



THE LITTLE PILGRIM

*A weekly update of church happenings for
Preston City Congregational Church
Week of January 11, 2021*

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. 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.**), 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. Did you know that 102 viewers from 21 states, 67 cities, and 3 countries tuned in last Sunday? Were you one of them? We hope to see you this Sunday.

FROM THE MINISTER

To know you are being thought about during this unusual time we live in, or following an illness, or a difficult time, means a lot to others. The Bible tells us to encourage each other, and pray for one another. This week, consider sending a card or note of cheer to:

Chad Dero

2293 Glasgo Road
Griswold, CT 06351
(Battling ALS)

Ann Orlomoski

321 North Canterbury Road
Canterbury, CT 06331
(Battling depression)

Hearing from you will mean so much to them. Thanks!



We offer our sympathies to the family of *Jim Fuller* who passed away from complications related to Covid-19 on January 10th. Remember his sister, Diane Schrage at this time.

GOOD NEWS FROM THE TREASURER

So... during this chaotic year, we were concerned that without fundraisers, we wouldn't be able to meet our budget (\$268,226.00)

GOOD NEWS: as of December 31st, we have *surpassed the budget* in monies donated to the church! PLUS, the following:

- We received \$15,015.00 from the *Special Gift* appeal. Thank you to all who gave!
- We received \$4,536.80 from the two yard sales we had, and the Butter Braid sale.
- Your donations to the clothing shed (even after it was closed because of Covid-19) resulted in a check of \$683.69.

Added to all this good news, was the realization that we spent *less than our budget*, leaving a balance of \$15,160.49.

That's amazing!

Because of your FAITHFULNESS to our church, we will begin the new year with a budget balance of \$49,476.97. With the new year, again being uncertain due to the continued pandemic, this balance plus what has already been pledged to-date for 2021 (\$174,506.00), will ensure support for the 2021 budget of \$245,639.

So, thank you for all that you did (and do) to keep our church financially strong. -- *Shirley Hodkinson*



FROM THE MINISTER

"Nothing is impossible with God!"

There is no better proof of these words than the message above. When we began the *Special Gift* campaign last fall, I was hoping we would at least shrink the shortfall we were facing in our budget (at one time, \$28,000). I did not expect to see the year end *with a balance of \$49,476.97* to start 2021. Working together, and with God's help, we accomplished what some thought to be impossible.

The lesson: *When you give generously to God, He gives even more in return. You can't outgive God!*

Thank you, church, and thanks be to God.

Rev. Stan

GIVING TO YOUR CHURCH

Thank you for what you do for the church every week. Keep in mind 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. Did you know your year-end statement of giving is now available for pick-up as you enter the double doors? Any that remain at the end of January will be mailed.

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 2020 envelopes. A number of boxes still need to be picked up. Call the office if you would like yours mailed to you.

NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS ED.

Happy New Year, and welcome to the year of 2021! A year of Hope and a year of Prayer. Every month, I will be sharing ideas for church families to encourage and nurture prayer at home. What better way to start the new year than with ideas to get your family praying together? January is "Postcard Prayers." Pick up a blank postcard from the church or print one from your emailed packet. Write down your prayer request and return them to the church. It will be passed along to another family to pray about. Prayers can be returned to the red bin outside the church office, or to the table outside the church sanctuary. You put in a postcard and pick out a postcard. Questions, comments, thoughts of this experience, please reach out and share. I pray that you will see the blessing of His plans for the New Year (Jeremiah 29). -- Blessings always, Lisa Van Alst

OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

We're happy to let you know that the clothing shed in the lower parking lot is NOW OPEN. You may place your donations in the shed any time, any day! Please remember that bags need to be tied, no household items are allowed, blankets and curtains are permitted. Tell your friends and neighbors. We thank Laurie Bowers and Rich Thiffeault for their oversight of the shed during the year.

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.

CHURCH AUDITORS

The church auditors will begin checking financial records on Monday, January 18th. Even if your Board or Committee did not meet this year due to Covid-19, a report still needs to be submitted along with the end of the year bank statement. Please call Lois Woodmansee (860.889.2128) if you have any questions. *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.

MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Our first meeting will be on Monday, February 1st, at 10 A.M. in Halls' Hall. We will read and reflect on 1 & 2 Thessalonians. Please bring your Bible and wear a mask.

DID YOU PICK UP YOUR CARDS?

Business cards for the church were printed a while ago for outreach purposes. One side includes the church name, address, phone, etc. The other side includes service times and web stream 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.

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDES

Copies of the 2021 *Daily Bible Reading Guide* published by the Connecticut Bible Society are available on the Information Center table (mid-level), as well as on the table in the hallway off the Sanctuary.

DOOR MONITORS NEEDED

Can you help us on Sunday mornings in February 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!*