

Preston City Congregational Church



The Little Pilgrim

week of
July 23, 2023

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

Have a question? Need help?

Please call: The Office
860 887-4647 or 860 886-7200

To reach our interim co-ministers
directly at any time:
Rev. Mark Porizky – 860 705-1262
porizky@gmail.com
Rev. Stan White - 860 303-9622
sewhite3022@gmail.com

WORSHIP AND WEB STREAM INFORMATION

Worship service is at 9:30A
For those who are unable to attend
in-person, the 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:
7/16 – 54; 2 Countries; 18 States; 42
cities
7/23 – 64; 2 Countries; 23 States; 54
Cities

WEEKLY EVENTS

AA Wed 7:30P Dudek Hall

NEXT LITTLE PILGRIM week of
August 6.

COVID UPDATE 3/16/2022

The Standing Committee has
determined that wearing masks is
optional.



Lemonade on the Lawn

is back! Join us for
fellowship and a
cold drink following our service!

FROM THE DESK OF REV. STAN

More thoughts about seeds...

I've been thinking about my sermon from a couple weeks ago: "The Sower, The Seed, and The Soil." Especially about the kind of seeds we sow every day in our lives – some good, others not-so-good.

Before coming to Preston, I served as an Associate Minister for seven years at a Congregational Church in Massachusetts. One day, an elderly man from the congregation came into my office humming a melody. He said, "Stan, have you ever heard this tune before?" I had not. He continued to hum, and I continued to say, "Nope, never heard it before." He said he woke up one morning humming the tune, after reading a poem on the back cover of the Sunday worship folder. The poem was "At Days End" by John Hall. After what seemed like endless humming of the catchy melody, I asked him to hum the tune into a cassette recorder. Remember them? His humming fit the words of Hall's poem perfectly. I arranged the notes and music on staff paper and the melody soon became a well-loved song (hymn) that we sang many times in church. This week, I found the file containing his song, and I read the words of all three verses, paying close attention to verse three:

*Did you waste the day or lose it?
Was it well or sorely spent?
Did you leave a trail of kindness,
Or a SEED of discontent?
As you close your eyes in slumber,
Do you think that God will say,
"You have earned one more tomorrow
By the work you did today."*

All of us need to hear an encouraging word from time-to-time. A word that is positive and brightens our day. There's too much negativity and fault-finding going on in society. In our families, even in the work place. Even in some churches!

What kind of seeds are you spreading these days? Want to make someone's day today? This week? Sow seeds of kindness and compassion. Offer an encouraging word to someone who needs to hear one. You'll make their day, and *At Days End*, you'll be glad you did.

See you in Church!

Rev. Stan

Going on vacation this summer? Remember to take your church along!

Our service is live at 9:30A on Sunday morning on our website

prestoncitycongregational.org.

Archived services may be viewed at any time.

And remember, the church does not take a vacation. Pledges and donations may be made online or mailed to the church to keep us up-to-date.

A CONFIRMATION CLASS has been scheduled to begin on August 7th with a Confirmation date of October 29, 2023. **A meeting with parents is planned for August 7th at 6:30P in the Meeting Room.**

The class will be taught by Rev. Stan on Monday evenings from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Annex. It is open to 9th graders and older students who may not have taken the class. Please call the office for more information or to sign up.

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

BUS TRIP TO LANCASTER PA ~ AUG 21-23

We are traveling again and are full!

Active members who wish to borrow items from the church (chairs, tables, etc.), please check with the office. They may have been requested by another member.

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. **Please remember to lock all doors.** Thank you.

Christmas Bazaar Update - Saturday November 11

Recently an informational meeting was held with those interested in participating in a Christmas Bazaar. Many ideas were discussed including long-time favorites: The Kitchen, serving breakfast sandwiches and lunch items; The Baked Goods table with homemade goodies; the handmade Quilt Drawing and the Sunday School Basket Drawing. Recent additions to the bazaar, including Vendor Tables for \$30 (congregation members get first choice at signing up!), were discussed. A new idea is a Near Antique and Vintage Items sale.

WHAT WE NEED TO MAKE THE BAZAAR A REALITY

SOMEONE to oversee the bazaar

WORKERS the day of the bazaar **AND**

VOLUNTEERS to set up tables before the bazaar, to take down tables after the bazaar, and to sweep, cleanup and setup for Sunday School.

There is a signup sheet on the mid-level bulletin board for those interested in helping in any way.

Our next meeting is Wednesday August 2nd at 6:30P.

BAPTISM



On July 16, 2023 we welcomed into the Household of Christian Faith through the sacrament of Baptism, Anya Francesca Sokolowski, daughter of Colleen and Anthony Sokolowski.

Proud grandparents are Diane and Bill Cournoyer.



On July 23, 2023 we welcomed into the Household of Christian Faith through the sacrament of Baptism, Parker Alan Zachem, son of Megan and Max Zachem.

Proud grandparents are Karleen and Ken Zachem.



BINGO at Strawberry Park - Help is needed for August 13 - August 24th, another long stretch. Saturday August 19

the games begin at 2P and

Sunday August 20, the games are early, at 10A. The remainder are evening sessions. Are you available to help out on any of the dates? We need three people at each session. Signup sheets are posted.

THOUGHTS FROM A FRIEND...

Happiness isn't measured by what we get for ourselves.
Happiness is measured by what we give to others.

We are so excited to be planning for the **2023 Scarecrow Festival**. The date is set for **Saturday September 23, 2023. 10 AM till 4 PM**. This will be our 15th festival.



We need many volunteers and coordinators to make it successful. **We meet on the second Tuesday of the month but expect to be meeting more often as the festival nears.**

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

Coordinators needed:

- 1. Volunteers**
- 2. Crow's Nest**
- 3. Chicken BBQ**
- 4. Set-up/Tear-Down**



Our next meeting will be Saturday, August 5th at 10am.



The Pastoral Search Committee has been meeting twice a month to update our church information and create an advertisement to be published in the fall issue of The Congregationalist.

Please direct any questions or concerns to a member of the committee.

- Marisa Stankiewicz, Chair
- Liz Stammel
- Wendy Abrahamson
- Sandy Dudek
- LeeAnn Fessenden
- Steve Orloski
- Bridget Park
- Felix Prokop
- Bob Vescovi



Food Pantry Needs

COMMUNION SUNDAY IS TWO-CAN SUNDAY:

Time to replenish the Toucan Food Pantry on August 6th.

Always needed: cereal, peanut butter, jelly, canned vegetables, canned fruit, canned soup, macaroni and cheese, pasta, and spaghetti sauce. Donation boxes are located at both church entry doors. Monetary donations are always welcomed and we will do the shopping!

Thank you for your continuing support for this vital ministry which helps so many.

Please note we are not accepting rice at this time.

LITTLE PILGRIM COORDINATOR The Little Pilgrim comes out twice a month, during the first and third weeks. Please send information to be included in the week of August 6th newsletter no later than Tuesday, August 8th at noon to: susan.brosnan@gmail.com or leave at the office.

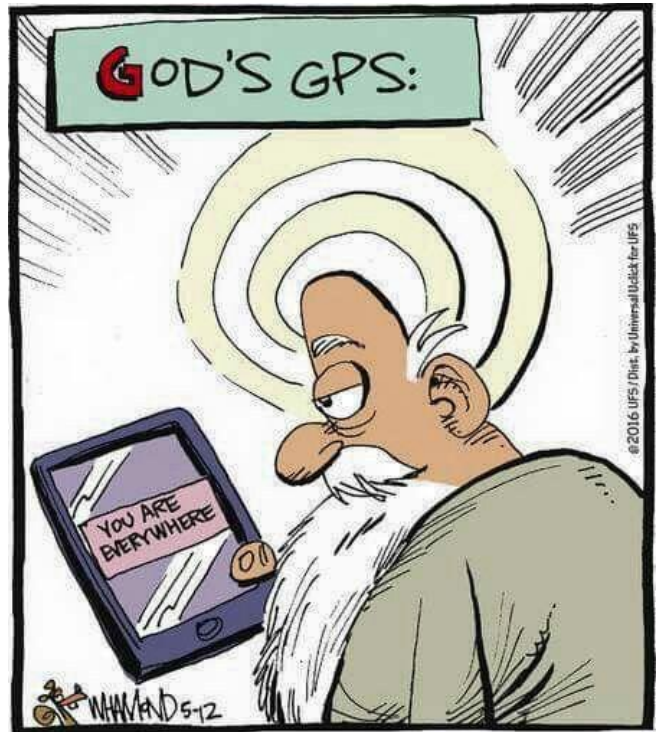
Did you know advertising your business on the radio will support the Scarecrow Festival? Thanks to an



ongoing promotion with Hall Communications, your business name and slogan would be announced a total of 20 times on WCTY, WKNL, WNLC and WICH and heard by a massive number of listeners, both prior to the festival

and on the festival day! The cost is just \$150 (\$200 after August 1st) and proceeds support this year's Scarecrow Festival. For more info or to sign up, please call Bob Vescovi at (401) 583-7840 or email him at

RVesco2010@comcast.net.



Would you like to receive an electronic version of the Little Pilgrim newsletter? Contact Sue Brosnan (susan.brosnan@gmail.com) or the church office with your name and email address. Your name will be added to our mailing list!



A message from the Deacons:

We truly appreciate your donations to this year's Scholarship Fund and apologize for this late notice. As there were no scholarship applicants this year, all donations will be carried over toward future scholarship awards. We will publish this list again when the scholarship funds are awarded. The Deacons thank you for your support of all our young students as they pursue their college degrees.

2023 Donations to the Scholarship Fund

- Kimberly Lang
- John & Pat Marino *in celebration of our children,* Lisa, Lori & Joe
- *In memory of Justin Nylan* from his mother Sue Nylan and brother Matt Nylan
- Steve & Bobbi Orlomoski
- Bob Vescovi
- Abigail & Tim Kubiak
- Clark & Lois Woodmansee
- Juliette Dombkowski
- Bob & Mary Ann Coughlin
- Laurie Bowers
- Janet Maciejny *in celebration of my grandchildren*
- Lisa Fessenden *in honor of my son Nicholas Fessenden*
- Joyce & David Costner *in honor of the Choir*

The BOOK BIN is in place in the lower parking lot, next to the **CLOTHING BIN**. Help us recycle your unneeded books and used clothing to get them into hands that can use them and keep them out of landfills!

Friends of the Preston Library Fundraiser; Live Music in the Park – Sunday, August 6 – 4:00 – 6 pm; Preston Community Park, 13 Route 117, Preston; Enjoy a live concert with Braiden Sunshine from NBC's "The Voice"; Suggested donation \$10 adults, kids free. Bring chairs, blankets, food and non-alcoholic beverages; Sign up and donate at Preston Public Library, 389 Route 2, Preston or donate at the event. Call 860-886-1010 for details.



Preston City Congregational Church needs your help!
Yes, YOU!

The Bible tells us it is those that volunteer and serve that are the true leaders in the kingdom of God. We all have gifts, talents, & skills that God gave us. We all can be God's LOVE in ACTION. I'll be honest it does cost you time, and Gas MONEY, (yikes)! However, you also **RECEIVE**. You get back an untold amount of blessings and an indescribable feeling of love and accomplishment. I honestly am struggling to put the correct words in these sentences, just trust me, or better yet I challenge you to prove me wrong! You heard me, sign up for an opportunity to give and if it turns out to be the worst experience of your life or NOT at all fulfilling then I will allow you to throw raw eggs at me during Lemonade on the lawn! (My version of a modern-day stoning!) I will even help you get started

•Currently, Sunday School has openings for teachers for Toddler 3 & 4 class, Kindergarten, '1st grade, and 2nd grade. This is an every other Sunday commitment from 8:45 -10:30 a.m. This really only requires a LOVE of building relationships! We all need that. Come find out more August 6th in Dudek Hall after the 9:30 service!

•2x's a month not a match to your schedule..... How about delivering a meal 1x a month to one of our shut-ins, or someone who is sick or needs a friend! Starting in October Meals That Heal will be preparing a homemade meal that will need to be delivered right after the 9:30 service, and the whole family can do it, or just you. What a great way to show God's LOVE...

•Love to shop... the Sunday School's biggest (only) fundraiser is the Basket Drawing in November. Can you donate a basket? A service?

•The Scarecrow Festival could use everybody, it benefits the entire church, so check out all the possibilities on the bulletin board in the Coffee hour room (Halls' Hall). Can you bake for the Christmas Pageant in December? Set up tables? Clean-up tables? Love doing crafts with kids? Then our Good Friday Event is the spot for you!

These are all examples of 1 and done activities! I could use the entire "Little Pilgrim" to help you plug in more. We are all busy, but we are all family, and families help one another, rally around each other, love on each other, and laugh with each other. Come be a part of God's and PCCC's loving, crazy family!

DRE Lisa Van Alst