



THE LITTLE PILGRIM

*A weekly update of church happenings for
Preston City Congregational Church
Week of December 21, 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 84 viewers tuned in from 14 states, 40 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 WEDNESDAY (**11 a.m.**) this 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

Just a couple more days and Christmas will be here. It will be a most unusual Christmas this year; impacted by a dangerous virus that will keep many people from gathering and celebrating together. It will be a Christmas (and year) we will remember for a long, long time.

*Although this Christmas will be different, the message of Christmas will remain the same – Bethlehem, a Child is born, Shepherds and Wisemen all wanting to see Him. Christmas is God loving the world so much that He was willing to give His only Son **to the world**. Everyone! What a gift! Keep this truth in mind this Christmas.*

This year has been difficult for everyone. We hear the news, and see sadness all around. For some people, it's difficult to see the joy of Christmas, especially this year. For me, I am thinking of Christmases past, and Christmases still to come. Future Christmases will also be different. Hopefully, we will appreciate everything about Christmas even more than before, for we will be with family and friends once again. We will remember Christmas 2020, and the 300,000+ lives that did not survive the pandemic, and give thanks to God for bringing us through the nightmare of Covid-19.

I have truly missed seeing you since March. I have prayed for your safety and well-being daily —your children too! Likewise, I have prayed for the shut-ins of our congregation, and families who lost loved ones without the opportunity to be with them.

Yes, Christmas 2020 will be different, but the message of Christmas will remain the same – “A Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord!”

I wish you a blessed Christmas. I can't wait to see you one day soon. Stay well, and happy, and safe!

Rev. Stan

GIVING TO YOUR CHURCH

Don't forget... All offerings must be received by this Sunday 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.

WE REMEMBER

We expressed our sympathy to the family of Donald Hargreaves who passed away on December 18th. Please keep his wife and family in your thoughts and prayers at this time.

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. In October, the amount was approximately \$28,000. As of this week, that amount has been reduced by \$11,615. 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. How grateful we are for the generosity of our members and friends. *Thank you so much!*

OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you asked to receive offering envelopes when you filled out your pledge card in November, they are now available for pick-up as you enter the double doors (mid-level). If you did not request envelopes, but would now like a box, contact the office, and we will see that you get them. We remind you to discard any unused envelopes after December 27, 2020.

ANNUAL REPORTS

The Annual Meeting of the church is presently scheduled for Sunday, February 14th, starting at noon. All reports for the Annual Report are due in the church office by January 17th. The reports need not be typed. Please contact the office if you have questions about needing to submit a report for your committee or board.

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.



NEED TO CONTACT THE MINISTER?

Cell: 860.303.9622

Address: 22 Parkwoods Drive, Norwich, CT 06360

CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE

A YouTube Christmas presentation for children and their families. Go to the church website: prestoncitycongregational.org for the link. Enjoy!

Tune in for a "live" web stream service beginning at 6 p.m. Just go to the church website or [click here](#) to view it.



**Feeding the
Community**

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.

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 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!*

THE FINAL WORD

The lighter side of life!

