



THE LITTLE PILGRIM

*A weekly update of church happenings for
Preston City Congregational Church
Week of November 23, 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 72 viewers tuned in from 17 states, 48 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).

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.

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.

GIVING TO YOUR CHURCH

Thank you, again, for your continued support of the church during this time when many people are away from the church due to Covid-19. Your ongoing giving supports the work of the church in so many ways. What you give is very much appreciated.

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.

Thank you to those who have already submitted their pledge of support for the year ahead. If you did not receive the Stewardship letter and proposed church budget in the mail, please contact the church office and we will be happy to send one to you. There are copies available on the table in the Information Center (mid-level). The proposed budget for 2021 is \$245,639. Please give as you are able.

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). 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. *Thank you!*

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. We so appreciate your donations brought to the church on Sunday mornings during the pandemic. Many people are being helped because of your generosity. *Thanks!*

NEW PROCEDURE FOR FLOWERS IN CHURCH

To place flowers in church on Sunday morning, please call the office to see if your date is available. Sandy will take your information to be included in the worship folder, and contact a Flower Committee rep. who will ensure your flowers are on the altar for Sunday morning. Floral arrangements are \$35, and payment (cash or check, payable to PCCC) is due in the office as soon as possible after you make your request.



MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS

If you would like to place a poinsettia upon the altar on Christmas Sunday, December 20th, please contact the Decorating Committee Chair, Dennis Lund at dblund72622@gmail.com no later than December 13th. Be sure to include in your email the name of the person(s) you wish to remember. Payment for the plant must be received in the church office by the 13th, so the order can be placed with the greenhouse. Place your payment (\$11) in an envelope and put it in the offering plate, or mail it to the church office. Be sure to write "Poinsettia" on the envelope or in the memo section of your check (made payable to PCCC). You may pick up your plant following the second service on Christmas Sunday. Call Dennis if you have any questions: 860.237.0670.

BUTTER BRAIDS

You may be aware of this fundraiser, but if not, you are in for a treat. These pastries come frozen, and all you need to do is let them thaw, rise, and then bake. That's it! For online ordering [Click Here!](#) If you do not have access to a computer to place your order, please call me (860.334.7382) and I will make arrangements with you to place your order. We can even offer you contactless pick-up. All braids are \$14 each. Please note the following dates: 11/22, this Sunday, orders will be taken, 12/6, orders will end, and 12/19, your order will be available at the church for pick-up. Please consider supporting this fundraiser as we plan to put the proceeds towards the church budget. *Thanks, Lee Ann Fessenden.*

DOOR MONITORS NEEDED

Can you help us on Sunday mornings in 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!*

PLEASE REMEMBER

If you or your group are planning to meet inside the church, please check your 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!*

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

As you know, we began advertising for our new minister on September 1st. We have received 6 applications so far, and will continue accepting applications until January 15, 2021. After that, we will begin the interview process.

Over the past few months, our committee has been very busy. We have developed interview questions, a scoring rubric, and we are going to decide on a contract which the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC) has made available to us, which a lawyer will look at for us.

We will update you again after the holidays.

Sharon Breen
Search Committee, Chair

THE FINAL WORD

The Lighter side of life

During this time in our lives, we need to smile and laugh more! Do you have a short, funny, church-related joke to share with others? If so, send it to me: (sewhite3022@gmail.com) and you may just see it in a future *Little Pilgrim*. Jen Gileau shared this story with me this week:

When my son Nick was little, we were in church one Communion Sunday (He had already received his First Communion). He quietly took the bread, ate it, took the cup, drank it, and turned to me and said, "I don't like this. Why can't communion be with milk and Oreos?"

Out of the mouths of babes!



Where Friends Become Family.

Missions Committee Recommendations For 2020 Giving

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| National Association – Missions fund | \$750 (3 @\$250) | |
| <i>Christian Missions of the Far East</i> | \$250 | <i>Philippines Mission</i> |
| <i>Piedmont College</i> | \$250 | <i>Congregational College</i> |
| <i>Olivet College</i> | \$250 | <i>Congregational College</i> |
| NACCC Hurting Churches Fund | \$250 | Builds New Churches and Helps Churches In Need |
| Congregational Library | \$350 | Congregational Library in Boston |
| Gideons International | \$250 | Bible Distribution |
| Missionary Flights International | \$250 | Missions Air Support |
| Heifer Project International | \$250 | Income-Producing Animals |
| American Red Cross Disaster Relief | \$350 | Relief to Disaster Victims / Connecticut Chapter |
| Salvation Army | \$350 | Norwich Chapter / Charity |
| Madonna Place | \$350 | Supports Local Families |
| St. Vincent de Paul | \$350 | Soup Kitchen |
| Safe Futures | \$350 | Transitional Housing and Assistance for Domestic Violence |
| Martin House | \$350 | Housing for Homeless with Addiction or Mental Health Problems |
| Pastor's Discretionary Outreach | \$800 | One Time Financial Help |
| | | |
| Total | \$5,000 | |
| <p>The Missions Committee would like to thank the Congregation for your generosity; your support made this possible.</p> | | |

Due to the COVID19 pandemic, we are unable to have our church vote to disburse Missions funds. The Church members usually have been supportive of the Missions Committee's recommendations, so the Standing Committee has recommended that anybody wishing to vote against this proposal contact the church office or the Missions Chair, by December 13, 2020, otherwise your vote will be assumed to be yes. For any questions or concerns please email the Missions Chair, Patrick Magowan, at patrick.magowan@gmail.com.