



THE LITTLE PILGRIM

*A weekly update of church happenings for
Preston City Congregational Church
Week of November 30, 2020*

Have a question? Need help?

Please call:

The Office

860.887.4647 or 860.886.7200

WORSHIP AND WEB STREAM INFORMATION

Worship services continue to be web streamed *live* on Sunday mornings starting at 9 a.m.

Go to prestoncitycongregational.org. You can also watch the service later in the day via the archive system also on the site. Did you know that 120 viewers tuned in from 26 states, 81 cities, and 2 countries last Sunday? Were you one of them? You can also worship in person (60 people per service). You are asked to follow the safety guidelines which are listed on the church website above. Those who wish to attend a service (9 or 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 they plan to attend. Masks are required, and temperatures will be checked upon entering the building. We hope to see you this Sunday.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Due to the rise in cases of Covid-19, the Standing Committee thought it best NOT to have any "in person" services this year. Both services (4 & 11) will be offered, just in a different way.

From the DRE... This year, the Christmas Eve children's service is coming to you! And you don't have to wait until 4 p.m.! You can view it any time on Christmas Eve. Check your email, or the church website for a link to view Mrs. Van Alst, puppets, singing, and YOU! We need you to record your child(ren), or family singing *Away in A Manger* using this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dq34Clq3QKy>. It has the words the words and music. Just practice, hit record on your phone, sing and send your video to: dre.prestoncity@gmail.com. All videos need to be sent

by December 18th. Any questions, please call me at 860.710.1262 -- Lisa Van Alst, DRE

For the 11 p.m. service, we are planning a meaningful "web-only service" that will air "live" at 6 P.M., or can be viewed anytime thereafter. The service will have lots of special music, readings, and a Christmas Eve message offered by Rev. Stan. We hope you will tune in to one or both of these services.

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?

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.

Thank you to those who have already submitted their pledge of financial support for the year ahead. The proposed budget for 2021 is \$245,639. Please give as you are able. Help keep the ministry of the church going strong in the year ahead. If you did not receive the Stewardship mailing, contact the office and one will be mailed to you.

SPECIAL GIVING

Thank you to those who have 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. To date, \$4,400 has been received. *Thank you!*

THANK YOU, TROOP 75

Did you know that Preston Scout Troop 75 recently gave 2,220 canned goods and food items to the food pantry? They collected these items during their annual "Scouting for Food Campaign." Thank you for thinking of others. What you did will help many people.

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 dblind72622@gmail.com **no later than next Sunday, December 13th**. Be sure 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 ea.) 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! You may place your order online, [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. **This Sunday, December 6th**, is the last day orders will be taken. Your order will be available for pick up on December 19th. 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 January 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!*

THANK YOU

Thank you all very much for supporting the St. Vincent de Paul's Thanksgiving outreach by donating 52 pies! Tomorrow (12/5), the Women's Fellowship will be meeting in Dudek Hall at 9 a.m. to write Christmas cards for those in our church community who are homebound. Please wear a mask, and bring a pen.

Bridget Park

NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEWS

The committee plans to meet this Sunday (12/6) to compile a list people willing to serve the church in the year ahead. Several positions are still needing to be filled. Church members are asked to consider serving on one of the following boards or committees:

Flower Comm. (picks up flowers at the florist and places them on the altar for Sunday morning)

Decorating Comm. (help decorate the Sanctuary for Easter, Mother's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas)

Finance Comm. (meets quarterly, to assess the finances of the church, they also prepare the "proposed budget" for the upcoming year)

Members-at-Large (we need one male and one female to attend the monthly meeting of the Standing Committee; 3rd Wed. of the month at 7 p.m., via ZOOM.)

Board of Religious Ed. (we need two volunteers, meetings are monthly, the board assists the DRE in the operation of the Sunday School program)

Board of Trustees (one volunteer needed; The Trustees oversee the care of church buildings and grounds, the board meets monthly, on the 3rd Wednesday, at 6 p.m.)

It takes many people to keep our church running smoothly throughout the year. Please consider serving in one of these positions. If you'd like more information, contact Lee Ann Fessenden, Chair of the Nominating Committee at 860. 334.7382.



Missions Committee Recommendations For 2020 Giving		
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	
The Missions Committee would like to thank the Congregation for your generosity; your support made this possible.		

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.