

**Preston City  
Congregational Church**



**Week of October 31, 2021 –  
November 7, 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](http://prestoncitycongregational.org). and  
click the stream button. Previous  
services may be viewed using the  
archive system on the site.

Live viewings: 47; countries -2; states  
-16; cities -31; Archives last week:139

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Communion Sunday** 9 & 10:30AM

**Sunday Funday** Noon-2PM

**Confirmation Class** Tu. -6:30PM

**AA** Wed. -7:30PM Dudek Hall

**Bible Study** Thu. -10AM

**Adult Choir** Thu. -7PM

**Women's Fellowship** Sat. -9AM

**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.



**Daylight Savings  
Time ends  
November 7<sup>th</sup>!  
Remember to  
set your clocks  
back one hour  
Saturday night.**

**Pastor's Corner**

**The Courage to Act**

Similar to the days we live in now, the original Disciples of Christ lived in a constantly shifting political and social landscape. These shifting changes meant that, like it is for us, the disciples of old needed to be able to act quickly and adaptively. Although, it takes a certain mindset to truly understand the sentiment "as our case is new, we must think and act anew" and to readily embrace change and uncertainty. Perhaps that's why Jesus selected untraditional faith leaders like the passionate Peter.

Peter, the Apostle, was always a man of action. Perhaps, to an extreme, he was impetuous at times. Often, his propensity to action before a thought process was complete, caused him to fail in spectacular ways. However, instead of being condemned, a measure of Peter's behavior should be lauded. After all, it is courage, and not caution, that leads to great success.

Yes, Peter's impulsive behavior meant that he was often viewed as unpolished, raw and unrefined. Although Peter's pursuit of God's best for both his life and his love for God was authentic and pure. Far from contrived and restrained, Peter's love was tangible and bold. But, oh how flawed it was..... When Peter tried to walk on water, he sank. When he argued with Christ, he lost. And finally, when he tested his own loyalty, he betrayed.

Yet, in spite of all of this anguish, Peter remains a seminal hero in our Christian faith. **Perhaps, Peter is a good example, serving to remind us that perfection is not required to please God, but rather the possession of a radiant, bold faith that is not afraid to act.**

Sometimes, not thinking before we act, is a positive. This lack of thought becomes the dogged determination to move in the course of what is just or true without concern for ourselves. It is the same impulse that defines every good Samaritan's actions. In fact, it is actually the overthinking that has led to the faltering of more than one Christian's faith. The overthinking of your own will, sometimes stops us from truly proclaiming God's "thine will be done," or "nevertheless at thine word."

Perhaps Peter's life is a reminder to us of this: that when we shoot our arrows of purpose, intentionality, and with resolve, but we miss our targets morally, emotionally, or spiritually, our faith demands ONE thing of us; continued ACTION! Peter's brand of sometimes impulsive but always courageous faith demands that we pick up our arrows and try again.

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 14<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30AM. **The deadline to sign up is Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>.**



**This Sunday** is our 2nd Family & Friends Sunday Funday!!!!

There will be no in-person Sunday School @ 9AM, instead we will meet in Hall's Hall (coffee hour room) at noon. We will be making a Blessing Mix to be given to healthcare workers as a thank-you for all their love and dedication. We will also be making Turkey Centerpieces for the residents to place in the dining hall/rooms in care facilities. All the fun starts at noon and ends before 2:00PM. All Sunday school students, their families, & friends are invited. Please let me know if you will be attending so we have enough supplies.

Don't forget we are still collecting food items for Thanksgiving Baskets! You CAN send fresh fruits/veggies, however we do NOT need apples! Mrs. Brewster has us covered there. Squash, sweet potatoes, potatoes, carrots, pears, oranges, tangerines, etc. are all welcome. Boxed/bagged stuffing mix, gravies, cranberry sauce are also welcome items. All items need to be here no later than **NOV. 14th!**

We are also looking for some Pilgrims! Sunday November 21, 2021 is Thanksgiving Sunday. We need young Pilgrims to be greeters before the 1st & 2nd service. They will also read a few lines at the beginning of each service. Please contact me if your child is interested! and....Finally..... The children will be helping the adult choir SUNDAY, NOV. 28th during the 9AM service, so plan on attending! All practicing will occur during Sunday School.

Lisa Van Alst DRE  
email [dre.prestoncity@gmail.com](mailto:dre.prestoncity@gmail.com)  
or call 860-710-1262.

## CHURCH OFFICE UPDATES

**Confirmation class** is meeting Tuesday at 6:30PM.

There is **NO coffee hour** following services as it is too chilly to be outdoors. We are following the recommended state health guidelines and will update when there are changes.

**A Coat Drive** is being held from November 14<sup>th</sup> - December 12<sup>th</sup>. Boots, hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves are also needed. The items can be left in or on the Elizabeth Allyn box located to the right of the table in the mid-level hallway.

**The Supper Committee** presented the church with a check for \$1294.75 (so far!) from the Boon Bags and Gifts Fundraiser, to be used towards the church budget. Thank you to for your support.



**THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** will be making up "Birthday Cake Bundles" for the Food Pantry at their meeting **November 6 @ 9AM.**

## THE BOARD OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### BASKET DRAWING on DECEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>



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](mailto:wabrahamson@sbcglobal.net).

The donation of baskets for the basket drawing on December 12<sup>th</sup> can be left in the church office Monday-Friday, 9AM-noon.



Food  
Pantry  
Ministry

**This Sunday, November 7, is Two-Can Sunday and time to restock THE FOOD PANTRY.**

Donation boxes are located at the entrance doors. Thank you for your continued support for this ministry.

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

Rev. Rae will be leading our discussion on Romans 1,2,3.

Contact Ken Sebastian (860- 887-4323) or Chris Burden ([chrisburden5@yahoo.com](mailto: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.



**Quilts of Valor**<sup>®</sup>  
 Quilting to Honor & Comfort

**QUILTS OF VALOR**

I am in the process of working with the Quilts of Valor coordinator to present more quilts to veterans in our congregation.

The goal is to reach out to all veterans who have served our country. Please contact me if you served in any branch of the military. Last year's recipients at our church were Matt Schroeder, W. Rick Alletto, Deb Berube, Rob Berube, and Phil Whitworth.

Please do not hesitate to contact me and let me know of your service (860) 887-4647 or my cell (860) 608-9266. Thank you.

I look forward to hearing from you. Sandy Dudek

**CONDOLENCES**

We express our sympathy to the Marino family on the passing of Marian Trout.

**November** is a busy month in our church.

The Stewardship Drive to support the 2022 budget begins; the Nominating Committee will be setting their slate for 2022; the Missions Committee will be compiling their recommendations for disbursement of our missions yearly giving; November 16 is the churches' birthday (323 years!); new members will be taken in on Thanksgiving Sunday, AND, the Nuts and Pastries will arrive!

**A NOTE FROM THE CHURCH CLERK**

The Bylaw Committee will be meeting soon to review our church bylaws. Church members are welcome to submit any proposed bylaw change, consideration, or amendment, **stated in writing**, to a committee member. You can mail it to the church office (ATTN: Clerk), or email it to [Clerk@prestoncitycongregational.org](mailto:Clerk@prestoncitycongregational.org) by November 30th. Any changes agreed upon by the committee will be presented to the Standing Committee for preliminary review, comments and suggestions, before presentation to the membership for final approval at the Annual Meeting in February 2022.  
 Susan Brosnan, Clerk



**VETERANS DAY  
 THURSDAY  
 NOVEMBER 11**

**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](mailto: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](mailto:Susan.brosnan@gmail.com) or 860 889-0768.

**THE LAST WORD**



**Autumn Leaves**

As autumn leaves fall from their trees  
 And blustery winds  
 Drive them rustling upon each other,  
 Even as this harbinger of winter  
 Rattles at our windows,  
 Already I can hear the birds in spring  
 Singing in a blossomed tree  
 As if the downbeat of their glorious song  
 Were waiting all the winter long.

Michael Barrett

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