

**Preston City
Congregational Church**



The Little Pilgrim

**Week of December 12, 2021 -
December 19, 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: 44; countries -2; states
-14; cities -32; Archives last week:129

UPCOMING EVENTS

Confirmation Class Tu. 6:30PM

AA Wed. 7:30PM Dudek Hall

Choir Rehearsal 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.

Re

Pastor's Corner

'Tis the Season

The Christmas season for many is a time to honor traditions, to reflect on old memories, and to make new ones. This season for me has always carried special meaning. Not surprisingly, my earliest memories of the season are of Christmas Day. My family held the tradition that we would wait until a reasonable hour to open our presents. As a child, my brother and I would usually have breakfast in our room while all the final touches were made and labels identifying each gift's recipient were properly arranged. I can remember that this wait felt like an eternity. In reality, of course, the wait was not that long, and soon we would be tearing into packages of the latest gadgets or gizmos, with huge smiles and hugs of appreciation for our parents, who always seemed to know just what we wanted.

I suspect this tradition of waiting during the Christmas season goes much further back than my experience of it as a child. In fact, Luke's gospel tells of one devout Jew named Simeon who, like many Jews, believed that God would one day send a savior to redeem the Jews, who were his chosen people. Simeon waited all his life, believing that God would allow him to see this savior who would make sense out of all of the chaos the Jews experienced. It was not on Christmas Day but a few days later that Simeon's request was granted. "Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God and said...for mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared before the face of all people" (Luke 2:28, 30, 31).

When Simeon was able to see Christ, it all came together for him. The wait was worth it, because he had seen with his own eyes the little savior who would bring consolation. Indeed, for Simeon, this one moment made all the challenges and pain he had endured worth the wait. During the season, if you're waiting on a prayer to be answered or a present from above, keep believing! Simeon's story reminds us of the truth that Christ's love still remains present and available to fill the lives of those who wait for Him.

Merry Christmas,

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.



The 4th week of Advent. We light the final purple candle. This season of waiting is almost over. We wait for not only the Christ child to be born, but also for when Jesus comes again!

Some important dates to remember are:

December 19th. Sunday school in session; Short 20 minutes skit rehearsal @ 10AM for any child who wants a part for the Christmas Eve service.

December 24th. Children's Christmas Eve service @ 4p.m.

December 26th. No Sunday school

January 2nd. No Sunday school

January 9th. Sunday school resumes

The Board of Religious Education and I have books to present to the children as their gift this year. If they have not picked theirs out, please stop by the Children's choir room; you may take 2!

Blessings always,

Mrs. Van Alst

BIBLE STUDY

In the upcoming year, a new study will begin.
-Rev. Rae



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

No experience necessary, just an enthusiasm for singing.
-Marie Quinn

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!

SUNDAY DECEMBER 19 is CHRISTMAS SUNDAY.

Join us for services at 9AM and 10:30AM.

OUR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES will include the Children's' Service at 4:00PM and the Candlelight Service at 11PM.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26 there will be one service at 9AM.

CHURCH OFFICE UPDATES

Confirmation class is meeting Tuesday at 6:30PM.

Coffee Hour has resumed following Sunday services.

Several of you have called the office for Rev. Stan's address:
3071 Indian River Drive Palm Bay, FL 32905

We still are looking for 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).



Thank you to all who donated to the Coat Drive.

You may contact Laurie Bowers at 860 514-1098 if you care to contribute.



Thank you to all who supported the BRE Basket Drawing.

BUSTAMANTE RECEPTION – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26TH FOLLOWING THE 9:00AM SERVICE

We have only one service that day, which will be followed by a celebration in Halls' Hall paying tribute to Hunter and Hayden Bustamante, who have been present with their music all during the pandemic for us.

Hunter will be leaving on January 7th to begin work at Disney World in Florida, and Hayden will be leaving on January 2nd for Fort Sill in Oklahoma for boot camp. After boot camp, he will be taking music courses for a number of weeks in preparation to play in the Army Military Band.

When you are doing your Christmas baking, if you are able to put aside a plate of goodies for this event, it would help out a lot. We are looking for coffee cakes, breads, and cookies. We will be slicing the cakes and breads and individually wrapping all items. Some of the young people are helping us and a few adults. Please call Sandy at the office or Stella if you are able to lend a hand in any way. Hopefully, you can plan to be present that morning. It would be nice to give these two young men a nice send off from their church family.

THE CONGREGATIONALIST MAGAZINE features an article on Rev. Stan's celebration last July in their latest issue. Please call the office if you would like a copy of the article and I will send it to you. There is also an article on Rev. Perteet introducing him to others. Did you know he is now in his 5th month with us? These articles are also on the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches website at NACCC.org. -Sandy Dudek

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

**December 19th is the fourth Sunday of Advent and we light the
Shepherds Candle,
the fourth in our Advent Wreath.**

The candle is purple and symbolizes

LOVE



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