

**Preston City  
Congregational Church**



**The Little Pilgrim**

**Week of May 1, 2022 -  
May 8, 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 last week: 37; 2  
countries; 10 states; 26 cities. Archived  
viewing: 45

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Tuesday Evening Bible Study 7P**

**AA Wed. 7:30P Dudek Hall**

**Adult Choir Practice Thursday 7P**

**Spring Yard Sale 5/07**

**Bingo Strawberry Park 5/07**

**Sunday School Bake Sale 5/08**

**Children's Day Service & Picnic  
5/15**

**Fellowship Gathering of the  
Northeast Congregational  
Churches 5/15**

**Summer Service 5/22 at 9:30A**

**COFFEE HOUR and FELLOWSHIP**

follows Sunday services.

**COVID UPDATE 3/16/2022**

The Standing Committee has  
determined that wearing masks is  
optional.

**MAY 22 – SEPTEMBER 4**

**Summer Schedule with one  
service on Sundays at 9:30A.**

**Pastor's Corner**

***Finding Balance***

"Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving.

-Albert Einstein

The other day, while out for a drive, I observed a beautiful family moment. For what appeared to be the first time, a father was teaching his little girl how to ride a bike. The father held on to the young child for as long as he could to stabilize her and the bike with his hands. Once the little girl was stabilized, the father finally let go! For the remainder of this heartwarming moment, the dad ran behind his daughter, trying to catch up as the young child wobbled from one side of the pavement to the other.

Because we kept driving, I didn't get a chance to see the child's final moments of her test ride. However, it reminded me of how God teaches us to grow in our faith. As we all come to discover, the universe often starts out by placing its supportive hands around us to guide us. Originally, these hands came in the form of parents, teachers, tutors, and/or other mentors of one kind or another. And then, when we are relatively stable or have mastered the obligatory "training wheel phases" of the particular level of life or career we find ourselves in, it's time to let us go. These are the moments when our faith is tested and, oh boy, do we wobble! We often say the wrong things in anger to those we love and are sometimes less than charitable to co-workers. We struggle to contain our frustration and remain emotionally upright; we fight to be better and not bitter; and, sometimes, we even wrestle with our belief in God's plan for our lives altogether.

Listen to how the seasoned truth cyclist, Apostle Paul, who wrote significant portions of the New Testament, describes his own struggles to maintain balance when tested: "I have this desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do. Instead, I keep on doing the evil I do not want to do... oh, wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?" (Romans 7: 15-20)

Who knew? Even a seasoned spiritual seeker points out here in his candid confession of his constant struggle to remain upright in his faith walk with God. We understand the frustration well, as Paul's struggles are mirrored in our own daily lives. Paul ends with this question: "who will rescue me...?"

Isn't it wonderful to know that we are not alone on this journey, even when it feels like we are riding alone without divine hands of comfort to guide us when our own world is wobbling out of control? Even when we are heading straight for a "face plant" for the fifth time in a week! The truth is that even in these moments of panic, even when we feel alone, the loving hands of the divine are right behind us. The universe is ready to step in and pick us up when we acknowledge our setbacks, dusting us off, wiping away our tears, and ready to restore balance to our lives so we may try again.... Sometimes these reminders of balance and aid come from friends and family; sometimes they are reminders to self to dig deep and try again.

Whatever the specifics of your fight may be, **or** if you have felt the struggles of life lately, then I invite you to say the following prayer out loud with me: "Creator, thank you for your loving hand of guidance. Help restore balance to my life that makes me more present for the tribe you have entrusted me and, ultimately, for my purpose on this earth." Above all, even if you should fall down this week, get back up and **KEEP MOVING FORWARD.**

Remaining in the Light,

Rev. Rae



*This Sunday is busy, busy, busy.... First, it's Mother's Day! All moms are welcome to take a flower as a thank you for all the hard work you do for your family! Next, enjoy breakfast from the men's group; yum! Finally, buy mom some treats for later from Abraham's Birthday Bash Bake Sale. All \$\$\$ will be sent to World Vision to sponsor Abraham through the summer months while we are not meeting.*

*The relaunch of Sunday School after 2 years of meeting virtually due to the Pandemic is coming to a close. What a historical, strange, happy time. We will be remembering our successful relaunch by hosting an all-church celebration on Sunday, May 15th. All Families, Friends, and Children will be honored at the 10:30 a.m. service! Immediately following the service, we will gather in the "Field of Dreams" for an all-church picnic. All you need to do is sign up on the bulletin board with the # of people you are bringing to the celebration, or send me an email!*

*Hold on there is more.....  
The week of July 11th-15th, Vacation Bible School (VBS) "Hay Day" will be moving into Preston City Congregational Church. Sign-ups and info at the church picnic!*

Finally..... ALL 6TH-12TH GRADERS' **MISSION imPOSSIBLE** (should you accept) is a go! All agents & their friends who are interested in helping others are invited to attend a weekend Mission Experience here at church. Food, service projects, and fun activities are all part of the schedule. Come pick up your packet of info and get signed up.  
WOW, we are an active church! Come join the fun. Come ask questions, get more info, volunteer to be part of the crew!  
LOVE & BLESSINGS always,  
Lisa Van Alst D.R.E.

### THOUGHTS FROM A FRIEND...

"Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrows;  
it empties today of its strength."

—Corrie Ten Boom

## CHURCH OFFICE UPDATES

Barbara Perry passed away Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. Her funeral is scheduled for May 28<sup>th</sup> at 11A.  
Our condolences to her family.

Please do not schedule an event or program without checking in at the office. This courtesy will keep our church running smoothly!

### HELPING HANDS MINISTRY

No requests this week.  
Check again next week.

**We are here if you need us!**



**REMEMBERING OUR CHILDREN...** a special service where we remember children who are no longer with us, will be held **Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>** at the **9:00 service**. If you wish to have a child's name included in the worship folder that morning, you must call the office by Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. Likewise, if you would like to donate \$5 toward the purchase of Marigolds, please let the office know by the 10<sup>th</sup>. Those donating these summer flowers are invited to take a pack with them following the service.



### ADULT CHOIR

Choir Rehearsal is on Thursday evenings at 7pm. -Marie Quinn



### BIBLE STUDY



#### The Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group

will continue @7pm for the next 4-5 weeks. Our new study will be "Why Easter Matters" from Andy Stanley. It is video based and comes with a study guide that is available on Amazon for ~\$10 or a Kindle version for around \$5. The class is available in person in Hall's Hall or on Zoom by clicking on the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9038488535?pwd=SHFJbVZS2JWOGVGaUMxTllmWXdkdz09>

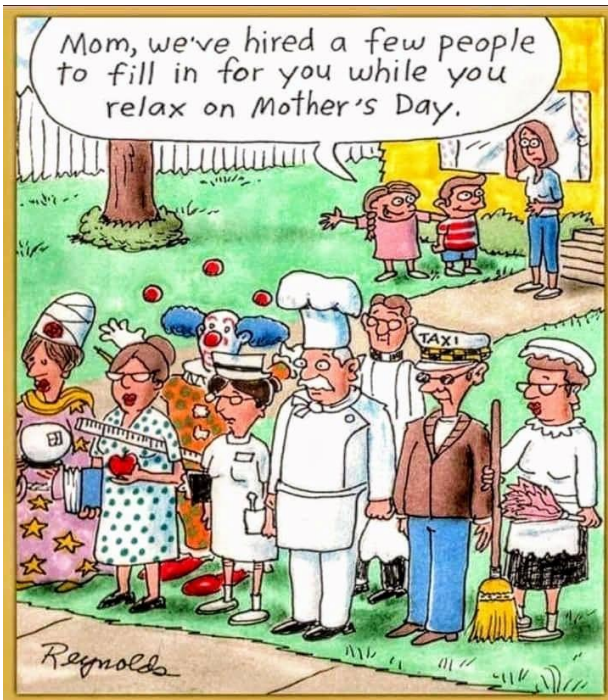
For more information, please contact Scott Van Alst by phone (860-237-7964).

**Thursday Morning Bible Study** will be returning May 26<sup>th</sup> @ 11am with a DVD study entitled "Kingdom Heroes" by Rev. Dr. Tony Evans.

**The Men's Group** will be hosting a Mother's Day Light Brunch with donuts, juice and coffee following both services on Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup> as we all try to get back to whatever the new normal is. All are welcome.



We would also like to invite all men who might be interested to the next men's group meeting on Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions you may have. Tim Bowles [tbowles117@comcast.net](mailto:tbowles117@comcast.net) 860-705-5613 (cell)



**MAY IS MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS MONTH  
A View from Behind the Handlebars**

The familiar rumble of motorcycles is filling the air. As much as we love to ride, we know that there are a lot of hazards on the road for motorcyclists. The number one cause of motorcycle accidents is the failure of other motorists on the road to detect and recognize us. Even the most skilled and safety conscious motorcyclists can't avoid an accident if the other cars on the road don't see them. So please keep an eye out for all of us and help keep us safe! Thanks. PCCC Riders



**THE FELLOWSHIP GATHERING OF THE NORTHEAST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES** is being held here at our church on **Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>** from 3:00- 6:30 p.m. This is the first in-person meeting since

the beginning of the pandemic! All are invited to attend. The FNCCC is made up of 34 churches in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island. Participants are church members (like you and me) and Pastors of these churches, who offer support, nurture, and care to one another, while also sharing resources to further the building of God's kingdom on earth. If you've never been to one before, why not come and check it out? Among us this year will be The National Association's Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Ashley Cleere; how special!

Here is the agenda for the day:

- 3:00 p.m. Gathering and Missionary Tea (and coffee)
- 3:30 p.m. Executive Director of NA, Rev. Dr. Ashley Cleere – words of greeting and vision
- 4:15 p.m. Cofounders of Bombyx Center for Arts and Equity – sharing the ideas and vision for the Florence Congregational Church space
- 5:00 p.m. FNCCC Annual Meeting agenda (short and sweet)
- 5:30 p.m. Preston City Congregational Church sponsored barbeque dinner
- 6:15-6:30 p.m. Depart for home

The May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda is simple. We need to vote on the 2022-2023 budget recommended by the Executive Committee and presented by Treasurer Doug Loux and hopefully approve a few proposals from the committee.

Dinner is a chicken barbeque with salads, drink, and a delicious dessert. If you are worried about the residual effects of COVID, we are planning to meet outside in the pavilion on the "Field of Dreams" with plenty of fresh air.

Please call the office and let Sandy know you plan to attend and I will let Rev. Gammon know. The donation of \$10 from each of you will help to defray the cost of the dinner.

If you prefer, you may email Rev. Gammon with your reservation for this grand celebration of congregational life by May 8<sup>th</sup>: [ExecDir277@Gmail.com](mailto:ExecDir277@Gmail.com)

Rev. Gammon is the Moderator of the Fellowship.  
Submitted by *Sandy Dudek*

**SPRING YARD SALE**  
~~This Saturday, May 7~~  
**POSTPONED UNTIL MAY 14**  
**Due to impending storm**  
**8A – 2P**



### **BINGO at Strawberry Park begins Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>.**

We are one of the non-profit organizations that assist at the games selling cards and receive funds which are used to offset our budget. Please sign-up if you are able to help; we need three workers to sell cards at each session. The sign-up to help is on the Bingo calendar posted on the mid-level bulletin board just outside Dudek (Sunday School) Hall. Lee Ann Fessenden, Lisa Fessenden, Shirley Hodkinson and Sue Riley are the co-chairmen this session.

Do you have a Personal Identification Number (PIN) necessary to help? The office has the information and forms available to get you started if you don't! You must be a church member to receive a PIN.

**Thank you** to those who sign up to assist and continue to make this a successful mission for our church.



### **MEMORIAL BRICK GARDEN**

We are again offering the opportunity for you to purchase a brick to be placed in our Memorial Garden in the lower parking lot beside the walkway. You can purchase a brick in honor of, in celebration of, or in memory of someone. A 4"x 8" brick costs \$75, and can have up to 3 lines of engraving and up to 18 characters per line. An 8"x 8" brick costs \$125, can have up to six lines of engraving and up to 18 characters per line. Order forms can be found on the table in the mid-level hallway. Speak with Joy or Rich Chalifoux if you have any questions.

### **LAST WORD**

Difficult roads often lead to beautiful places.

### **YOUR TURN**

Do you have a *brief* and encouraging message to share with your church family ?

Send it to the office or:

[Susan.brosnan@gmail.com](mailto:Susan.brosnan@gmail.com) and you may see your message in next week's *Little Pilgrim*.

### **LITTLE PILGRIM COORDINATOR**

Please send information to be included in the newsletter no later than Tuesday at noon each week:

[Susan.brosnan@gmail.com](mailto:Susan.brosnan@gmail.com) or 860 889-0768.