 25th, by 10 a.m. Please let Bridget Park, coordinator, know that you plan to donate a pie(s). She needs to let the soup kitchen know how many pies will be coming from Preston City by November 18th. You can contact Bridget at (860.710.1316), or send a text, or an email: bkpark01@gmail.com. Thanks in advance for your assistance in this outreach program.

GIVING TO YOUR CHURCH

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.



SPECIAL GIVING

Thank you to those who have already given a monetary gift to help us cover the deficit we are facing with this year's budget (approximately \$28,000 as of November 8th). Any amount you can give will help us as 2020 comes to a close. If you wish to give to this appeal, please put your gift in an envelope marked "**Special Gift**", then mail it to the church, or place it in the offering plate on Sunday morning. To date, \$1,350 has been offered. *Thank you!*



NEWS FROM THE D.R.E.

Q: What do the Grinch and Covid-19 have in common? A: Neither can stop CHRISTMAS!

I would love to hear from families regarding a Christmas children's service. The Board of Religious Ed. and myself want to hear your thoughts and ideas. We are now in the planning stages. Come, jump on the committee, you count! Let's see what we CAN do! We still need to tell the Christmas story because it's so important, and kids really love it! Let's hear your ideas. --- *Lisa Van Alst*

NEED FOOD?

Do you or someone you know need food from the church's food pantry? If so, please contact Stella Dawley or the church office and arrangements will be made for food to be picked up.

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

To place flowers in church on Sunday mornings during the month of November, please call Carolyn Shea 860.887.8592.

DID YOU PICK UP YOUR CARDS?

Business cards for the church were recently printed for outreach purposes. One side includes the church name, address, phone, etc. The other side includes service times and webstream information. The cards are available on the table just inside the double doors. Please take a few with you and share them with anyone who may be interested in attending our church in-person or online. We thank the Men's Group for making the cards available to the congregation.

DOOR MONITORS NEEDED

Can you help us on Sunday mornings in November or December 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 & 10:30 service. If you have any questions, please contact Bob Vescovi at RVesco2010@comcast.net or 401.583.7840. *Thanks!*

NEW MEMBERS

We're happy to report that three people will be welcomed into church membership on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 22nd. They are: John Ryan, Rebecca Hale, and Richard Bustamante. They will meet with the Diaconate, Clerk, and Minister on November 15th, via ZOOM, at 2 P.M. in preparation for uniting with the church. *Congratulations, we're glad you're joining us!*

PLEASE REMEMBER

If you or your group are planning to meet inside the church, please check the meeting date, as well as the start and end time with Sandy in the church office first. We don't want to double book the use of the building. People or groups are asked to wipe down tables and chairs when they are finished. *Thanks!*

NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEWS

This committee will meet soon to prepare a "proposed" slate of Officers, Boards, and Committees for 2021. It takes many people to keep our church running from week-to-week, and especially during this most unusual time. If you're a church member, we hope you will consider getting involved.

Some of the positions needing to be filled in the coming year include: **2 Trustees**, **2 Board of Religious Ed.** members, **1 Finance Committee** member, **2 Members-at Large (male and female)**. If you'd like more information about one of these positions, contact Lee Ann Fessenden (860.886.2348) who is the Chair of the Nominating Committee. She will be glad to answer your questions and tell about the boards or committees. Bob Vescovi and Sharon Breen are also on the Nominating Committee, feel free to speak with them as well.

THE FINAL WORD

Last Sunday morning, at approximately 9:10, those in the congregation felt a "rumbling" beneath them. Turns out it was an earthquake in New Bedford, MA, originally said to be a 4.0, but later determined to be a 3.6. Did you feel it where you were at? The sermon that morning was about *being prepared*. Some people jokingly asked if I planned that dramatic sermon illustration. What will I preach about this Sunday? Come and see!

-- *Rev. Stan*