



## THE LITTLE PILGRIM

*A weekly update of church happenings for  
Preston City Congregational Church  
Week of May 17, 2021*

### Have a question? Need help?

Please call:

The Office

860.887.4647 or 860.886.7200

Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9 – Noon.



May 23rd

### 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](http://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 71 viewers from 2 countries, 19 states, and 52 cities tuned in last Sunday? Archive viewership last week was 124. Were you one of them? We hope to see you in person one Sunday soon!

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

Dear Members and Friends,

At Wednesday night's Standing Committee meeting (5/19), I, along with the Board of Deacons and Board of Trustees recommended that worship return to how it was prior to the pandemic more than a year ago. After some discussion, the boards and committee agreed, *it's time to get back to normal!*

Starting June 6<sup>th</sup>:

- The wearing of masks will be optional during worship services. If you have **not** been vaccinated, we would encourage (for your safety) you to continue wearing a mask. Parents will decide if their child(ren) will wear masks while in the Sanctuary or during Sunday School.
- You will no longer need to call the church office to let us know you will be at worship, and temperatures will **not** be taken upon entering the building.
- In addition to the double doors, you may also enter and exit through the front doors.
- All pew cushions, hymnals, and Bibles will be returned to the Sanctuary.
- Worship folders and the order of worship we once knew will return. You can pick them up by the upper-level elevator and front door entrance. Offering plates will be available at both locations; communion packets will be there as well on the first Sunday of the month.
- I will be greeting worshipers (shaking hands) on the front lawn with those who feel comfortable doing so.

As was the case when the pandemic began, we may need to make some adjustments moving forward, please be patient.

With the arrival of your new minister (Rev. Rae) at the end of July, we believe it is important for him to observe worship as we have been accustomed to these many years.

The "live" web streaming of the 9 a.m. service will continue to be offered for those unable to attend in person.

As Head Trustee, Rich Chalifoux has stated numerous times, *"...our mission is to continue advancing the work of and Good News of Jesus Christ. We cannot effectively do what we are called to do without being fully open."*

This is an exciting time in our church. We have a wonderful story to continue telling, and there are many more people in the communities where we live that need to hear it!

If you've been away from the church, it's time to *come home. You've been missed!*

For the boards and committee,  
Rev. Stan

### **MEN'S and WOMEN'S GROUP TO MEET**

The women of the church will meet **this** Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 9 – 10:30 a.m. in Halls' Hall. All are welcome to attend.

The men of the church will meet on Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, from 8 – 9:30 a.m. in Halls' Hall. All are welcome to attend.

### **GIVING TO YOUR CHURCH**

Thank you to those who mailed their offering to the church last week, as well as to those who give when attending services. Your giving keeps the church financially "healthy" during this time. We appreciate every gift and every giver! Please remember that the Financial Secretary, Sue Creamer, picks up the offerings received via the mail, on Friday 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](mailto:RVesco2010@comcast.net) or (401) 583.7840.

### **NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS ED.**

#### **Vacation Bible School**

#### **"ROCKY RAILROAD"**

**July 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Ages 3 and up!**

Can't attend? Then could you... help paint background scenes? Help us find appliance boxes? Help build a train? Donate an item from our wish list? Or maybe you are a tie-dye wizard! There are many ways you can help. Any train enthusiasts? Let me know if you can help me out, or have questions: [dre.prestoncity@gmail.com](mailto:dre.prestoncity@gmail.com) or 860.710.1262. Thanks! -- Lisa Van Alst, DRE

#### **INFANT NURSERY**

The church Nursery is **now open** for the 9 a.m. service! For now, when you call to register yourself for worship, let the office know you have a little one who'll be going into the Nursery. Toys will be washed and staff will wear masks. The number of children allowed in the room will be limited. As always, the Nursery is available to use during the 10:30 service, however it will **not** be staffed.

– Lisa Van Alst

#### **SPRING YARD SALE RESULTS ARE IN...**

Thanks to donations from the congregation and community, a total of \$2,163.20 was realized from the Yard Sale on May 15<sup>th</sup>. We thank the many volunteers who helped set-up the sale and clean-up in the afternoon. Proceeds from the sale will go toward the church budget.

### **WE CONGRATULATE**

*Ashley Bambrick and Andrew Erickson* who were united in marriage on May 15<sup>th</sup>, at the 4-H camp in Pomfret. We wish them many happy years together!

### **BRICK FUNDRAISER**

Bricks continue to be ordered for the area located in the lower parking lot beside the walkway. You can purchase a brick in honor of, in celebration of, or in memory of someone. A 4"x 8" brick costs \$75, and can have up to 3 lines of engraving and up to 18 characters per line. An 8"x 8" brick costs \$125, can have up to six lines of engraving and up to 18 characters per line. Order forms can be found by the upper-level elevator. Speak with Joy or Rich Chalifoux if you have any questions.

*Now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year!*

### **FOOD PANTRY NEWS**

Please note: *Food Distribution Sunday* will be May 30<sup>th</sup>, following both services of worship. Stop by the annex basement door and pick up a bag of food for someone in need. Stella will be there to assist you.

### **MEMORIAL FLAG**

Would someone like to donate \$80 for the purchase of a new Christian flag to be flown in memory of a loved one on the annex lawn? Contact the church office if this is of interest to you. Be sure to let us know who the flag is given in memory of. We will announce it in an upcoming *Little Pilgrim* newsletter. Thanks.

### **BINGO HELP NEEDED**

We could still use a few more volunteers (people with a PIN - *Personal Identification Number*) to help with Bingo at Strawberry Park campground in Preston. **PLEASE** sign-up to help on the Bingo calendar posted on the mid-level bulletin board. If you'd like to help out, but don't have a PIN, contact the church office and fill out an application. We'll make sure yours is processed and ready ASAP. We need 3 card sellers in order to run successfully. Please contact Sally Exley (Bingo Coordinator, 860.822.9005) if you have any questions.

### **LITTLE PILGRIM COORDINATOR**

Beginning the week of June 7<sup>th</sup>, Sue Brosnan will oversee the weekly writing and publication of this newsletter. When possible, the *Little Pilgrim* will return to its original form; *The Preston Pilgrim* which will be a monthly newsletter. Please send information to be included in the newsletter to Sue no later than Tuesday at noon each week: [susan.brosnan@gmail.com](mailto:susan.brosnan@gmail.com). We appreciate Sue's willingness to oversee this important line of communication.