

**Preston City
Congregational Church**



**Week of November 28, 2021 –
December 5, 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: 48; countries -2; states
-13; cities -34; Archives last week:121

UPCOMING EVENTS

Confirmation Class Tu. 6:30PM

AA Wed. 7:30PM Dudek Hall

Bible Study Thu. 10AM

Women's Fellowship Sat. 12/4
9AM

BRE Basket Drawing Sun. 12/12

Coat Drive 11/14-12/12

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

Several years ago, a psychiatrist from the University of British Columbia reported that people who warmly greet strangers live a happier, healthier, and more fulfilled life! No really! They asked the participants of the study to enter a busy coffee shop and grab a beverage. Half would get in and out, and half would strike up a conversation with the cashier. The research found that those who randomly were assigned to turn this economic transaction into a quick social interaction left Starbucks in a better mood and they even felt a greater sense of belonging in their communities.

Now, we could spend time doubting this statistic or questioning how in the world researchers set the controls for such a study, but this is not really news to Christians. We are told as much in the Gospels. Remember the person who approached Jesus and asked, "How can I inherit eternal life?" (I translate "eternal life" to also include greater "life" now or an ultimate sense of fulfillment, happiness, and great health, wouldn't you?) Jesus answered, "You should love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, and strength, AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." And the question was asked, "Who is my neighbor?" The Gospels declare that it is the stranger, the "least of these."

Living a joyous, fulfilled, and healthy life is achieved by loving God and the neighbors around you-- and you just never know who the neighbor is going to be!

Have a healthy, safe and wondrous Christmas season!

Rev. Rae

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.

THANK YOU to those who have already submitted their pledge of financial support for the coming year. Although Stewardship Month has ended, pledges may be given to the Financial Secretary at any time. Please give as you are able. Help keep the ministry of the church going strong in the year ahead. If you did not receive the Stewardship mailing, pick one up on the Information Center table or contact the office and one will be mailed to you.



Oh, my goodness, it's December!!! The Children are learning about the season of Advent. We are preparing for the coming of the baby Jesus and boy are we busy!

We are starting a Children's Bell choir this Sunday! Looking for any 3rd - 5th graders who would love to learn a song for the Christmas Eve Children's service. All practices will be 10 minutes long, immediately following the 9 a.m. service in the children's choir room.

Mrs. Van Alst is seeking 2 wise men, and a few shepherds to act out the story of Jesus' birth on Christmas Eve

I also have the need for a few bakers for a special project. If you or any of your children are interested please let me know!

The Basket Drawing is ending this Sunday so hurry and get your tickets we have over 30 choices.

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.
Coffee Hour has resumed following Sunday services.

Occasionally, we need someone to hem baptismal cloths. We are looking for someone to do the hemming around the edges of these, with a simple straight stitch. If you can help, call the office (860 887-4647).



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

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



MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS

Is there someone you wish to remember this Christmas season?

We will be placing memorial Poinsettias on the altar on Christmas Sunday, December 19. The names of those honored will be included in the Sunday bulletin.

The cost of the poinsettias are \$12.00 apiece.

We will be collecting the money on Sunday, December 5, and Sunday, December 12. Forms will be available after the services and during coffee hour. If you have any questions, you can call or text Wendy Zajac at 860-705-8176 or Sharon Breen at 860-303-1184. Payments may also be left with the office. **Payment must be received by Sunday, December 12** so we can give a count to the greenhouse. Poinsettias may be picked up after the 10:30AM service on December 19.

THE BOARD OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

BASKET DRAWING on DECEMBER 12TH



Tickets will be available December 5 after services.

Tickets are 2/\$1 or an arm's length (12)/\$5 Check our Facebook page or website for photos of the baskets. We have 34 baskets!

Questions? Call Chairperson Wendy Abrahamson at 860-908-5020 or email wabrahamson@sbcglobal.net.

THE MEMORY TREE... The tree is up and the lights are on! The only thing missing is the ornaments! We invite you to place an ornament from your tree on our tree, in memory of a loved one. Be sure to write your last name on the ornament, then fill out the memorial form located by the tree and place it in the box. We'll list all memorials in the worship folder through December 12th. You may remove your ornament from the tree on *December 26th*.



A COAT DRIVE is being held from November 14th - December 12th.

Boots, hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves are also needed.

The items may be left in or on the Elizabeth Allyn box located to the right of the table in the mid-level hallway.



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5 IS COMMUNION SUNDAY AND TWO-CAN SUNDAY:
Time to replenish the Toucan Food Pantry.**

Boxes are located at both entry doors. Always needed: cereal, peanut butter, jelly, canned vegetables, canned fruit, canned soup, rice, macaroni and cheese, pasta, and spaghetti sauce. Canned pineapple slices are appreciated at this time for Christmas hams. Those who benefit from this ministry are most appreciative.

CHURCH CANCELLATIONS

When the decision is made that church or Sunday School must be cancelled, usually due to inclement weather, please tune into television Channel 3, call the church office (860 887-4647) for a recorded message, check our Facebook page or the website (prestoncitycongregational.org). If an event needs to be cancelled, that, too, will be posted as above. Please remember that church services may not be cancelled even if Sunday School is!

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

SHALOM!

The Hebrew word for peace

**December 5th is the second Sunday of Advent
and we light the Bethlehem Candle,
the second in our Advent Wreath.
The candle is purple and symbolizes**



PEACE

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

CHURCH MEMBERS will vote December 12th at the end of the 9AM service and the **beginning** of the 10:30AM service to disburse mission funds to the following local and overseas programs:

Missions Committee Recommendations For 2021 Giving		
National Association – Missions fund	\$800 (2 @\$250, 1 @\$300)	
<i>Word Alive Missions (Rev. Charles Nyane)</i>	\$300	<i>Western Ghana/ Ivory Coast based Mission</i>
<i>Piedmont College</i>	\$250	<i>Congregational College</i>
<i>Olivet College</i>	\$250	<i>Congregational College</i>
NACCC Hurting Churches Fund	\$250	Builds new Churches and helps Churches in need
Congregational Library	\$350	Congregational Library in Boston
Gideons International	\$250	Bible Distribution
Missionary Flights International	\$250	Missions Air Support
Heifer Project International	\$250	Income-Producing Animals
American Red Cross Disaster Relief	\$350	Relief to Disaster Victims / Connecticut Chapter
Salvation Army	\$350	Norwich Chapter / Charity
Madonna Place	\$400	Supports Local Families
St. Vincent de Paul	\$400	Soup Kitchen
Safe Futures	\$400	Transitional Housing and Assistance for Domestic Violence
Martin House	\$400	Housing for homeless with addiction or mental health problems
Senior Luncheon	\$300	Luncheon / Church Seniors
Sunday School Outreach	\$400	VBS, Good Friday / Sunday School Outreach
Total	\$5,150	
The Missions Committee would like to thank the Congregation for your generosity; your support made this possible.		