



THE LITTLE PILGRIM

A weekly update of church happenings for
Preston City Congregational Church
Week of December 14, 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 77 viewers tuned in from 15 states, 45 cities, and 3 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.

FROM THE MINISTER

I wanted to share with you the thoughts I shared with the Standing Committee on Wednesday night, (16th):

This Sunday is Christmas Sunday! Two services will be offered, and the Sanctuary will have 44 memorial Poinsettias on display.

This has been a most unusual year, with the pandemic still with us. The number of deaths associated with Covid-19 is just over 300,000 since it began in March. This week, 9 months later, a vaccine is being offered to Americans across the country. HOPE has arrived, and we pray that the vaccine will do what it was developed to do – save lives, and return us to some sense of “normalcy.”

I write these words hoping that years from now, when people look back on 2020, they will read and see that our congregation persevered, kept the faith, watched out for each other, and remained faithful to God all throughout these deadly days. The words of Jesus have proven true, “I am with you always” (Matthew 28:20). Yes, God continues to watch over us. He IS faithful!

*Thanks be to God!
Rev. Stan*

GIVING TO YOUR CHURCH

Don't forget... All offerings must be received by December 27th to be credited for 2020.

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, or pick one up on the Information Center table.

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, \$11,105 has been received. How grateful we are for the generosity of our members and friends. *Thank you so much!*

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.



Food Pantry News

For just over a decade, our church pantry, the Toucan (Two can) Pantry has served the needs of people in Preston and surrounding communities. During the pandemic, the pantry was closed; opening only on occasion. We're happy to say that beginning in January, the pantry will be open on the third Wednesday of each month from 10 a.m. to noon. We are grateful to Jewett City Savings Bank for their continued financial support, along with area churches and very generous individuals who faithfully donate food and funds to meet the growing needs of the pantry. Those on the receiving end are so grateful for the kindness of others who make this important ministry possible.

NEED TO CONTACT THE MINISTER?

Cell: 860.303.9622

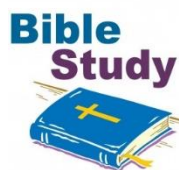
Address: 22 Parkwoods Drive, Norwich, CT 06360

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!*

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!*



BIBLE STUDY NEWS

Both the Monday and Tuesday evening groups will be on break until sometime in January. We'll keep you posted.

MEMORIAL GARDEN

Work has begun on a garden just outside the double doors of the church. It is a gift given to the church in memory of Paul MacDonald by his wife, Gail, and daughters, Sue and Lisa. The ground has been prepared, and the plantings will be added in the spring. We thank the MacDonald family for this gift which will add beauty to the church grounds for years to come.

DON'T FORGET

Pick up your Butter Braid order on Saturday (19th) in the lower parking lot of the church from 9:45 – 11:45 a.m.

*live
laugh
love*

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 or story to share with others? If so, send it to me: sewhite3022@gmail.com and you may just see it in a future *Little Pilgrim*. I recently received this one:

A friend was in front of me coming out of church one day, and the Minister was standing at the door as he always is to shake hands (pre-Covid). He grabbed my friend by the hand and pulled him aside. The Minister said to him, "You need to join the Army of the Lord!" My friend replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord." The Minister asked, "How come I only see you at Christmas and Easter?" He whispered back, "I'm in the secret service." *(Submitted by Bunny Perry)*



SORRY, SON...THERE'S NO APP FOR THAT