

**Preston City
Congregational Church**



**Week of December 26, 2021 -
January 2, 2022**

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: 54; countries -1; states
-14; cities -36; Archives last week:118

UPCOMING EVENTS

Confirmation Class Tu. 6:30PM
AA Wed. 7:30PM Dudek Hall
Choir 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.

OFFERING ENVELOPES are
available on the table in the mid-
level hallway if you requested
them. Call Financial Secretary Sue
Creamer with any questions.

Pastor's Corner

New Year, New Canvas, New Testimony

It's here! A brand-new year stretches out before us like a blank canvas. Whenever I have tried my hand at painting, I always coveted those first few brush strokes. The moment an idea or goal is met with the concrete reality of action, color meets canvas and something beautiful begins to take shape. On the occasions when I have picked up the physical brush, sometimes the wonder of starting a project results in a mixture of excitement and anticipation that sometimes causes me to hesitate for just a bit.

Let's face it, most starts can be tricky. But here are a few words from the Apostle Paul to consider as you set your own personal goals for 2022. Writing to the Church at Philippi, Paul provides us with secrets on transferring from one project to the next or from year to year. Paul writes, "no, dear brothers and sisters, I am still not all I should be, but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead." (Philippians 3:13)

Sometimes, the greatest hindrance to celebrating a brand-new year is the mental and/or emotional baggage we allow to spill over from our last year. Realizing this human tendency, Paul prompts us to forget both the strides gained and the steps lost. Instead, Paul reminds us to give all of our focus and energy to manifesting the beauty God wishes to bring into our lives during the coming year.

During this brand-new year, I challenge you to do likewise. Just as the Apostle Paul reminds us, take a moment and consider all that God has put in front of you as well as all that God has in store for you in the coming year. Particularly, for those individuals who have faced pain or loss in 2021. It does not matter what has happened in the past. In fact, God says, "my mercies are new every morning." Therefore, if God's mercies are new and he has forgiven you, perhaps it is time to forgive yourself and move on, painting a new image in your life (Lamentations 3:22-23).

Today, make a decision to stop looking behind you. Instead, press forward towards the good that God has set before you with new determination and focus this year. For the feeling remains that God is in the background of our lives, working through our efforts to bring forth a certain beauty, perhaps as dreamy and bold as a Chagall.

Happy New Year!

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 401.583.7



Happy New Year Blessings! Can you believe it? 2021 is ending!
Just a few dates to keep in mind... **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**
JAN. 2, 2022

Sunday School will resume Jan 9th, @ 8:45!!! My prayer for you:

Dear God, Thank you for helping us to make it through this difficult year. Thank you that you've carried us through the uncertainty of deep waters, through the flames of trials, and through the pain of hard losses. We are constantly aware of how much we need you, your grace, your strength, your power working through even the toughest days.

Fill us with your joy and the peace of your Spirit. Direct our hearts and minds towards you. Thank you for your reminder that both in seasons of celebration and in seasons of brokenness, you're still with us. For you never leave us.

Lisa Van Alst

CHURCH OFFICE UPDATES

Confirmation class is meeting Tuesday at 6:30PM.
Coffee Hour has resumed following Sunday services.
Memorial Ornaments may be removed from the tree.

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN...

Time to start working on those annual reports for 2021!
Reports will be due to the church office by January 16, 2022. Thank you

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!

WARM CLOTHING AND COATS



The church collection of warm clothing items has ended, but the winter has just begun. Laurie Bowers (860 514-1098) will continue to pick up donated items. These warm items are much needed and greatly appreciated.

BAPTISM

On December 12th we welcomed into the Household of Christian Faith, *Sophie Katherine Zachem*, daughter of Max and Meg Zachem. Grandparents are Ken and Karleen Zachem and great-grandmother is Phyllis Knutson. We ask God's blessing on this little one.



BIBLE STUDY A new study will begin in 2022. -Rev. Rae

THE ADULT CHOIR rehearses on Thursdays at 7PM in Halls' Hall. No experience necessary, just an enthusiasm for singing. New voices are always welcome.



-Marie Quinn

THE SUPPER COMMITTEE is looking ahead and planning their dinners for 2022. Their first take-out dinner will be at the end of April.



THE LAST WORD Epiphany

January 6, 2022



"The Star of Bethlehem"

Our own Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, "Hitch your wagon to a star." I would suggest the Star of Bethlehem. It still shines in the sky to lead us. It shines in our hearts to lead us also. When we journey to Bethlehem, we go slowly, quietly, and contemplatively. We look up, and we look within. When we arrive there we rejoice, for we have found our home.

In His Name,
Michael Barrett

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.

