

Preston City Congregational Church



The Little Pilgrim

**Week of May 15, 2022 -
May 22, 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

Summer Worship service at 9:30AM.

For those who are unable to attend in-person, the 9:30AM 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: 35; 3 countries; 13 states; 23 cities. Archived viewing: 39

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday Evening Bible Study 7P

AA Wed. 7:30P Dudek Hall

Adult Choir Practice Thursday 7P

**Summer Service 5/22 at 9:30A
Thursday Morning Bible Study
starts 6/2 at 11A**

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.**

THANK
YOU

**to the Men's Group
for providing the
light brunch and to
the Sunday School
for the carnations on Mother's
Day.**



LEMONADE ON THE LAWN starts May 22!

Hopefully we will be successful on the first try!
Last year we were rained out two weeks in a row before we could begin!

Pastor's Corner

On Belay!

"On Belay!" were the words I heard yelled from behind me. "ARE YOU CERTAIN?" were the words I wanted to yell in return as I prepared for my first rock climbing experience. The moment I heard those two words, there was a real sudden jolt of fear. I was now committed to trusting the vigilant mind and skillful hands of the one holding the rope attached to my harness. To be truthful, it was not easy for me to trust that day. However, guess what? I made it safely up the rough and rugged terrain to the top.

In our spiritual journey with God, it too, is not always easy to trust the promises of God. However, this is where faith comes in; but what is faith? The apostle Paul said that "faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1). Wow, faith is the evidence of things you cannot see. That day, as I climbed the wall, I was tempted to continue glancing behind me, making sure the Belayer was ready to do his part supporting me in case my foot slipped. I soon realized that I could not continue moving forward if I was paralyzed by fear and constantly looking behind me. I just needed to trust.

In life, God is constantly challenging us to soar to new heights, which may mean navigating through tough and difficult terrain. It can be extremely difficult to take that initial step of faith or to continue climbing when life is tough. Thoughts bombard us like, "what if I fail?," "...I've never done that before," "What will others think?" However, it is rarely advisable to take counsel of your fears.

The truth is - you will fail. You will stumble and slip at times. But it is at these moments when our faith in the skillful hands of the One who holds us up is stretched the most. The Book of Proverbs simply states it this way: "No matter how many times [they trip], God-loyal people don't stay down long; Soon they're up on their feet." (Proverbs 24:16). In this life, we will slip. However, though we may slip or stumble at times, we will not utterly fall because the Lord has promised to hold us up with his skillful hands.

We are each on a precarious journey of faith, but continuing to climb is the only way for our lives to reach the summit of purpose. Today, the inward voice of God bids us to climb higher towards purpose and destiny. Today, if you are deciding whether to climb higher or remain comfortable where you are, my prayer is that you will choose to stretch your faith. To get quiet, still, and attentive before God, because when you do, you may just hear the Spirit calling out, "On Belay!"

Remaining in the Light,

Rev. Rae



We did it! Sunday School 2021 - 2022 was a successful Mission. Covid was still an obstacle we had to maneuver through, but as we know, God was bigger than even Covid!!! I have NO words, and for those who know me that is saying something, to express my LOVE & GRATITUDE to the Sunday School Staff. We have the BEST TEACHERS! They volunteered hours of their time, came up with crafts & activities for our children, supported me, helped me, & prayed for me! If you would like to join this fantastic crew, PLEASE come talk to me! You don't have to be a teacher to do it, just a love of sharing GOD! Seriously, God will show you the way! Our curriculum is www.sermons4kids.com; check it out. It has the Bible story and soooo many activities. Parents you can use this site to keep God's love going through the summer! Watch for Parent emails, and Little Pilgrim updates on Summer Fun Days, and Sunday School updates!

1st dates to know:

July 11-16th 9:00 - 11:30 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL HAY DAY \$5

July 16th -18th imPOSSIBLE MISSION Weekend for all students entering 6th-High School!

9:00a.m. drop off @ church (friends R welcome to attend) If registered by June 30th NO Cost. Late Registration \$50.00

Contact me for more info, or interest

Lisa Van Alst D.R.E.

CHURCH OFFICE UPDATES

We have been advised that the flowers previously ordered by people in the congregation for \$35, will now be \$50. The Flower Committee will still be on hand to order them and pick them up for you if you would like to place flowers in the church in memory of, in honor of, or in celebration of a special day. Flowers from your own flower garden are also acceptable by contacting the office who will let the person of the month serving on the Flower Committee know. Carolyn Shea is serving for the month of May and Sharon Mahan for the month of June.

The Senior Picnic is soon approaching – June 14th at noon at the pavilion; the rain date is Wednesday, June 15th. If you regularly attend this church and are 62 or older, you are invited to come. There is no cost but you must sign up on the bulletin board or call Sandy at the office.



HELPING HANDS MINISTRY

Help needed watering outside potted plants, May 26 – June 7. Compensation negotiable. Call Sharon at 860-908-6154.

The SPRING YARD SALE realized a profit of \$1441 which will go to the church budget.

THANK YOU to those who helped set-up, clean-up, donated, and shopped! Special thanks to Stella Dawley, Kaye Schlough, Norma Schlough, and Zachary Rousseau for staying all through the day.



ADULT CHOIR

Choir Rehearsal is on Thursday evenings at 7pm

BIBLE STUDY



The Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group continues

@7pm. 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).

NEW DATE Thursday Morning Bible Study begins **June 2nd @ 11A** with a DVD study entitled "Kingdom Heroes" by Rev. Dr. Tony Evans.



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

THE SUPPER COMMITTEE is planning a **CHICKEN BARBECUE Dinner** on June 25th.

Adults - \$15 and Children - \$8
Tickets will be available soon.



The Fellowship of Northeast Congregational Christian Churches met last Sunday afternoon under the pavilion with the most ideal weather conditions.

The FNCCC that we belong to is comprised of 36 churches and an organization we choose to belong to. They help their member churches in so many ways. Did you know in times past with building projects here at the church, they have loaned us money which turned out being interest free?

We were privileged to have with us that day, Rev. Dr. Ashley Cleere, the Executive Director of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches, who spoke on behalf of the NACCC. They are always there for us and only a phone call away. They help with pastoral searches, background checks, missions disbursements, almost any question we might have concerning the church.

Our own FNCCC Executive Director, The Rev. Dr. Irvan Gammon, presented a talk on the Bombyx Center for Arts and Equity. They have been at Florence Congregational Church in Florence, MA and brought new life and vitality to say the least, in presenting theatre productions in some of their space. It was a very new and novel idea when first presented to their church but turned out to be a win, win situation. We are being sent a video of this as the planned presenter ended up sick on Sunday.

Although I chaired this event, I could not have done it without the strong support of this church. Keith Harrison, Robin Hopkins, and Steve Orlomoski barbecued the chickens for us and the Supper Committee was on the scene shopping and preparing the rest of the meal. And so many of you made wonderful homemade pies from apple, pumpkin, blueberry (some with cream cheese) to strawberry cream. I was so proud of our church and felt so supported in this endeavor. The NFCCC has not met in person in over 2 years and a memorable day we had!
Sandy Dudek

BINGO at Strawberry Park 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. Sign-up to help on the Bingo calendars 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. **We have TWO week-long bingo sessions scheduled and need your help!** 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 and on the following page. Speak with Joy or Rich Chalifoux if you have any questions.



LAST WORD

Not all storms come to disrupt your life,
some come to clear your path.

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 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 or 860 889-0768.

Preston City Congregational Church

Preston City Congregational Church has created a memorial brick garden where everyone who visits the church can see the names of people who have meant so much to us over the years.

It is a chance to honor our loved ones in a lasting place.

Preston City Congregational Church has been an anchor in Preston for over 323 years and now you have an opportunity to have someone special to you memorialized alongside others so everyone who visits the church will see the impact a garden like this can have.

Questions, Call Joy Chalifoux at 860-234-1011

Yes, we would like to reserve a permanent brick. Please engrave our brick as follows:

ANY SYMBOL IS CONSIDERED ONE SPACE (PERIOD, COMMA, DASH)

ALL TEXT IS CENTERED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

4X8 Brick is 3 lines 18 characters \$75.00

8X8 Brick is 6 lines 18 characters \$125.00.

4 x 8 Brick

8 x 8 Brick

EXAMPLE

					P	r	e	s	t	o	n		C	i	t	y	
C	o	n	g	r	e	g	a	t	i	o	n	a	l				
								C	h	u	r	c	h	!	!		

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM AND YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO:

Preston City Congregational Church
321 Route 164
Preston Ct. 06365
860-887-4647

Name: _____ Phone: (_____) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____ Amount Paid _____