

**Preston City  
Congregational Church**



**The Little Pilgrim**

**week of  
July 9, 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](mailto:porizky@gmail.com)  
Rev. Stan White - 860 303-9622  
[sewhite3022@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://prestoncitycongregational.org) and  
click the stream button. Previous  
services may be viewed using the  
archive system on the site.

Live viewings:  
7/02 – 44; 1 Country; 14 States; 34  
cities  
7/09 – 44; 1 Country; 12 States; 31  
Cities

**WEEKLY EVENTS**

**AA** Wed 7:30P Dudek Hall

**NEXT LITTLE PILGRIM** week of  
July 23.

**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. MARK**

Occasionally someone asks me a question like this: "Mark, what Scripture do you struggle with most?"

Unfortunately, the answer is too easy. One Scripture in particular highlights one of my most conspicuous flaws. It can be found in Matthew, chapter 7:3-5. There, Jesus says, "**Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.**"

Hypocrisy. Never a time goes by that I'm not embarrassed by the judgment I pass on others while giving myself a, well, a pass. Pointing out others specks while ignoring my own planks. Alas, I'm awfully good at it.

Here's the latest example.

I love to hop on my mountain bike at the end of the day and pedal away any frustrations I have. A training loop on River Road in Mystic takes about 35 minutes. Of course, I have to "roll" through about 4 stop signs downtown to keep up my speed. I am always careful, but careful does not mean that car drivers know what I'm doing.

The other day, I approached a stop sign, looked both ways, and was preparing to keep riding, I saw a car approaching that had been hidden by parked cars. I braked immediately but ended up about 2 feet over the white line at the stop. I was well safe of danger, but I scared the driver, who braked even though he didn't have a stop sign. He had some choice words for me as he drove off. I felt a little bad, but I thought he was overdoing the anger of the situation. I wasn't that bad!

Later that same evening, my wife and I drove to Groton Long Point to dine with my father-in-law. Two kids rolled through a stop sign about 25 yards ahead of me. My wife was in the passenger seat, and I told her that some kid was going to get hurt if they didn't pay more attention to traffic. My wife gave me that smirk—every husband knows what it looks like—and I realized my hypocrisy. I was judging the speck in the two young riders' eyes while ignoring the plank in my own. Less than an hour earlier, I had been behaving worse than those kids but justifying my own conduct.

Matthew 7 reminds me that I need to be more critical of myself and less so of others. How might others respond to my faith in God if I spent more time looking at my own behavior and less time examining their behaviors?

Those three verses are one of my greatest challenges.

What's yours? - Rev. Mark

**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](http://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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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

**New Entry at the Annex** The door to the Annex is now locked at all times, providing security for those inside. When you ring the doorbell, visitors may be viewed on a camera and the door will be unlocked from inside. There is also an intercom that may be activated. Just wait for the chimes and then open the door as usual. Please be patient as we are learning the new system. Thank you

### BUS TRIP TO LANCASTER PA ~ AUG 21-23

We are traveling again! Call the office to add your name to our waitlist if you would like to join us and a spot becomes available.

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

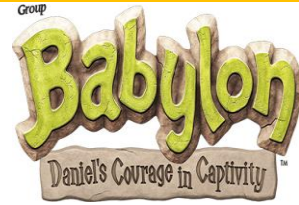
Recently an informational meeting was held with those interested in participating in a Christmas Bazaar. Many ideas were discussed including long-time favorites: The Kitchen, serving breakfast sandwiches and lunch items; The Baked Goods table with homemade goodies; the handmade Quilt Drawing and the 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 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30P.**

**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.



**Preston City Congregational Church  
Vacation Bible School  
July 10 -14 2023**

**Thank you to Director Shari Purcell and everyone who helped make this a great week for our children!**



**MEN'S GROUP**

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

### THOUGHTS FROM A FRIEND...

Hate has four letters, but so does Love.  
Enemies has seven letters, but so does Friends.  
Lying has five letters, but so does Truth.  
Negativity has ten letters,  
but so does Positivity.  
Life is two-sided; choose the better side of it.



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 15<sup>th</sup> festival. We need many volunteers and coordinators to make it successful. **We will meet on July 18th at 6:30 PM.**

Questions call Shari Purcell 860-

917-9011 or e-mail [shariLpurcell@gmail.com](mailto:shariLpurcell@gmail.com) or call the church office at 860-887-4647.

**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 July 23<sup>th</sup> newsletter no later than Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at noon to: [susan.brosnan@gmail.com](mailto:susan.brosnan@gmail.com) or leave at the office.