

Preston City Congregational Church



Week of September 12, 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

Worship services at 9AM & 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.

Live viewings: 49; countries – 1 - US;
states -14; cities - 35

Archives:282

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday School - Sept 19 9AM

Semi-annual Meeting - Sun.
Sept 19 Noon

Bible Study - Mon. Sept 20 10A

AA - Wed. Sept 22 7:30PM Pavilion

Adult Choir - Thu. Sept 23 7PM

Chicken BBQ Dinner - Sat. Sept 25.
Pick-up 4 – 5:30P

Yard Sale – Sat. Oct 2 8AM – 2PM

NEWS FROM THE CLERK

The fall Semi-annual Church Meeting is
Sunday, September 19 at noon in the
sanctuary. All are welcome; however,
only active members may vote.

**REMINDER Effective immediately
(8/18/21)** 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.

Pastor's Corner

What a beautiful week! With the change in the weather, fall is almost officially here. Some of us know exactly how to celebrate what this means. Once again, it is a chance to take beautiful winding drives down back roads as we observe the leaves changing color. And, let's not forget; Pumpkin EVERYTHING! A few years back, I discovered one of my absolute favorite things to do during this season; apple picking. My wife and I went out to Nashoba Valley winery & orchard and, what fun! Although, while standing in the orchard that day, I started thinking about the process of how the apples I was picking came to be on the tree and how those apples mirrored a similar process of growth in our own lives. What I mean to ask is, have you ever stopped to consider the theology of fruit?

I know, but stay with me here. There is a scripture in the book of John where the anointed one paints a beautiful agricultural analogy. He states, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit while pruning every branch that does bear fruit so that it will be more fruitful." (John 15:1-2) How true that there are times in all of our lives when the universe seems to prune people and circumstances from our lives. Although, how do you know the difference between the damage we sometimes cause ourselves and this sort of cosmic pruning which clears the way for new growth?

To the untrained eye, pruning often looks the same as the indiscriminate, reckless and painful breaking of branches. The major difference between the two is simply intentionality. I believe that when we deliberately strive towards the moral good, then the universe will assist us by often removing unhealthy and or dead obstacles that are blocking the way to life's greater harvest. Although painful, a healthy pruning is always necessary.

A good example is a relationship that we have struggled to maintain and hold on to, only to find continued signs of decay. Just because a particular path or branch of a romantic love is cleared away through whatever clever circumstances the universe employs, it doesn't mean that love was not meant to grow there. Yes, right there in YOUR life! It could instead mean that good was the enemy of the best in your life. Without the opportunity to remove one limiting path, you may not be able to reap a greater yield waiting to spring forth more resplendent than ever before.

I'm convinced that the pain of pruning can sometimes cause us to hold on to unhealthy growth in our lives; or on the other hand, we often seek ways to anesthetize the pain of life's pruning rather than analyzing its purpose and what it came to teach us. This week, can I invite you to try a different path altogether? Try focusing, not on the pain of the loss that you have experienced. Instead, focus your energy and love in cultivating the new sprouts of purpose, joy and love that the universe has decided to put in its place. Share the process with true friends who might help you see this new path of growth in your life with clarity, for what it is.

Above all, if you should find yourself in the midst of a painful season right now, realize that it is only through enduring and remaining in our truth, even in difficult times, that a harvest can finally be brought forth in our lives. After all, as John Quincy Adams once quipped, "Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish." My prayer for you this week is that you will come to understand what I did that afternoon while apple picking. That no matter how small the initial seed of hope that carries your dreams, if you stay with the process, hang in there until the season is right, and endure life's pruning; then eventually a prolific and bountiful harvest full of matured vision can and will spring forth in your life!

Remaining In His Light,

Rev. Rae



We successfully launched in-person Sunday School last week! 45 young & beautiful souls are currently registered and on board. We are on a Mission to learn about Jesus! Seats are still available for this loving journey! We could still use adult crew members to help guide and influence littles; ask me how!

Mark your calendars. Our 1st Family Fun Day Sunday is October 3 @ noon! We will be having a cookout with Rev. Rae and building Scarecrows. You can sign-up on the exit door of Dudek Hall, or by texting/emailing me. All Church families are invited: kids, teens, moms, dads, and grandparents! Please text, call, or email ANY questions.

Blessings always,
Lisa Van Alst DRE

(860) 710-1262 or dre.prestoncity@gmail.com

BINGO



Only a few sessions left!

Saturday afternoon bingos continue in **September** and **October**, and then on **Columbus Day weekend** 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.

Our **FALL YARD SALE** is planned for **October 2nd**. **We are able to accept donations now.**



Please call Stella Dawley ((860) 887-6452) to make arrangements. Help is needed for set-up at 6AM and clean-up at 1:30PM; a sign-up sheet has been posted. Pickup trucks are needed at clean-up. Please remember: no computers, tires, air conditioners or clothing. Thank you

THE CLOTHING SHED is always open for donations.

We can accept used clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, linens, pillowcases, blankets, curtains, and stuffed animals.

THE ADULT CHOIR rehearses on Thursdays at 7 pm. We will practice in Halls' Hall.

I hope to see all those who LOVE to sing!

Robin Lyon



BIBLE STUDY

Mondays @ 10A
Halls' Hall
Romans 8

Contact Ken Sebastian (860- 887-4323) or Chris Burden (chrisburden5@yahoo.com) with any questions.

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

Open your heart to God



CHURCH OFFICE UPDATES

A CONFIRMATION INFORMATIONAL MEETING

is scheduled for **families of 9th & 10th graders** on **Sunday, Sept. 26 at noon**. Please call or email the office by Sept. 21 to register.

3rd grade students are able to receive their **FIRST COMMUNION** on World Communion Sunday, Oct. 3rd. An **informational class** will be held **Friday, Oct. 1 at 6P**. Please contact the office to register your child.

CHICKEN BARBECUE

(Take-out ONLY)

Saturday, Sept. 25th

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