

Preston City Congregational Church



The Little Pilgrim

February 5, 2023

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 9A & 10:30A
For those who are unable to attend
in-person, the 9:00A 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 :

1/29 - 60; 2 countries; 15 states;
44 cities

2/5 – 48; 2 countries; 13 states;
33 cities

UPCOMING EVENTS

AA Wed 7:30P Dudek Hall

Choir Thu 7P

NEXT LITTLE PILGRIM week of
Feb 19

OFFICE CLOSED MON FEB 20

**Annual Meeting Sunday Feb 12
at 11:30A in the Sanctuary**

COVID UPDATE 3/16/2022

The Standing Committee has
determined that wearing masks is
optional.



Coffee Fellowship

**Join us after
services for
coffee and
punch.**

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Our next Senior Luncheon is scheduled for February 14 at noon. A pasta dinner is planned. Thank you to the Migliaccio family. The sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board.

The Bingo Volunteers Appreciation Dinner will be taking place on Saturday, February 25th at 6:00 p.m. with an inclement weather date of Sunday, February 26th.

I will need help the day before on Friday for preparation, and Saturday the day of, for getting the meal out and serving.

I also need **PIE BAKERS!** Of exactly what is needed will be posted this weekend on the mid-level bulletin board.

Your help will be appreciated!

ASH WEDNESDAY is on February 22nd. There will be 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.

You may fill out a slip of paper requesting a prayer for someone which is available on the table by the elevator and downstairs on the table outside Dudek Hall. Place the paper inside the box provided and this will be put on the 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. At 7 p.m. that evening, an Ash Wednesday service will be held in the Sanctuary.

The church is locked due to security reasons; however you may get the key to get in through the office. If you call me the day prior I will make arrangements for you to get a key for you to get in. Thanks for your understanding.

The annual reports are done. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please call the office.

Every day I am amazed at how many people work to keep our church running smoothly. Most recently the Supper Committee came on the coldest day of the year to clean up the newly renovated kitchen. Kim Lang has spent countless hours here painting all the cabinets and drawers in the kitchen. They look great!

– Sandy Dudek Administrative Assistant

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.

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.



Lent With Children

Here we are 2 1/2 weeks before the start of LENT. As a Christian, this is the time of quiet reflection, preparedness, and for some

maybe even a recommitment to our Faith! We have 40 days (not including Sundays), starting February 22nd, Ash Wednesday, to reconnect or connect at a deeper level to Jesus. Now, how does your family/children fit into that scene? Honestly, mine didn't! The Van Alst family was **never** quiet! Neither was our schedule! This is a safe place and it's ok to admit that we are still probably cleaning up the mess from family at Christmas and it's almost EASTER! I promise I won't tell.

So step one: take a deep breath; hold and let it out slowly. Now step 2: know this; **Jesus loves you!** Say it, repeat it, repeat it again! You are loved, not judged. Now how do I teach my children about Lent....

Good news, you are! Sometime ago you made a choice, the choice of Sunday School and church here at Preston City Congregational Church. KEEP bringing them upstairs to watch you worship and/or to their classrooms. TALK to them every Sunday as you drive home. Ask them what they learned, saw, heard, felt! Tell me more about your project...etc.. It is so important they continue to hear Jesus loves them from you and from their friends/family here. Invite their friends, cousins, classmates to go to a class with them.

Now if you want activities, I have 1,000. My email overflows with ideas and I pray constantly that I share what is needed to spark the flame of faith, or rekindle an old flame. Consider attending the Good Friday Service as a family on April 7th. The children are invited to have lunch and stay until 2:00 to do crafts/activities. - Mrs. Van Alst - (call/text 860-710-1262 or email dre.prestoncity@gmail.com)

LOOKING AHEAD

Annual Meeting → February 12

Lent begins → February 22

Trivia Night → March 25



Choir Rehearsals

Rehearsals are Thursday nights at 7:00pm.

Please join us as we prepare for the season of Lent and Easter.

Tuesday Evening Bible Study

Our current session continues on Tuesdays at 7pm through Mar. 28th and will be on the Prophet Daniel. If anyone has any questions, please call Scott VanAlst on his cell phone: 860-237-7964.

The Monday Morning Bible Study will be getting together again starting on Monday January 23rd at 10am. We will be studying the Christian Church of Colossae written by David Jeremiah, "Christ above All."

I will be ordering books if you are interested at \$15. Please contact Chris Burden for any questions.



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!

An update from St. Pauly Textile, Inc., the company which oversees our donation shed, was received recently. The following is a comparison of 2021 and 2022 donations.

*34,139 pounds of clothing were donated to our shed in 2021; **51,871 pounds in 2022.***

*In 2021, this was enough to clothe an estimated 6,289 people all over the world; **in 2022, 9,555 people.***

Based on the volume of clothing, your organization received \$1,366 in 2021;

in 2022, \$2,074. 82 was received.

THANK YOU to our wonderful volunteers and to all who donated to our clothing shed. Together we are making a difference for many.



We are so excited to be planning for a **2023 Scarecrow Festival.**

The date is set for **Saturday September 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 be 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.

The Little Pilgrim comes out twice a month, during the first and third weeks. Please send information to be included in the February 24th newsletter no later than Tuesday, February 21st. Sue Brosnan

THOUGHTS FROM A FRIEND...

"Don't carry your mistakes around with you.
Instead, place them under your feet and
use them as stepping stones to rise above them."

SCHOLARSHIP MONTH IS HERE!



In 1992, February was established as Scholarship Month, in order to give church-goers the opportunity to contribute to the Winthrop C. and 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 for the first time, to further their education. It was expanded to include her husband in 2015, after his passing. 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. Please give if you are able.

Together we can help our young people reach their goals.

2023 ANNUAL MEETING CALL & AGENDA FEBRUARY 12, 2023 11:30A

The Annual Meeting of the Preston City Congregational Church will be held in the Sanctuary, on Sunday, February 12, 2023, at 11:30A for the following actions:

1. To accept the reports of Officers, Boards, Committees, and other church organizations.
2. To vote on the proposed 2023 budget of \$228,226.
3. To act on the Nominating Committee's proposed slate for 2023.
4. To vote on the proposed Bylaw revision.
5. To transact any other business that may be brought before the congregation.

Susan Brosnan
Clerk

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.



THE CRACKED POT: A STORY FOR ANYONE WHO IS NOT QUITE PERFECT



A water bearer had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole which were carried across their neck. One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water.

At the end of the long walks from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer bringing home only one and a half pots of water. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do. After two years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, it spoke to the bearer one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house."

The water bearer smiled, "Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you water them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

Moral of the story: We are all cracked pots. Each of us has our own unique flaw. But it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding. You've just got to take each person for what they are and look for the good in them.

Happy
Valentine's
Day

