

**Preston City
Congregational Church**



Week of July 19, 2021

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

**Have a question?
Need help?**

Please call: The Office
860.887.4647 or 860.886.7200

**WORSHIP AND WEB STREAM
INFORMATION**

Summer worship services are at
9AM and 10:30AM.

For those who are unable to
attend in-person, the 9AM service
is streamed live. Go to
prestoncitycongregational.org. and
click the stream button. Previous
services may be viewed using the
archive system on the site.

7/18/21 Live Viewings – 70;
US only; 16 states; 48 cities;
Archive viewings 7/11 - 51

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday School

July 25
All Ages

VBS

July 26 - 30

Bingo

Card sellers needed for August

An archived copy of the service for
Rev. Stan on Sunday, July 18, may
be viewed on our website. Go to
prestoncitycongregational.org and
click the stream button.

Pastor's Corner

What a wonderful day it was last Saturday – driving into the church parking lot and seeing an enormous white tent taking up a good portion of the “Field of Dreams.” It looked like a revival was underway, or an old-fashioned “tent meeting” was soon to begin. You know, like the ones Billy Graham held early on in his ministry. I wonder what people driving by thought; “That church is up to something again, what is it this time?”

Thank you for the unbelievable retirement send-off you gave me on that very warm and humid afternoon. Seeing so many familiar faces – families, children, people from the community, FRIENDS, was over-the-top! I will remember that afternoon for a long time to come. Thank you for coming out!

The program was wonderful. The speeches looking back over our years together, the slide presentation showing little children, many now married with children of their own, as well as photos of departed church people who brought life, joy, and commitment to the church. They worked tirelessly to give us the church we enjoy today. The skit written and performed by the Bustamante brothers (Hayden and Hunter) was a big hit recalling some of my Sunday morning “routines”. There were many laughs (too many!!). Well done.

The planting of a Dappled Willow tree beside a stone bench was greatly appreciated. Both will provide shade and a place of rest and conversation for years to come. I love it!

The memory box given to me with many cards and letters reflecting on your time at PCCC, and the extremely generous money gift presented to me at the conclusion of the event was very much appreciated. Your thought-filled words I will treasure and reread again. Your monetary gift will be used for something special in the future.

I never made it to the ice cream table! Can you believe it? Spending time with you, reflecting on the past, seeing your family, was more important to me. I can have ice cream anytime, but my time with you is winding down.

What an honor it was to receive the title, *Minister Emeritus* at the conclusion of last Sunday's service. The title means different things to different people who are privileged to receive it. For me it says, *it's official, I am retired, but will not be forgotten!* Though I will no longer be present with you, this beloved church and you will be in my heart, mind, and prayers ALWAYS.

My last worship service with you is this Sunday (7/25). I will look back over our time together, but also look to the future, and my hope for you and this church, as well as for your new Pastor, Rev. Rae who will officially become your next Pastor on July 26th. He and I will work together next week (26th - 30th) to prepare him for service in a church that strives to live out its motto: *Where Friends Become Family*.

See you in church!
Rev. Stan



UPDATED SCHEDULE

Monday July 26 – Friday July 30

Age 3 years through 5th graders

Rocky Railway is scheduled to arrive at Preston City Congregational Church Monday, July 26th @ 9a.m. Thank you for all your patience & support! The journey has been rocky; however, Jesus' power will pull us through! Don't forget your masks, sunscreen, labeled t-shirt, and noodles!!!! We are accepting registrations until SUNDAY the 25th, forms are available on the table outside the sanctuary, or in the church office.

All Passengers and Families are reminded:

1. ALL children and volunteers will wear masks while INDOORS.
2. Children will be encouraged to maintain social distance: walking in lines using a rope with measurements, the use of their own personal pool noodles to be used to demonstrate spacing, as well as non-contact games!
3. We ask that all Railway passengers bring a labeled water bottle everyday so NO sharing of the water fountain will occur.

Hand sanitizer and soap & water will be abundantly available throughout the week!!!!

As always contact me with any questions (860) 710-1262 or dre.prestoncity@gmail.com.

INFANT NURSERY

The church nursery will be taking a summer break! The room will be available to use, but WILL NOT be staffed until Sunday school reopens. If you would be interested in helping in this Ministry starting in September and running through May 2022, please reach out. It is so rewarding to be a safe, loving place for our youngest church members!!! All you need is a smile, a lap, a hug, and a love for Jesus, to apply!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

All ages following the Children's Message
9 AM service



BINGO

We have a 10-day bingo coming at the beginning of August.. Thank you to those who have signed up to assist at bingo at Strawberry Park. Please sign-up if you are able to help; we need three workers to

sell cards at each session.

Do you have a Personal Identification Number (PIN) necessary to help? The office has the information and forms available to get you started if you don't!

The Women's Fellowship would like to thank everyone who donated items for the kindness bags. We were able to assemble 47 bags which will be handed out at our food pantry. Our next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 11 @ 9am. We are planning a delightful event for this meeting; more details to follow.



DID YOU KNOW...

that every month we provide bags of food for 60-80 families? In every bag there are 2 cans of tuna and soup, 3-4 canned vegetables, pasta sauce, 2 dry pasta, peanut butter, jelly, canned pasta, rice and mac and cheese. A second bag contains toilet paper, bread, and cereal. Donations to stock the shelves are always welcome; monetary donations that are collected at the church office, are given to the Pantry Crew who will do the shopping for you!

SEARCH FOR ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR

As many of you have heard, Robin Lyon will be retiring the end of September. We are presently searching for a new Organist/ Choir Director. We have placed ads on several social networking sites as well as contacting several college music departments. If anyone knows of someone who might be interested in this position and would like more information, please have them contact John Marino at marinojohn@sbcglobal.net

The Preston Historical Society and **Rediscovering History** are hosting a cemetery clean-up at the Guiles Safford Cemetery on Rt. 165. It will be this Sunday, July 25th from 9am to 2pm. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Please dress accordingly and bring equipment with you. Lunch will be provided.

WHAT A WEEK IT WAS!

AFTER a week of threatening storms, the sun shone brightly for the retirement celebration of

Reverend Stanley E. White!

On Saturday, July 17, 2021, the 40' x 80' tent was filled with well-wishers gathered on a very hot day, to send our beloved minister off to new horizons as he retires on July 31, 2021. Among the audience was his family, there in full force, as well as Reverend Doctor Irven Gammon of the Northeast Fellowship of Congregational Christian Churches. Rev. Gammon also was the guest minister the following day, as honors continued at two worship services and in thanks to a gracious God who blessed our church with this true servant all these years.

Highlights of Saturday were the planting of a Dappled Willow tree, and speakers included, Joyce Costner, our former organist of 30 years, Deacon Stella Dawley, Deacon Lowell Calkins, who was on the Search Committee that brought Rev. Stan to Preston, and Shari Purcell. In addition, Lisa Abel gave a heartwarming talk about her time at PCCC under his leadership. She spoke about former Confirmation students who underwrote the cost of the Hot Cat Jazz Band that entertained us with their music throughout the afternoon.

Songs were sung by Bekah Little and Bryan Van Alst, and a humorous skit was performed by Hunter and Hayden Bustamante on "A Sunday Morning in the Life of Rev. Stan". A video was composed by Lisa Van Alst and Hunter Bustamante on the *36 Wonderful Years With Rev. Stan*. Ice cream sundaes were served and bags of homemade cookies were favors.

A special commemorative coin was created depicting our church on one side and a rooster on the other side. It was anonymously provided by a church member and given to those who requested them. A special brochure was prepared in his honor and distributed to all in attendance.

Deacon Pat Marino presented Rev. Stan with a memory box of cards and well-wishes from our church family and friends as well as a monetary gift we hope will be used for future adventures.

On Sunday morning Rev. Stan was given the 'day off' as members of the Retirement Committee and special guests presented the services in his honor.

Lisa (Marino) Abel and her daughter, Marin, played a beautiful prelude piano duet called "I Stand Amazed Medley." Nancy Obreiter sang "His Eye Is On The Sparrow" one of Rev. Stan's favorite hymns. A presentation was made by Senior Deacon, Lee Ann Fessenden, as a special honor to Rev. Stan on behalf of the church: a certificate conferring upon him the title of **Minister Emeritus**, which is given to a long-time professional who gave exemplary service. He shepherded his "flock" with unfailing service for **36** years. You, Rev. Stan, will always have a special place in our hearts and those of many in the community of Preston and beyond.

We give grateful thanks to the Retirement Celebration Committee: Deacons Timothy Bowles, Stella Dawley, Pat Marino, Sharon Breen and Bob Vescovi; additionally, our DRE, Lisa Van Alst, as well as Patrick Magowan and Chair Sandy Dudek. We thank our clerk, Susan Brosnan for the assistance she gave the committee. Also, Rich Chalifoux, the trustees, and John Marino lent a BIG hand for this event. To all who are not named, my apologies...there were many of you!

Some of you have called the office for his address. Here it is: 22 Parkwoods Drive, Norwich, CT 06360.

Rev. Stan - We wish you a wonderful future; we know you will continue to serve God faithfully wherever you go and whatever you do!

Submitted by Sandy Dudek

LITTLE PILGRIM COORDINATOR

Please send information to be included in the newsletter no later than Tuesday at noon each week: susan.brosnan@gmail.com. Thank you

THE LAST WORD



"Everyone is welcome here!"