

## Preston City Congregational Church



**Week of August 30, 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](http://prestoncitycongregational.org). and  
click the stream button. Previous  
services may be viewed using the  
archive system on the site.

Live viewings: 54; countries – 1 - US;  
states -19; cities - 38  
Archives:144

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Communion Sunday** Sept 5  
**Women's Fellowship** Sept 11 @  
9AM  
**Sunday School** Sept 12 @ 9AM  
**Chicken BBQ Dinner** – Sept 25  
Pick-up 4 – 5:30P

### **NEWS FROM THE DEACONS**

The Deacons will be passing the  
communion tray this Sunday with  
the continued use of the  
individually wrapped cups for  
safety. Additionally, the option to  
pick up a communion cup in the  
basket at the door is also available  
if that is still more comfortable for  
some.

### **REMINDER**

**8/18/21 - Effective immediately** and until further notice, for the safety of all church-goers, we **strongly recommend** that **everyone wear a mask** inside the church as suggested by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SECCOG).

**This applies to both those vaccinated and unvaccinated.** Thank you for your consideration for all.

## Pastor's Corner

Mother Teresa, when asked about her ministry to humanity, once quipped, "I'm a little pencil in the hand of a writing God who is sending a love letter to the world." So, too, it is true with our lives when we decide to begin this journey of faith taking strides to become our best selves. We soon come to see that our lives are a narrative being penned by a divine author.

Now this sounds wonderful in theory, until we remember that there is a process to creative writing that is much more messy and laborious than its final product. See if this sounds familiar... to begin, you just decide to start, to put pencil to paper or fingers to keys, right? Well, yes... that is, after all of the pencils in the house have been sharpened, twice; your desk has been rearranged, the windows cleaned (because, of course, there is no better time for this than just before sitting down to write). Then finally, after a ~~couple of false starts~~ and crossed out words, you start.

The process continues, ideas begin to flow until, with a grateful sigh and a cry of jubilee, the process is finished. That is, until the editing begins. A process that feels like first discovering that the man in the red suit at Christmas is not who you thought him to be. Simply said, it takes some of the magic away! I think we can all agree, there is often little glamour in the process and it often gets worse before it gets better.

Our lives are much the same way. When we begin a new narrative or take a leap from the surety of our safe nesting places, beginning to grow and evolve, our lives often look worse before they look better. Our individual lives are works in the raw, unfinished symphonies, papers in the middle of ongoing edits..., before being polished and improved.

God often uses the circumstances of life to do this, to edit and shape our narrative. This is not always a pleasant process but the good news is that, "He who has begun a good work in you will see it to completion, until the day of Jesus Christ." The great news is that God will not abandon us in the middle of this process. He is constantly working with us to create a Pulitzer Prize winning masterpiece from the painstakingly human drafts of our lives.

This realization, the simple acknowledgment of this process, can help moments of frustration seem small when compared to the hope of the final work. My hope for you is that at times when your story seems on hold, when it seems inconsistent or when you are not certain how your next chapter will turn out, that you will remember: no matter how frustrating it seems in the moment, your life is still beautiful. It is still a part of the greatest love story ever penned, by a writing God. After all, as Scriptures reminds us, "*YOU are a letter from Christ... written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.*" - 2 Corinthians 3:3

See You on Sunday,  
Rev. Rae



Relaunch of in-person Sunday school IS happening, Sunday September 12, 2021 @ 9a.m.! Check your email to find the registration form or pick up a copy from the table, upstairs, outside the sanctuary!

EVERYONE is welcome. After church, come explore the room, ask your questions, register your family, and talk to me about how you can help. We still need Mentors/Teachers for Sunday mornings, assistants, prep crew, clean-up crew, event helpers.... Curious what all these new titles mean..... Let's talk this Sunday!!! If you can't make Sunday just call me and I will gladly fill you in.

Requirements are simple, must LOVE Jesus, love kids, be willing to complete a background check (I do that for you), & be a member of our church.

Blessings

Mrs. Lisa Van Alst D.R.E

(860) 710-1262 or [dre.prestoncity@gmail.com](mailto: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.



You are invited to the Women's Fellowship  
Sept. 11th @9am in Halls' Hall.

**THE ADULT CHOIR** will resume rehearsals on Thursday, Sept 9 at 7 pm. We will practice in Halls' Hall. I hope to see all those who LOVE to sing!



**CHICKEN BARBECUE**  
(Take-out ONLY)  
**Saturday, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**4 – 5:30PM**



All tickets \$13.00 - Available after services Sept. 12 & 19 and through the church office (860 887-4647). All tickets must be prepaid and will NOT be available for purchase that night.  
Menu - Grilled chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, roll, cranberry sauce & dessert

### BINGO



We have some **Saturday afternoon bingos** coming up in **September** and **October**, and then on **Labor Day & Columbus Day weekends** we have **Sunday games** as well. We need three workers to sell cards at each session; please sign-up if you are able to help.

**Thank you** to those who have signed up to assist.

### A NEW FUNDRAISER TO SUPPORT OUR CHURCH

Looking for a special gift or something for yourself?

Members of the Supper Committee are offering the opportunity

eco-conscious items through Boon

Supply. There are kitchen items, reusable shopping bags and accessories, gift items and home goods. The church will receive

**40%** of each purchase. You make your purchase online, shipping and tax are included, and your items are shipped right to your home! **Shopping ends September 13.**

[Start shopping](#)



Our **FALL YARD SALE** is planned for **October 2<sup>nd</sup>**.

Start setting aside all of those goodies!

We will let you know when we are able to collect items.



### AND REMEMBER...

#### THE CLOTHING SHED is

**always open for donations.** We can accept used clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, linens, pillowcases, blankets, curtains, and stuffed animals.

**MISSING TENT** – Following Rev. Stan's celebration, a 10 x 20 tent has not been located. If you know where it might have been put, please call the office.

### LITTLE PILGRIM COORDINATOR

Please send information to be included in the newsletter no later than Tuesday at noon each week:

[susan.brosnan@gmail.com](mailto:susan.brosnan@gmail.com). Thank you

### THE LAST WORD

A Special Thank You and Blessings for all front-line workers!

Have a safe holiday!



### LABOR DAY

# NEWS FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

## Online Giving Updates

If you already have an online giving account through Vanco, please note they recently updated their e-giving page. This means next time you log in to your account, (either through the Vanco website, through the Vanco Give + App for iPhone/Android/tablets, or via the green “Donate Now” button on our church website), you will be asked to update your payment information and also your schedule of offering (one-time, weekly, bi-monthly or monthly).

## New Online Giving Accounts

If you have never signed up for online giving but would like to, please follow these guidelines:

You can use your checking account, your savings account, or a debit/credit card. Here’s how to sign up:

1. Go to our church website [www.prestoncitycongregational.org](http://www.prestoncitycongregational.org) and click on the green “Donate Now” tab on the right side of the home page.
2. If this is your first time on the donation page, click on “Sign Up” in the upper right corner. Follow the steps to complete your profile and set up a personal password for your account.
3. Once your online profile is set up, click on the green “Donate Now” tab and type in your email address and password to access your account. Then follow the steps to add either your checking account number, savings account number, or debit/credit card information. You can make a one-time offering, or a periodic (weekly, bi-monthly or monthly) offering. **Important note:** transactions cannot be processed on Sundays, so choose the following Monday as the processing date.

### Additional notes:

- If you would like to make a repeating offering, just leave the end date blank and your offering will follow the same schedule. You can log into your account any time to change the amount, the frequency, or to stop your offering
- If you close the bank account or credit/debit card that is on file with your online giving profile, please remember to update your account information
- In addition to the church website, you can also access your online giving account through a free app on your iPhone, Android phone or tablet. Simply go to the App Store or the Google Play Store and load the “GivePlus” app by Vanco. After loading the app, it will prompt you to type in the church name, so type/select Preston City Congregational.

If you have any questions on any of the above, you can reach Bob Vescovi by phone or text 401.583.7840 or email [RVesco2010@comcast.net](mailto:RVesco2010@comcast.net)