

Preston City Congregational Church



The Little Pilgrim

Week of October 24, 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: 46; countries -1; states
-17; cities -36; Archives last week:126

UPCOMING EVENTS

Confirmation Class Tu. 6-7PM

AA Wed. -7:30PM Dudek Hall

Bible Study Thu. -10AM

Adult Choir Thu. -7PM

REMINDER Effective 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, who were previously
requested to wear masks indoors.

We would like to express our
thanks to the entire Bingo team.

Returning workers and those who
came onto the team this year have
made a big impact; \$12,560.80 was
added to the church budget this year.
Many thanks to Sally Exley, the Bingo
Lead Coordinator who is retiring from
this position. Lee Ann Fessenden and
Lisa Fessenden have stepped forward
to lead the team in 2022.

Pastor's Corner

Don't Give Up!

"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize." 1 Corinthians 9:24

One of the most inspiring races I have ever watched was at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona. David Redman was a British born athlete who captivated the world's attention and, years later, my own. Interestingly enough however, Redman galvanized the attention of many but not because he won a medal that year. That's right, there was no gold, silver or bronze medal for Redman that Olympic season. No, David Redman's story resonates for a much different reason. While running the 400 meters in a semi-final race, Redman tore his hamstring. Painful!!! But, what's transcendent about his story is that, knowing there was no chance of a win, Redman still decided to finish the race anyway. Despite the severe pain, and even when it meant that his hobbling to the finish line before millions of people would leave him in dead last place. What an inspiration! This story should also encourage all of us to never quit.

In 1 Corinthians, did you know that Paul compares the spiritual journey of each believer to a race? Perhaps he does so aptly considering the many difficulties and pains that threaten to delay our own life's journey at times. Christ said it this way: in paraphrase, "as long as we live in this life, we will have trouble." (John 16:33). All of us experience setbacks. All of us, in measure, come to know what David Redman must have felt, in part, that morning in Barcelona. Redman's story and strength not to give up during his moment of trials and tribulations should encourage each of us to always fight the urge to quit, when we experience setbacks and we all do.

The setbacks we experience don't have to be a source of guilt and shame when we realize that God is not about creating perfection in our lives but rather maturity. A perfectionist will always see their shortcomings but those who seek maturity can always take the opportunity to see progress; even when their journey is checkered by mistakes or failure. It's that quiet, confidence of faith in a power greater than ourselves that causes us to look at tempest and trial and proclaim that the resilience of the one within us is greater than the tempest of the world without. When we do this, then we have gained spiritual maturity. This mastery over our fears is not easy and sometimes we need help. That is what I love about Redman's story. You see once Redman knew that the race was lost due to injury, he collapses to one knee with disappointment in his eyes. However, then he experienced an epiphany and decided not to give up! After he painfully hobbles along by himself a few steps, something changes. His father, who was in the stands, saw Redman's attempt to continue the race in spite of the pain he was experiencing. His father rushed from the stands, jumped the barricade and put his arms around his son while supporting part of his son's weight as he hobbled the rest of the way to the finish line.

Here's the good news: you have a heavenly Father who loves you just that much. He sees you attempting to continue in spite of the pains in your life. When you are fighting the urge to quit, while still employing wisdom, prayer and common reasoning towards your life's purpose and pursuit, then God uses the confluence of events and circumstances to rush from the stands of eternity to give you the strength and support you need to get to the finish. I implore you this week to keep fighting; fight even stronger and know that if you just keep moving toward the direction of God's best for your life, you will reach the finish line. On that day, your reward will not be a gold, silver or bronze medal. But rather the beauty of hearing these words, "well done, my good and faithful servant."

See You Sunday,

Rev. Rae

NEW MEMBERS will be welcomed into the church on November 21st, at both services of worship. If you are interested in joining the church, please sign the sheet posted on the mid-level bulletin board. We'll mail you all the information. New members **MUST** meet with the Diaconate on November 14th, at 11:30 a.m. The deadline to sign up is **Sunday, November 7th**.



The 2nd Sunday Funday is quickly approaching! Remember, there is no in-class Sunday school on Nov. 7th, instead we will worship together upstairs. Then from 12:00 to 2:00 we will be making Blessing Mix, packaging it, and writing thank you cards for the community helpers that will be receiving them. Your family will have a choice of thanking the workers of a local nursing home, police officers, school workers, or fire fighters. Come join the fun and spread God's love around town. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the double doors of Dudek Hall starting Sunday.

Also, the Board of Education is hosting their Annual Basket Drawing fund-raiser. If you would like to donate a themed basket for this event, there is a sign-up sheet on the mid-level bulletin board. You will be able to view the baskets down the main hallway outside Dudek Hall. Tickets will also be available before and after services starting November 20th, with the drawing on December 10. You need not be present to win. If you have any questions, please contact Wendy Abrahamson @ 860-908-5020.

Sunday School is collecting food to help the Food Pantry make up Thanksgiving meal baskets! Our goal is to have at least 10 baskets!

Nursery & Toddler classes: Boxed Stuffing
 Kindergarten - 3rd graders: Bags of apples, or oranges, tangerines, pears, or canned cranberry sauce
 4th - 8th graders: Bags of potatoes, sweet potatoes, or squash
 High Schoolers: Canned veggies
Please have all donations in by Sunday Nov. 14th!!!!

Blessings Always,
 Lisa Van Alst DRE
 email dre.prestoncity@gmail.com
 or call 860-710-1262.

CHURCH OFFICE UPDATES

Confirmation class is meeting Tuesday from 6-7PM.

Please remember to advise the church office, when scheduling or canceling any meeting or event. The office is where people turn for answers. We cannot help if we are not advised.



THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP will be making up "Birthday Cake Bundles" for the Food Pantry at their November meeting. We are asking for your assistance in collecting the following items needed to create the bundles; disposable aluminum pan, boxed cake mix, canned frosting and birthday candles. The items can be left in the Food Pantry bins at the church entrances. Thank you for your assistance.

THE BOARD OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

BASKET DRAWING on DECEMBER 12TH



Sign-up sheets for basket donations are posted on the mid-level bulletin board. Please have assembled baskets to the church by November 20. Tickets will be available November 28 & December 5. Questions? Call Chairperson Wendy Abrahamson at 860-908-5020 or email wabrahamson@sbcglobal.net.

The Sunday School is self-supporting and the annual basket drawing is their largest fund-raiser.



Food
Pantry
Ministry

THE FOOD PANTRY will be open following services on Sunday, October 31, 2021 for church attendees to pick up a bag of food for someone they know, or even for themselves.

BIBLE STUDY meets in Halls' Hall at 10 AM on Thursday.

Rev. Rae will be leading our discussion on Matthew 24. Contact Ken Sebastian (860- 887-4323) or Chris Burden (chrisburden5@yahoo.com) with any questions.



THE ADULT CHOIR rehearses on Thursdays at 7PM in Halls' Hall.

No experience necessary, just an enthusiasm for singing.

This is the final weekend for purchases!

Fall Fundraisers

October 10 - October 31, 2021



The NUTS Are BACK!!!

The Supper Committee has taken on the Nut/Candy Fundraiser.

As with everything this year, a few changes have been made to this event.

Everyone who wishes to purchase nuts/candies will now need to complete an order sheet and attach payment with it.

Please plan accordingly as **we will only order once** for this event.

Shirley Hodkinson (860-908-6493) will chair the Nut/Candy Fundraiser.

Butter Braid /Cake Roll Fundraiser

The Supper Committee will again offer the Butter Braid/Cake Roll Fundraiser this fall.

A new addition this year is the option to purchase a bag of soup mix at \$16, that will go to our Food Pantry!

This fundraiser can be ordered on line, [Butter Braids order form](#) or if you wish, you can use an order sheet and give **one payment** to us for **both fundraisers**, since they will run concurrently.

Lee Ann Fessenden (860-334-7382) will chair the Butter Braid Fundraiser.

Both Fundraisers will be available for Pick Up at the Church on Saturday, November 20th.

Time to be announced at a later date after the orders have been placed.

FORMS ARE ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE AND AT THE CHURCH OFFICE

ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE CHURCH OFFICE BY OCTOBER 29; PLEASE PLAN ACCORDINGLY IF MAILING ORDERS.

CONDOLENCES

We express our sympathy to the family of Jean Miller.

DID YOU KNOW...

that the web-streaming team has been broadcasting our 9AM Sunday services (and some special times) since 2016? This important mission has made our church services available for many.

For eleven weeks, when the pandemic quarantine began in March 2020, they were there each week to bring our services to all when we could not meet in person. This included Palm Sunday and Easter. Those who are not able to attend church still watch on Sunday mornings. Others have been able to keep connected even while on vacation! We have viewers from all around the US and the world watching live or viewing the archived services. Jim Wright sets up the program each week, including the words to prayers and hymns, that will be used during the service so viewers can participate. He then displays them at the appropriate times during the online service on Sunday morning. Sandra Wright operates the cameras, making sure our viewers have the best views during the service. Patrick Magowan manages the sound, so all may hear the many different speakers and soloists as if everyone were with them there in the church.

You are welcome to stop in and see how it all operates on Sunday morning.

SEARCH FOR ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR

We have extended our search for an Organist/ Choir Director.

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.

LITTLE PILGRIM COORDINATOR

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

Susan.brosnan@gmail.com or 860 889-0768.

THE LAST WORD

1 Corinthians 13:7



If others have something to share, words of wisdom, (or perhaps a joke or cartoon!), please contact Sue Brosnan.

**Preston City Congregational Church
Nut Order Form 2021
(Must be pre-paid)**

	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Total</u>
\$12.00		
Pecans	_____ @12.00	_____
Walnuts	_____ @12.00	_____
Mixed Nuts	_____ @12.00	_____
Cashews	_____ @12.00	_____
Pistachios	_____ @12.00	_____
Harvest Medley	_____ @12.00	_____
\$9.00		
Trail Mix	_____ @9.00	_____
Malted Milk Balls	_____ @9.00	_____
\$8.00		
Chocolate Covered Peanuts	_____ @8.00	_____
Gummi Bears	_____ @8.00	_____
Honey Roasted Peanuts	_____ @8.00	_____
TOTAL \$		_____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

**All items are one pound unless marked otherwise.
Use this form for nut orders or you may combine this with
the BB/Cake Roll form, and make one payment with order.**

Cash or check to: PCCC

**Orders and payment will be taken on Sundays after services,
starting October 10th, or submitted to the church office, by October
29.**

**Pick-up date is Saturday, November 20th
Time to be announced!**

Please consider going online to Donate a Soup to the Preston City
Congregational Church Food Pantry!
Thank you for your support!

Name: _____ Phone: _____
 Email: _____
 Teacher: _____
 Organization: Preston City Congregational Church
 Please Make Checks Payable to: Preston City Congregational
 Church
 Any questions, contact Lee Ann Fessenden at (860) 887-4647

Date to Start
10/10/2021

Return Order
10/31/2021

Pick-Up Date
11/20/2021

Name	Phone	Sign in and order Online at :	Family's Order	Check with Aunts and Uncles	Can Mom or Dad self at work?	Grandma's order	Check with your siblings	Check with people at church	DONATE A PRODUCT TO LOCAL CHARITIES!	SCC	CINN	APP	BLUE	RASP	BAV	4-CH	CINN	PUM	CHOC	RED	STRA	LEM	CARR	Total Items	Total \$
Strawberry Cream Cheese																									
Cinnamon																									
Apple																									
Blueberry Cream Cheese																									
Raspberry																									
Bavarian Creme																									
4 Cheese & Herb Bread *																									
Cinnamon Rolls *																									
Pumpkin																									
Chocolate Creme																									
Red Velvet																									
Strawberry Cheesecake																									
Lemon																									
Carrot Cake																									
Joyful Traditions® Cake Rolls \$15.00																									
Butter Braid Pastries® - \$14.00																									

Sales Tips:
 1. Ask Family and Friends to help you!
 2. Introduce yourself and your organization.
 3. Smile, be polite and thank them for their order.
 4. Do not sell door to door without adult supervision.
 5. Collect money when taking orders.
 6. Bring a cooler for distribution of large frozen orders!

Allergy Information – Butter Braid® Pastries and Joyful Traditions Cake Rolls are produced in a plant that processes nuts. Check our website for ingredient listings.

***4 Cheese and Herb** comes with marinara sauce
***Cinnamon rolls** come with cream cheese frosting

MCM Fundraising, Inc. New England Exclusive Fundraising Distributors
 Butter Braid® Pastries, Joyful Traditions Cake Rolls, Lyman Orchards® Pies
 Otis Spunkmeyer® Cookie Dough, Simply Shipped Collection,
 MCM's Gourmet Popcorn
 860-375-8138 - www.mcmfundraising.com