

**Preston City
Congregational Church**



**Week of December 19, 2021 -
December 26, 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 this week:

Fr 12/24 - Children's Service 4PM

Fr 12/24 – Candlelight Service 11PM

Sun 12/26 - 9AM Service Only

For those who are unable to attend in-person, the 9AM service is streamed live. **The 11PM service will also be 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 12/19: 50; countries -2; states -16; cities -36; Archives last week:93

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.

Pastor's Corner

What Did You Say?

"How great a matter a little fire kindeleth?" This is the question that James asks in the third chapter of his book when he refers to the tongue, or what we say to others. Don't we all know a few individuals whose tongues are always getting them into trouble? James refers to the tongue, saying that it is just a little member of the body, but it can cause a world of iniquity (James 3:6).

I believe that the problem with the tongue is not an isolated problem. The real issue is that we often act and speak before we think. We live in a society of increasing disquiet. With the many and varied distractions of daily living, rarely do we take time to truly listen to others. Not only is it rare to listen to others, but in modern society it is rare that we take time to even listen to ourselves. We often rattle off saying all types of things we have never really taken the time to process. You almost need to ask the verbal offender, "Could you repeat what you said back to me?" and furthermore ask, "Did you just hear what you said?" "I know you said it, but did you hear it?"

Our society, with a shortened attention span, often has difficulties with listening. James 1:19 admonishes each believer to, "Be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath." James lays this order out simply for us. If we were swift to hear, as James mentions, then we would be slower to speak because we would be able to think through and process what one is going to say and do. Consequently, our tongue and actions would not stir as much anger. All of this starts with our own ability to hear.

In substance, I want to encourage us this month to strengthen the gift of hearing and to endeavor to become active listeners. And I pray as you strive for ears more sensitively attuned first to God, then the spirit, and finally friends, family, and neighbors around you, so that you, as James says, will "be swift to hear." Be swift to hear from God, swift to listen to the spirit, and be swift to listen to others.

Remaining In the Light,

Rev. Rae

DOOR MONITORS NEEDED

Interested in serving as a door monitor in January? A sign-up sheet is located on the main bulletin board for both the 9:00 and 10:30 services, or you can contact Bob Vescovi at RVesco2010@comcast.net or 401.583.7840.

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 Christ child is born!
Join the children as we celebrate his birth!

December 24th. Children's Christmas Eve service at 4p.m. – All are invited to attend

Some important dates to remember are:

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

CHURCH OFFICE UPDATES

Confirmation class meets 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



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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!

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.

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

a celebration in Halls' Hall will pay 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.

Please join us as we give these two young men a nice send off from their church family.

LAST WORD

December 24th we light the Christ Candle, the final in our Advent Wreath.

The candle is white and symbolizes the

LIGHT OF CHRIST coming into the world

