

## Preston City Congregational Church



**Week of January 23, 2022 -  
January 30, 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](http://prestoncitycongregational.org). and  
click the stream button. Previous  
services may be viewed using the  
archive system on the site.

Live viewings: 55; countries -1; states  
-14; cities -39; Archives last week: 151

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Tuesday Evening Bible Study 7P  
AA** Wed. 7:30P Dudek Hall

### **COVID UPDATE 1/19/2022**

The Standing Committee met and  
still requests **that masks be  
worn by everyone, if you are  
able, vaccinated or  
unvaccinated**, when in the  
church building and church office.  
The Standing Committee will  
continue to assess our needs and  
keep everyone informed.

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

**Receipts for 2021** are also  
available to be picked up.

## Pastor's Corner

### **Redeem the time**

This week, I was reminded of the viral moment that Congresswoman Maxine Waters had a few years ago, when she boldly, confidently, and a little humorously, repeatedly declared "Reclaiming My Time!" in response to an attempt at filibustering. Have you ever felt this way about lost time? Have you ever wanted to reclaim it or wished that you could rewind time? Perhaps to a younger period of life, when you had more energy, more vitality, more time, or perhaps more hair? Or, if life had a rewind button, would you rewind life to a favorite moment or occasion in your life that was significant and full of meaning to you? Perhaps a child's graduation? An anniversary? The birth of your first grandchild?

Unfortunately, life does not come with such an option. Instead, wisdom beckons us to enjoy each moment--to appreciate each second life offers, knowing that it will only come once. Through embracing each moment of our lives, we assure ourselves that time is not simply passing us by. Although we can't rewind, there are certain moments, like the beginning of a brand-new year, when life affords us an opportunity to renew. We can pause and reflect, thinking about our thankfulness for the past year. We can make a conscious decision to live each moment of the upcoming year to the fullest.

In Ephesians 5:1-15, the Apostle Paul writes to the church of Ephesus, pinpointing three areas from which the most should be made out of life. Paul says remember to always take time to walk in love with others, as Christ has loved us. Second, Paul challenges his readers to live in the light of Jesus Christ. We, as Christians, are encouraged to always make life meaningful through dwelling in God's love and by walking in His light. Although Paul goes on to finally encourage the believers at Ephesus to also live life wisely, saying these words in verse 15, "redeeming the time," meaning that we should make the most of our time. What a powerful statement.

Life does not give us the chance to rewind, but it does allow us to start fresh. As we continue to embrace a new year, let us hear the words of Paul loud and clear. This year, make a decision to "redeem the time," by making every effort to give God the best out of each moment of our lives. Take each second to enjoy those who God puts in our path. View uncomfortable experiences as a way to learn. To live mindfully in God's presence, and as we endeavor to do so, may our lives be abundant, full of love and laughter.

See you on Sunday,

Rev. Rae

### **DOOR MONITORS**

Can you help us on Sunday mornings in February serving as a door monitor at the double door entrance? Guidelines for door monitors are posted above the signup sheet on the mid-level bulletin board for both the 9 & 10:30 service. If you have any questions, please contact Bob Vescovi at [RVesco2010@comcast.net](mailto:RVesco2010@comcast.net) or 401.583.7840. Thanks!

### **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](http://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!



**Don't forget the Snow Sculpture Challenge** is happening from now until March 1, 2022.

Let's spread some love around the area by building something out of snow, outside the windows of essential workers, the elderly, & public spaces (with permission).

Send a picture to [dre.prestoncity@gmail.com](mailto:dre.prestoncity@gmail.com)

Remember, the crew with the most points wins!

4 people build... 4 points

Send a picture to me... 1 point

Put a sign on it... 1 point

Build several snowmen... 1 point each

Winning crew wins a \$25 gift card!!!!!!

Sorry, but the kids and I are praying and snow dancing!

**Change in plans:** 6th - 12th grade Youth Mission Trip info ZOOM needs to move to THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3 @ 6:30p.m. Contact me if you are interested and for the link.

Finally... We are looking for volunteers. We need helpers for the Good Friday event! There are several areas we need help with; stop by Sunday after Sunday school or contact me if you are interested!

Lisa Van Alst

### CHURCH OFFICE UPDATES

#### Generous donations received!

Toward the end of the year two generous donations were received.

\$20,000 was received anonymously to begin a fund for the parking lot. We are so grateful for this thoughtful gift.

\$5,000 was also received anonymously a few days after receiving word we needed to replace a second furnace. The cost: \$5,000. What wonderful timing! A heartfelt thank you. The furnace has been replaced.

#### CLOTHING SHED

**Recently a letter was received** in the church office from St. Pauly Textile, Inc. which read in part:

*Every clothing shed is an important part of the big picture. Here are some numbers to show you the impact your own shed made in 2021.*

*34,139 pounds of clothing were donated to our shed in 2021. This was enough to clothe an estimated 6,289 people all over the world.*

*Based on the volume of clothing, your organization received \$1,366.*

*Thank you so much for partnering with us on this. We truly appreciate all the support you continue to give to the clothing shed program!*

To all who donated to our clothing shed, we THANK you. You are making a difference for many. *Sandy Dudek*



**"Thank you for your service, sacrifice and valor in serving our nation."**

Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, was a special day here at church as we honored one of our own, David Costner with a Quilt of Valor. We were fortunate to have Deb Bennett, the CT State Coordinator for the Quilts of Valor, here for the presentation. These quilts are made by volunteers who would like to see every individual who served our country in the military to be honored for their service.

When David joined the Marines, he was sent to the Marine Corp Recruit Depot at Parris Island, SC, for boot camp. Upon completion of basic training, he was transferred to Camp Geiger, NC, for advanced infantry training. He spent a short period of time at Camp Lejeune, NC, before being assigned to the Marine Barracks at the US Naval Submarine Base in Groton. He spent the remainder of his service at the Submarine Base working as a Military Police Officer. He said he was blessed because while he was stationed there he met the love of his life, Joyce.

I was happy to be a part of this special occasion and am working on some other nominations for future presentations.

*Sandy Dudek*

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR** - The Annual Meeting of the church is presently scheduled for Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup> starting at noon in the sanctuary.

## BIBLE STUDY



**We anticipate** beginning Thursday morning study the second week of February. -Rev. Rae

**The Tuesday Night Bible Study Group** is meeting at 7pm. We will be studying the book of James using Max Lucado's "*Life Lessons from James*" Study Guide. The class will be in-person and on Zoom. We ask those in attendance in Hall's Hall to be masked regardless of their vaccination status due to the close proximity of the tables and the rise in the recent Covid numbers. We are socially distanced and take precautions before and after class to sanitize the tables. To join on Zoom, please follow the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9038488535?pwd=SHFJbVVZS2JWOGVGaUMxTllmWXdkdz09>

For more information or a copy of the lesson, please contact Scott Van Alst by phone (860-237-7964) or by email ([scottv916@gmail.com](mailto:scottv916@gmail.com)).

**THE ADULT CHOIR** will not hold practice in the month of January. We hope to start again in February. -Marie Quinn



## 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.



Warm items are much needed and greatly appreciated.

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



Do thoughts of warmer weather and spring (only 8 more weeks!) have you looking at gardening catalogs? Are there seeds or plants for beautiful cut flowers you would like to plant? The **Flower Committee** would welcome home-grown bouquets to be placed in the church throughout the summer and fall.



## LAST WORD

### NEW WINTER SPORTS



ICE HATING



NO-MOBILING



SNOW SHOO-ING



CROSS-COUNTRY FLEEING