

**Preston City
Congregational Church**



The Little Pilgrim

**Week of August 14, 2022
August 21, 2022**

Church Office Hours:
Monday – Friday, 9AM – Noon

**Have a question?
Need help?**

Please call: The Office
860.887.4647 or 860.886.7200

MINISTER

REVEREND RAEFIELD PERTEET

Cell/Text: 1-617-866-3524

"Where the door is always open"

Call the office to schedule an
appointment

**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: 19; 1 country; 6 states; 13 cities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AA Wed. 7:30P Dudek Hall

COVID UPDATE 3/16/2022

The Standing Committee has determined that wearing masks is optional.

MAY 22 – SEPTEMBER 4

**Join us for LEMONADE ON THE
LAWN following our Sunday
service**



FROM THE MINISTER...

This is My Father's World

Wow! September is almost here. The year seems to be passing along so quickly. During this time of year, many families in our church community are inundated with getting settled into familiar routines that accompany the first few weeks back to school. However, for me, this time of year stands out for a different reason. My first ever visit to the West coast was during the month of September. Some years back, I was invited to a friend's wedding in Fresno, California. During that visit, I had the splendid opportunity to visit Redwood National State Park. I'll never forget my first visit there, in part, because of the sheer splendor and beauty found in this park. Prodigious trees that you can drive through, beautiful hiking trails and the palpable feeling of nature's warm embrace as the sun's rays peered down through the canopy of trees. Surrounded by the majestic beauty of creation, it would have been difficult not to feel God's presence all around me. Yet, if we pause for a moment, I'm sure we would see a measure of such beauty in all of creation, regardless of location. On the other hand, there are times in our lives when, irrespective of nature's beauty, we are so focused on the day's plan or agenda that we virtually ignore its beauty. We never stop to consider the masterpieces of God's hands displayed all around us. It is not intentional, but sometimes, we just forget to acknowledge all of the beauty God has placed in our lives. Sometimes, in spite of the goodness of God's grace, we can simply take for granted that goodness. In fact, it reminds me of a story that took place in the gospel of St. Luke.

One day, while Jesus was passing in between Samaria and Galilee, He entered a village where he was met by ten lepers who asked Him for healing. During this period of history, being a leper meant isolation from everyone you knew and loved as you were forced to live in a special community of lepers isolated from the mass of society. As it turns out, Christ did not just heal one or two of them but all ten lepers! They were then asked to go show themselves to the priest as was the custom of the day, so that they could be accepted again into society and reunited with family. But, guess what happened after the lepers were healed? Would you believe that only one leper returned to say thank you to Christ?

At times in our lives, we also take for granted the healing beauty of God's creation, friends, family, community, etc. that are placed all around us. How many times do we become unimpressed with the small miracles that God places all around us? We become unimpressed with that first breath we take in the morning. It simply becomes routine and we forget to say thank you. Families become unimpressed with other family members, husbands unimpressed with their wives and vice versa when, sometimes, the true miracle is the presence of family and loved ones; the contact of community. Simply said, perhaps as we go about our lives during the coming months, it may be prudent to take a few moments to reflect on all of the beauty that God has placed in our lives. To take time to give thanks, thereby readjusting our vision from the cloudiness of privilege to a certain clarity that comes with gratitude. The one leper who returned to say thanks, the Bible says, was the only one who was completely "made well" outwardly and inwardly. Perhaps, in a similar way, we can truly experience life's greater healings and blessings when we open our eyes, remaining truly appreciative of all the beauty around us.

Remaining In His Light,
Rev. Rae

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

It's time to POP back into church and Sunday School! The world has shaken us and tried to separate us so that's when you need to turn to FAMILY! That is what we are, the little church where friends become family.

Watch for postcards to start popping up in your mailboxes in the next few weeks! It's hard to believe it's time to be thinking of FALL, but here we are! Registration forms are available.

We are currently looking for 2 more teachers to join our team; 1 in the Baby Nursery and 1 in Toddler 3 & 4's. Are you a member of the church? Do you love playing, singing songs, cuddles....then you are who we are looking for! Just every other Sunday from 8:45- 11:00. Willing to become CPR/1st Aid certified? Come talk to me!

Lisa Van Alst DRE

Our Christmas Pageant will be presented on Sunday, December 11 at 2P.

Pageant practice rehearsals will be on Wednesdays at 5:30P and begin on October 12. Wendy Abrahamson is our director and the name of the pageant is **WOW!!**

We look forward to seeing the children in October!



MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group will next meet on Saturday, September 3rd at 10 am

and will continue to meet the first Saturday of every month through June of next year. As always, feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. Always looking for volunteers to share a 15-to-20-minute devotional each month. Look forward to seeing you all in the fall. Tim Bowles 860-705-5613

BINGO at Strawberry Park

THANK YOU to those who signed up to assist at our recent 12-day session!

You helped to make this a successful mission for our church which helps to supplement our church budget.

LET THE GOOD WORK CONTINUE!



Our next Bingo is Saturday, August 27th at 2P. We have sessions on Saturday, September 3 and Sunday, September 4, both at 2P.

CHURCH OFFICE UPDATES

CELEBRATION OF LIFE for Harry Coleman

Saturday, August 20, 2022 at 11 AM. Reception to follow in the church hall.

MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY starts September 12th at 10A. Questions? Contact Chris Burden

TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY starts September 20 at 7P. More information coming soon. Scott Van Alst

Our **FALL YARD SALE** is planned for **Oct 1st**.

Start sorting through those basements and attics!

Donations are only accepted four weeks prior to the sale.

Donations will be accepted starting Friday, September 2nd.

Check with Stella Dawley to make arrangements for drop-off.

THE FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY (FPU) program will be offered again next month, **starting Monday, September 26th**, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Hall's Hall. The nine-week course will be led by Bob Vescovi and be held each Monday evening. FPU includes a weekly video and group discussion addressing a variety of topics related to personal and family money management. Topics include budgeting, paying down debt, insurance, investing, real estate, college planning and retirement, among others. One scholarship is being offered should someone like to attend but has limited funds available; please speak with the minister. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board for anyone interested in attending or obtaining more information.

THOUGHTS FROM A FRIEND...

Some of the best days of your life haven't happened yet.

Keep going!

HELPING HANDS MINISTRY



Now is the time to start thinking ahead to fall.

Will you need help raking leaves? Cleaning out your garden or tidying up the lawn? Let us know and we can get your request into the newsletter to find a helper!

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.

THE CLOTHING SHED is always open for donations.

We can accept used clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, linens, pillowcases, blankets, curtains, and stuffed animals.

There will soon be a need for warm clothing. Keep this mission in mind when clearing out your closets!

LAST WORD

Use your voice for
kindness, your ears
for compassion,
your hands for
charity, your mind
for truth and your
heart for love.

