

Preston City Congregational Church



**Week of February 20, 2022 -
February 27, 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 last week: 42; 1 country;
12 states; 25 cities. Archived viewing:
44

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday Feb 27 Food Pantry -
Open after services**

Tuesday Evening Bible Study 7P

AA Wed. 7:30P Dudek Hall

Thursday Bible Study 10A

Adult Choir Practice Thursday 7P

Confirmation March 13 10:30A

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

Don't Forget to Play

Avery, age 7, was waiting all day for the Nerf gun fight. He had even come prepared with a bucket containing more than 100 rounds of ammunition. Avery had waited long enough! It was now time to play..... You see, Avery, his sister, Anabel and Mother Margo, friends of ours, along with another family, had come to join us at our home in Plymouth, Massachusetts for a wonderful Easter celebration. However, while the final touches were made to what would prove to be a delectable meal, the adults set the table, socialized, mingled, and then finally ate. But all the while the adults were enjoying wonderful fellowship, there was one thing on Avery's mind: when could we play?

Earlier in the week, I had promised that when Avery came over, he and I would have time to play, and more specifically, have a "Nerf War." As I walked up the hill from the base of our home, which led to the Forefathers monument (a perfect battlefield), with a toy gun in hand, loaded with 5 soft nerf darts compared to Avery's 100, I had an epiphany. Having such a small amount of ammunition, my first epiphany was that I was in trouble!

Second, however, and most importantly, I realized that all the time I was coaxing and encouraging Avery to politely wait while the grown-ups conversed and ate their meals, I was teaching him life lessons that he would need later on, as a responsible adult. Although, as I was walking up the hill on a sunny afternoon with Avery, I realized that while I was trying to teach Avery how to be a man, he was, in turn, trying to remind me how to play, and both of us needed the lesson.

Life can be stressful at times, with threats of war on the horizon, and social uncertainty. Yet it is the tendency of maturity to just bear under life's load without so much as a sound. However, this approach is not always wanted or healthy. This week, I encourage those considering the stressors and strain of daily life, don't forget to laugh, don't forget to smile, and don't forget to play. Why? Because, as one writer has said, 'A cheerful heart is good medicine...' (Prov 17:22) Let's not allow the sound of celebration and happiness to become a foreign sound in our homes. Just as concrete has expansion joints so it won't crack from the constant demands of extreme weather, so, too, does the strongest among us need to find ways to relieve life's pressures. A time for laughter, joy, and play are great ways to provide for these much-needed break times. The added benefit is that in the process, they may also provide a bit of healing for the soul.

See You Sunday,

Rev. Rae

DOOR MONITORS

Can you help us on Sunday mornings in March 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 or 401.583.7840. Thanks!



Can you believe Ash Wednesday is next week! The journey of Lent is about to begin! The children will be learning about this special church season. If you need any help or resources to guide your family while at home, don't hesitate to ask. That is part of what the DRE does!

Just as Lent has come upon us so fast, here are some save the date calendar events that are also right around the corner!!!!

Good Friday Event: K-5th graders are welcome to meet me in Halls' Hall @ 11:30A.M. We will attend the service upstairs together. After the service, we will return to Halls' Hall for lunch and activities related to Holy Week and Easter! Preschool age children are welcome with a grown-up to help guide them around.

Mark April 15th for this event.

Children's Day: Sunday, May 15th, @ 10:30

A.M. We are back on for this great event of celebrating our children and all their great accomplishments! We are even planning on hosting a BBQ with hotdogs and hamburgers! So, mark your calendars!!!

As you are aware, it takes a village and all this fun and excitement needs your help. Contact me, Lisa, to find out where you can make a difference.

Love and Blessings Always.....

Lisa Van Alst

CHURCH OFFICE UPDATES

The Annual Report for 2021 is available to pick up. Read what your church has accomplished this past year!

If you would like the annual report mailed to you please call the office (860-887-4647).

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!



SCHOLARSHIP MONTH

In 1992, February was established as Scholarship month, in order to give church-goers the opportunity to contribute to the Helen Benjamin Scholarship Fund. Helen worked in the Preston School system for many years and was dedicated to the education of our youth. Upon her passing, the family established the fund in her memory, in order to provide assistance for young people seeking to further their education. When her husband died in 2015, the fund was renamed as the Winthrop C. and Helen Benjamin Scholarship Fund. Through the years, many of our young people have benefited from this fund, thanks in part to your giving.

We are offering the opportunity to members and friends of the church to consider giving a monetary gift to the scholarship fund. You may give your gift in memory of or in honor of someone. A listing of donors (no amounts) will be printed in the worship folder on Scholarship Sunday, which is usually in June. You may place your donation in an envelope marked *Scholarship Fund* and place it in the offering plate, or mail it to the church. Checks should be made out to PCCC with *Scholarship Fund* on the memo line. Donations are accepted through the end of May.



BIBLE STUDY

Thursday Morning Bible Study Group meets at 10am

with a guided study on the life of Queen Esther by Max Lucado entitled "You Were Made for this Moment." Come participate in a study that inspires us to step up and stand out for God! We also ask those attending the study in Halls' Hall to wear a mask at the current time. For more information or a copy of the study guide please contact Rev. Rae by phone (860-887-4647) or via email (rae.e.perteet@gmail.com). Copies of the study guide are \$14.00.

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 Halls' 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=SHFJbVVZS2lWOGVGaUMxTllmWXdkdz09>

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).

ADULT CHOIR

We have resumed practice on Thursday evenings at 7P in Halls' Hall. New voices are always welcome and experience is not necessary. -Marie Quinn

THE SUPPER COMMITTEE is looking ahead and planning their dinners for 2022. Their first take-out dinner will be April 30th and they will be serving meatloaf. It has been several years since they have been able to offer this favorite!



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.

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.

ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

"Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established." Proverbs 16:3

At least 35 people were present at the annual meeting on February 15. The meeting originally scheduled for Sunday, February 13, was snowed out!

As we begin our "official" church year, we thank those who have served and completed their term, and those who have agreed to serve in the coming year, or in some cases, years ahead! The church cannot operate without individuals willing to help, sharing their time and talents. Thank you to the Nominating Committee for securing volunteers to fill the many positions that keep our church moving forward.

The annual report of boards and committees was accepted (thank you Sandy Dudek for putting it all together!) and the budget for 2022 was passed. We had one bylaw update approved, which added the Treasurer to the Employee Relations Committee. Members voted to place \$30,000 in excess budget checking monies into the Capital Improvements Fund. Future projects under consideration include paving the lower parking lot and putting a new roof on the church.

THE FOOD PANTRY will be open following services on Sunday, February 27, 2022 for church attendees to pick up a bag of food for someone they know, or perhaps for themselves.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY is March 13th

Join us as three young men join the church through the Rite of Confirmation at the 10:30A service.



LENT

The holy season of Lent begins March 2nd, **ASH WEDNESDAY**. This solemn day is observed with a prayer vigil in the Sanctuary from noon to 6 P.M. During this time, volunteers are asked to pray for others, for 15 minutes. We will supply the prayer list. If you would like to participate in the Vigil, please select a time to pray from the sign-up sheet posted on the mid-level bulletin board or call the office.

Prayer requests may be written on the slips of paper next to the boxes on the tables near the elevator upstairs and outside of Dudek Hall, or you may call the office.

At 7 P.M. that evening, an Ash Wednesday service will be held in the Sanctuary.

LAST WORD

As long as we have memories, yesterday remains. As long as we have hope, tomorrow waits. As long as we have love, today is beautiful. As long as we have faith, anything is possible.



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