

Preston City Congregational Church



December 11, 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 of VISITATION
REVEREND STAN WHITE
860-303-9622

WORSHIP AND WEB STREAM INFORMATION

Worship services at 9A & 10:30A
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 :

12/4 - 47; 1 country; 17 states;
35 cities

12/11 - 48; 1 country; 14 states;
32 cities

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bible Study Tu 7P

AA Wed 7:30P Dudek Hall

Choir Thu 7P

NO SUNDAYSCHOOL 12/18,
12/25 & 1/01

OFFICE CLOSED 12/26 & 1/02

NEXT LITTLE PILGRIM Dec 30

COVID UPDATE 3/16/2022

The Standing Committee has
determined that wearing masks is
optional.



Coffee Fellowship

**Join us after
Sunday services**

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

**A funeral service for Chad Deroy is scheduled for Saturday,
December 17 at 3P.**

Please remember, if you turn on lights, or adjust the heat or air
conditioning, to turn them off or reset them when you are finished. If you
remove the Sanctuary railing for an event, please be sure to make
provisions for it to be put back afterwards. Others count on it being there.
Thank you.

I attended the Sunday School pageant last Sunday called "WOW".
There is nothing to get you in the Christmas spirit more than seeing
the story of Christmas portrayed by little children. It was simply wonderful.
I applaud the Director, Wendy Abrahamson and Music Director, Marie
Quinn. When adults take their time to work with children for a production
like that, it speaks volumes to our children about how important they are
to us as a church and to God.

I recently saw Max Wotring at the Boy Scout supper at St. James Church
and was interested to learn that Max is in the Marine Corps and just
completed boot camp at Parris Island in South Carolina. He left for Camp
Lejeune in North Carolina on Tuesday. He told me he will not be home for
Christmas (maybe only in his heart). Remember Max and all those who
serve in your prayers. His younger brother, Luke, is a junior at NFA. I could
hardly believe it because they'll always be "my kids"

TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY continues through December 20th.
The class will also be available on Zoom by contacting Pastor Scott VanAlst at
860-237-7964 or scottv916@gmail.com.

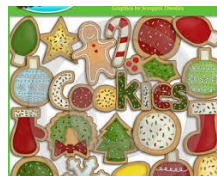
INCLEMENT WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

TUNE IN to Television Channel 3 (WFSB) or you may check Facebook, our
website prestoncitycongregational.org or call the office. A message will be
announced on the answering machine. When Sunday School is cancelled,
church is NOT CANCELLED unless specifically announced. We have been
assured that when we post on Channel 3, they notify all the local radio stations.

THE JEAN MILLER MEMORIAL COOKIE SALE

will be held on **Saturday December 17**, from 9A-
2P. \$10 per pound. Cash and checks will be
accepted.

Cookies may be dropped off at the church on Friday,
December 16th from 9AM-Noon and then between
3PM to 7PM.



THE RADA CUTLERY ORDERS will be available for
pick-up Saturday, December 17, from 9A-11A.

THE FOOD PANTRY is open Sunday December 18 after services for
church family and friends. Recently our Preston Boy Scouts donated items
from their food drive. Thank you Scouts!



WOW! What does that mean?

It means the Sunday School Program has been having an AWESOME Advent.

Mrs. Quinn has been teaching us so MANY Christmas songs at the beginning of our worship time downstairs.

We also have been taking turns lighting our own Advent wreath (Mrs. Van Alst says she is noticing a few more grey hairs this month!).

Our shoe box gifts left our church and were delivered to another church, where they have been loaded onto semis. From there they have left the state of Connecticut and should be getting bundled and sorted for planes for the next part of the journey.

The 7th - High school age class went Secret Santa shopping. 3rd & 4th grade stamped 150 bags for the memorial cookie sale.

Some of us have been practicing for weeks with the help of Mrs. Abrahamson & Mrs. Quinn and an amazing Christmas Pageant was performed last Sunday at 2:00.

As if that wasn't enough, a basket drawing was held with the help of EVERYONE in the church and we made \$1,023.00 for Sunday School! You can see some of the fun on the church's Facebook page.

Our next event is a Children's Christmas Eve Service @ 4:00 p.m. The Sounds of Christmas is an interactive story of Jesus' birth for the whole family. Bring Grandma & pa, cousins, Aunties and Uncles, co-workers, neighbors & friends - all are welcome. If your child would like to be an Angel in our parade of Angels please let me know. Angel costumes will be available December 18th during coffee hour.

THOUGHTS FROM A FRIEND...

Sometimes it is better to be kind, than to be right.

We do not need an intelligent mind that speaks, but a patient heart that listens.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Cookie Sale Drop-off → December 16 → 9A-Noon; 3P-7P
- Jean Miller Memorial Cookie Sale → December 17 - 9A-2P
- Rada Cutlery pickup → December 17
- Christmas Eve Children & Families Service → 4P
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service → 8P
- Christmas Day Sunday December 25 → 10:30A
- New Year's Day Sunday Communion → 10:30A
- Sunday School January 8 → 8:45A



MEN'S GROUP The next **MEN'S GROUP** meeting will be Saturday, January 7th from 10A to 11:15A in the meeting room on the main floor.

Our Choir invites you to come and join their rehearsal on Thursdays at 7:00pm in Halls' Hall to see what we are all about!

We also welcome soloists and instrumentalists to share their talents with our church family.

Contact Marie Quinn if you have questions or to set a date.



THE CLOTHING SHED is always open for donations.

We can accept all used clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, linens, pillowcases, blankets, curtains, and stuffed animals. Keep this mission in mind when clearing out your closets!

LITTLE PILGRIM COORDINATOR

The Little Pilgrim comes out twice a month, on the first and third weekends. Please send information to be included in the December 30th newsletter no later than Tuesday, December 27th.

COAT DRIVE

Thank you to all for helping with this mission. While our special collection is over, warm items, such as coats, scarves, gloves/mittens and socks may be donated at any time.



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(See Luke 2:1-16)

12-19-2014

IT HAD A STAR ON TOP SO I FIGURED IT SHOULD HAVE A MANGER AT THE BOTTOM



Sunday February 5th 2023 at 2PM

The Coast Guard Band Saxophone Quartet will present an afternoon concert.

Our church will be looking for someone to fill the Sexton/Custodian position. This is a part-time 15-20 hours a week job and requires flexibility in scheduling. An updated job description and applications will be available soon.



We are so excited to be planning for a **2023 Scarecrow Festival**. The date is set for **Saturday 23, 2023. 10 AM till 4 PM**. This will be our 15th festival. The festival is going to probably look a little different but it is still going to be all about fun for the whole family and community.

We need many volunteers and coordinators to make it successful. A list of areas that need coordinators is posted on the bulletin board outside Dudek Hall.

PLEASE add your name, phone, and e-mail to the list if you would like to help. Meetings will begin in January via Zoom on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM.

Questions call Shari Purcell 860-917-9011 or e-mail shariLpurcell@gmail.com or call the church office at 860-887-4647.



Our Christmas Eve service will be live-streamed at 8P for those who cannot join us in person.

Go to our website prestoncitycongregational.org and click on the Live Streaming button.

The Legend of the Poinsettia

Maria and Pablo lived in a tiny village in Mexico. Because Christmastime at their house did not include many gifts, Maria and Pablo looked forward to the Christmas festivities at the village church with great joy and anticipation.

To honor the birth of Christ, the church displayed a beautiful manger that drew crowds of admirers. Villagers walked miles to admire the manger, bringing lovely, expensive gifts for the Baby Jesus. As Maria and Pablo watched the villagers place their gifts in the soft hay around the manger, they felt sad. They had no money to buy gifts for their family and no money to buy a gift for the Baby Jesus.

One Christmas Eve, Maria and Pablo walked to the church for that evening's services, wishing desperately that they had a gift to bring. Just then, a soft glowing light shone through the darkness, and the shadowy outline of an angel appeared above them.

Maria and Pablo were afraid, but the angel comforted them, instructing them to pick some of the short green weeds that were growing by the road. They should bring the plants to the church, the angel explained, and place them near the manger as their gift to the Baby Jesus. Then just as quickly as she had appeared, the angel was gone, leaving Maria and Pablo on the road looking up into the dark sky. Confused but excited, the children filled their arms with large bunches of the green weeds and hurried to the church.

When the children entered the church, many of the villagers turned to stare. As Maria and Pablo began placing the weeds around the manger, some of the villagers laughed at them. "Why are those children putting weeds by the manger?" they asked each other. Maria and Pablo began to feel embarrassed and ashamed of their gift to the Baby Jesus, but they stood bravely near the manger, placing the plants on the soft hay, as the angel had instructed.

Suddenly, the dull green leaves on the tops of the plants began to turn a beautiful shade of red, surrounding the Baby with beautiful blooms. The laughing villagers became silent as they watched the green plants transform into the lovely star-shaped crimson flowers we call poinsettias. As they watched the weeds bloom before their eyes, Maria and Pablo knew they had no reason to be ashamed anymore. They had given the Baby Jesus the only gift they could--and it was the most beautiful gift of all.

Today, poinsettias are a traditional symbol of Christmas, thanks to young Maria and Pablo and their special gifts to the Baby Jesus. -- By Stephanie Herbek