

Preston City Congregational Church



week of
August 27, 2023

Church Office Hours:
Monday – Friday, 9AM – Noon
OFFICE CLOSED SEPTEMBER 4

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:
8/13 – 59; 2 Countries; 22 States; 53
cities
8/20– 34; 1 Country; 12 States; 24
cities

WEEKLY EVENTS

AA - Wed 7:30P Dudek Hall
Sunday Service – 9:30A
Sunday School – 9:15A
NEXT LITTLE PILGRIM week of
September 10th.

COVID UPDATE 3/16/2022

The Standing Committee has
determined that wearing masks is
optional.

Join us for our final
Lemonade on the Lawn
for 2023, September 3rd.

September 10 we will have
a coffee hour with refreshments,
prior to our church meeting.



FROM THE DESK OF REV. MARK

Dog Spelled Backwards

I have one wife, three children, and, until recently, two dogs. The dogs spend more time with me than do my wife and children. This is no criticism of humans in my sphere. It's simply a truth: My wife and kids have other things to do than hang around with me. My two "Velcro" dogs do not, following me everywhere. My constant companions are Champ, an Australian Shepherd, and Lola, a Black Lab rescue mix.

My wife, for some time now, has wanted a puppy. I, on the other hand, didn't really want a third dog. The debate over an addition to the family was theoretical until mid-August. Suddenly, a litter of Golden Retriever (my wife's favorite) and Black Lab (my favorite) mix puppies became available. For free!

My wife began her persuasion. "These dogs are so cute," she said, showing me pictures. "Can we get one?" she asked. "Absolutely not," I replied. I thought I was firm.

You know, of course, what happened. Four days later, August 20, we welcomed an eight-week-old puppy into our home. A picture is included at the bottom. We gave him a name before we met him. Luke.

I didn't want a third dog, even though we've had three dogs before, because I wasn't ready to fall in love with another dog. I obsess over my dogs. Their well-being sometimes feels like a full-time job. Are they getting enough exercise? Are they eating and sleeping appropriately? Do they like me more than my wife? Wait, skip that...

With my children out of the house, it's the closest feeling I have to what God must feel for us. When we went to go look at Luke, I fell in love with him at first sight. It took about five seconds to know that we wouldn't be going home without him. As I write this, three dogs are asleep at my feet. Luke has been in our house for four hours. I am fiercely devoted, committed, all in with this puppy. In a few weeks I'll deny not ever wanting him!

God's zealous love for us begins even sooner than my love for a puppy. God says to Jeremiah, "**Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you,**" (Jeremiah 1:5). Meaning, I've known you before there was a you to be known by anyone else.

God was crazy in love with us before we had a name. My love for others, along with love for animals and those vegetables and plants in our garden, is because God loves me. "**We love because He first loved us.**" (1 John 4:19)

Stan and I want you to feel loved by God at PCCC, not so that we can simply feel blissful, though sometimes that's nice. Rather, only people who feel loved are capable of loving others as God would like us to love. Puppies, sure! But dogs are easy. How about people with whom we don't see eye to eye in this life? God knew their names before they were born, as well. What we do with this information determines our future. I miss you all. See you September 17th!

Grace and peace, Mark



September 10th is a busy day in our church:

Sunday School begins at 9:15A; the Choir is back; Coffee hour with refreshments follows the 9:30A service; the September Church meeting is scheduled at 11A

CONFIRMATION CLASS meets Monday evenings at

6:30P except on Monday holidays when the church office is closed.

(Labor Day Sept. 4, Columbus Day Oct 9)

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

The Office is CLOSED Monday, September 4th in honor of Labor Day.

If your address has changed or you have a new phone number, please let the office or church clerk know so records may be updated. We understand many people no longer have 'land lines' and use cell phones as their main contact. Please help us keep our information up-to-date.

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.

Please remember to check with the office for space availability when scheduling meetings.

BINGO at Strawberry Park –

Thank you to everyone who was able to help at our recent long bingo!

We have weekend games coming up in September and October and on Columbus Day, October 9. Check the signup sheets on the bulletin board.



On August 13, 2023 we welcomed into the Household of Christian Faith through the sacrament of Baptism, Kallum Walter Day, the son of Mark and Eliza (Hopkins) Day. We ask God's blessing on this little one.

FROM THE CLERK

**SEPTEMBER CHURCH MEETING CALL & AGENDA
September 10, 2023
11:00A**

The September All-Church Meeting of the Preston City Congregational Church will be held in the sanctuary on Sunday, **September 10, 2023** at 11:00A

for the following actions:

1. To hear the reports of Officers, Boards, Committees, and other church organizations
2. To vote on the proposed Vision and Mission statements
3. To transact any other business that may be brought before the congregation

Susan P. Brosnan
Clerk

All are welcome to attend, however, only church members may vote.

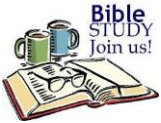
**VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS
proposed by the Pastoral Search Committee
and recommended by the Standing
Committee for adoption at the Church
Meeting Sunday September 10, 2023.**

Vision Statement

In this sacred place, as Congregationalists we welcome all on their spiritual journey to grow their faith in God, discover their purpose, and make a difference through service and fellowship.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Preston City Congregational Church is to welcome all who are seeking a Christ-centered church home. This happens through inspiring worship services, thought-provoking Bible study, continual fellowship, close ties with the local community, and foundational Sunday School programs. Our daily goal is to share a church life that encompasses the Preston City Congregational Church motto of "Where Friends Become Family."



**Bible
STUDY**
Join us!

The Monday morning Bible Study will be getting back together again starting on September 18th at 10am.

We will be studying the lives of Jesus and His Disciples in the gospels through the show, *The Chosen Season 3*. Any questions please contact Chris Burden at 401-465-8900.



Our next meeting will be Saturday, September 9th at 10am.

MEN'S GROUP

Women's Fellowship will be meeting on Oct. 14th at 9am. We will be putting together Birthday Bundles. We are asking for donation of items to make up the bundle: aluminum pans, cake mix and frosting, balloons and hats, please. Thank you in advance to everyone who contributes.



Christmas Bazaar Update IT'S BACK!!!
Nancy Obreiter has volunteered to oversee this holiday tradition, enjoyed by so many in the community! Check here for future updates of needs, meetings, and where you can help!

IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING...

The Nut sale will be back!

THOUGHTS FROM A FRIEND...

When you can't find the sunshine, be the sunshine.

PCCC 325th Anniversary

November 16, 2023 marks the beginning of our 325th year as a continuing Congregational Church!

Would you like to join a committee to arrange some special events to commemorate this occasion? A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin if you are interested.

**Our Church's
Anniversary**



THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS

PAGEANT is scheduled for December 10th at 2P.

Rehearsals for "The Night Before" begin November 1st from 5:30-6:30P.

Children of all ages are welcome to sign up on the list on the bulletin board outside of Dudek Hall (the Sunday School room). We are looking for someone to assist with the music; are you able to help? Please see Wendy Abrahamson for further information.



A POLICIES & PROCEDURES HANDBOOK is being created to clarify guidelines set forth in the bylaws – a basic how things work and the processes that need to be followed. Would you like to join the Bylaw Committee in creating this handbook? There is a sign-up sheet posted on the downstairs bulletin board.

Breastfeeding/Lactation Room

The Lactation Room is ready to open, across from the Baby Nursery in the Sunday School addition. Parents will now have a quiet place to feed their children during church events. Thank you to all who donated requested items and volunteered their time to make this happen.



Choir rehearsals begin September 7th at 7P in Halls' Hall. New voices are always welcome. Our first Sunday in church is September 10th.

TRIVIA NIGHT

To benefit the Restoration of Long Society Meetinghouse

Join the Preston Historical Society as they hold a Trivia night on Saturday Oct. 9, at 6 pm at the Poquetanuck Firehouse, 87 Route 2A, Preston. BYO refreshments & finger food. There will be prizes and raffles. Tickets are \$10 per person. Please send checks to PHS, c/o Mark Christensen, 15 Amos Road, Preston 06365. Or call Pat Macek at 860-889-2772 or Linda Christensen 860-887-5828 to reserve tickets. Or Email - prestonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com



**SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS SEPTEMBER 10th
AT 9:15A.
PLEASE NOTE THE NEW START TIME.**



HOW TO BUILD A SCARECROW EVENTS

Two Dates (All ages welcome)

A frame and materials will be provided to build the foundation of your scarecrow or you may bring your own.

Bring decorating supplies or put finishing touches on at home.

Friday September 15, 2023 from 5:00- 7:00 PM

Hosted by Preston Ridge Vineyard

Located at 100 Miller Road, Preston, CT

There will be food trucks at 5:30 PM

Sunday September 17, 2023 - 11:00A - 1:30PM

Hosted at the Preston City Congregational Church
(under the pavilion)

Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the early fall.

Make your reservation by Sept 13 to Debra LaBree
(Coordinator) 203-988-8217 or PCCC church office
860-887-4647

Enter your creation and win prizes at the 15th
Preston City Congregational Church

SCARECROW FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 23, from 10AM - 4 PM

FREE admission and parking and shuttle service
available from Preston Veterans School

Come to the festival and vote for your favorites!

Contest applications will be available at the **Build A Scarecrow** events.

LITTLE PILGRIM COORDINATOR The Little Pilgrim comes out twice a month. Please send information to be included in the week of September 10th newsletter no later than Tuesday, September 12th at noon to:
susan.brosnan@gmail.com or leave at the office.

Would you like to receive an electronic version of the Little Pilgrim newsletter delivered to your email?

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!

Never regret a day in
your life. Good days
give you happiness,
bad days give you
experience, worst
days give you lessons,
and **the best days**
give you memories.

LOOKING AHEAD AT UPCOMING OCTOBER EVENTS

World Communion Sunday
New Members Sunday
Confirmation Sunday

Check our next issue for more information!