

**Preston City
Congregational Church**



**Week of November 14, 2021 –
November 21, 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: 34; countries -1; states
-13; cities -23; Archives last week:134

UPCOMING EVENTS

Confirmation Class Tu. 6:30PM

AA Wed. 7:30PM Dudek Hall

Men's Group Sat. 11/20 10AM

Nuts & Pastry Pickup Sat. 11/20
10:30-11:30AM

Church Food Pantry Sun. 11/21
after services

Adult Choir Tu. 11/23 7PM

Women's Fellowship Sat. 12/4
9AM

BRE Basket Drawing Sun. 12/12

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.

Pastor's Corner

... A Reminder to Remain Thankful

When we hear the word "Thanksgiving," it evokes many images in modern minds; images of football games, family reunions, roasted or fried turkeys, pumpkins, pumpkin pies, etc. Feasts and time spent with friends and family. However, for a moment let us imagine the sojourners, later known as the Pilgrims, at Wampanoag back in 1620. It is no secret that these early Pilgrims had a particularly difficult first winter after arriving in the new world. And, as William Bradford, the colonies' first governor, would later report, within "two or three months' time, half of their company died." After such a difficult first winter, even in the late summer of 1621, the harvest was somewhat meager and was referred to as, "the small harvest," by Governor Bradford when he compared this crop to following years in the colonies. The original plan was to have a time set aside for mourning each year to honor those who had passed, but that soon changed. These early settlers decided to declare a three-day feast during the late summer when food was plentiful; a time for prayer and thanksgiving.

During this season of life fraught with health scares, government uncertainty and social strain, we, too, may identify with the original impulse of the earlier settlers to mourn. It is easy to focus on what has been lost through the year. And, in uncertain times, we may also question whether what we have will carry us through the winters that will certainly come into our lives.

However, I challenge all of us to take time instead for prayer and thanksgiving as well as time to honor our Harvest (large or small) and rejoice for what we do possess. This month, I am writing to remind you that even before and after Thanksgiving has passed, we should maintain an attitude of gratitude. After all, gratitude is nothing more than a willingness to focus and respond to the good that God has placed in our lives; even in the midst of the pain. May God richly multiply what we readily acknowledge that the universe has already placed in our lives.

See You on Sunday,

Rev. Rae

NEW MEMBERS will be welcomed into the church on November 21st, at the 9AM service of worship. They include: Loida Fessenden, Mark Day and Reverend Raefield Perteet.

DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR STEWARDSHIP MAILING? There are letters on the table in the mid-level hallway or you can call the church office (860 887-4647) to have one sent out if needed.



The Sunday School classes were able to create 5 Thanksgiving baskets to donate to our food pantry! All baskets included a turkey, stuffing, potatoes, 2 cans of veggies, cranberry sauce, a bag of fresh fruit, and a homemade dessert. Thank you to all the families who made this happen. Also, a HUGE Thank You to everyone who contributed to the Confirmation Bake sale. It was a HUGE success. All monies raised will be used for a class gift to be announced in March.

Please look for our Pilgrims this Sunday! Jo'el Burden, Brent Fessenden, Hannah Gates, & Kendall Woodmansee will be greeting and passing out worship folders.

Sunday Family & Friends Funday will now be held occasionally instead of monthly, so a change in scheduling will be starting **SUNDAY DECEMBER 5th**. Sunday School will be in person! All children will report to their classrooms (Toddler 3 & 4 and K) or Dudek Hall (1st - 8th) like normal. High School will attend the 9a.m. service upstairs. The Nursery will also be staffed.

Finally, welcome Mrs. Abrahamson to the teaching staff! She will be co-teaching the 4th & 5th grade class, so Mrs. Woodmansee will be moving over to co-teach the 6th-8th graders. If you would like to join our ever-busy crew just let me know! Your God given talent can always be used! 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 6:30PM.

The Office is closed Thursday & Friday, November 25 & 26.

No Bible Study this week. Happy Thanksgiving!



The Men's Group will be meeting on Saturday, November 20th at 10 AM in Halls' Hall.

We welcome all men as we gather.

Please bring one of your favorite Bible verses and spend a few minutes discussing why it means so much to you. Also please bring canned goods and any other food items for our food pantry. Please contact Tim Bowles at 860-705-5613 with any questions or suggestions you may have.

Look forward to seeing you there.



THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP will be writing Christmas cards at their meeting December 4 at 9AM.

THE BOARD OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**BASKET DRAWING on
DECEMBER 12TH**



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 completed baskets may be left in the church office Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-noon.



Food
Pantry
Ministry

**The November Food Pantry
distribution for our Church
Family is November 21.**

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 26 is the last Sunday for
2021 giving.** All monies received after December 30 will be credited to 2022. Please keep these dates in mind, especially if you mail your offerings.



THE ADULT CHOIR will rehearse on **Tuesday Nov. 23 at 7PM** in Halls' Hall.



MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS

will be placed upon the altar on Christmas Sunday, December 19th. The Decorating Committee will have ordering information in our next newsletter.



A Coat Drive is being held from November 14th - December 12th. 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.

BINGO UPDATE

\$12,560.80 was made by bingo this year. The church was given \$12,300 in three payments. The remainder is still in the checking account where we need to keep a small balance for the cost of next year's permits and the startups for the first couple of bingos. Thank you to all who helped make this a successful year.



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 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

Congratulations to Susan Hopkins-Terrell on her induction into the Connecticut High School Coaches Hall of Fame. Sue coached her team to seven consecutive state championships in gymnastics at Norwich Free Academy, where she coached for 21 seasons. Your church family is very proud of you and your accomplishments!

THE LAST WORD

**"Count your blessings, name them one by one
Count your many blessings,
see what God has done"**

Remember that chorus from the Sunday School song?

In this season of Thanksgiving, we are blessed by your ongoing financial support of the church, especially with the on-going pandemic. Without your generosity the day-to-day operation of the church would be a challenge. Thank you to our many volunteers and those who lead us, keeping our church strong and looking forward.

Take the time every day to count your blessings.

Happy Thanksgiving!



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

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.