

**Preston City  
Congregational Church**  
"Gathering in Faith Since 1698"



**week of  
December 17, 2023**

Church Office Hours:  
Monday – Friday, 9AM – Noon  
**CLOSED M DEC 25, TU DEC 26 &  
M JAN 1**

**Have a question?  
Need help?**

Please call: The Office  
860 887-4647 or 860 886-7200  
Rev. Mark will be available  
Wednesday evenings. Please call  
to make an appointment.  
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:

12/03 – 2 countries; 25 states; 63  
cities; 83 viewings

12/10 - 2 countries; 25 states; 63  
viewings

**WEEKLY EVENTS**

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

**Sunday Service** – 9:30A

**Sunday School** – 9:15A

**NEXT LITTLE PILGRIM** week of  
December 31st.

**COVID UPDATE 3/16/2022**

The Standing Committee has  
determined that wearing masks is  
optional.



Coffee Fellowship

**Join us for coffee,  
punch, and  
fellowship following  
our Sunday service.**

**Got a favorite Advent candle?**

The correct answer, I believe, is "They're all my favorites; *Hope, Peace, Joy and love!*" Each candle should represent something we desire in our lives every day and long-past Christmas.

While each candle has significance in my life, this year it seems that one candle in particular shines a little brighter than the others. The candle I focus on depends on what's going on in my life, and what's going on in the world. This year it's the **peace candle**.

The scriptures say: "*My peace I give to you...*," "*May the Lord give you peace at all times.*" "*You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you...*" "*Blessed are the peacemakers...*" "*Live peaceably with all.*"

These peace passages, and a few hundred more found in the Bible could fill the pages of this newsletter. They tell me that **peace IS important and worth seeking**. Who doesn't want peace in their life? The world we share with others is far from peaceful this year. Chaos and confusion have overshadowed the peace I am seeking this Christmas.

What I have learned this Advent season:

- When I have Peace in my life, Hope, Joy, and Love are also present!
- When I strive to follow the "Prince of Peace," Jesus Christ, he gives me hope, joy, and the ability to love others, as he has loved me!
- My Christmas is complete when these candles/gifts (all five of them) shine brightly in my life every day.

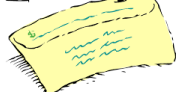
My wish for you this Christmas is that you realize the most important gift isn't under your tree but in your heart waiting for you to notice.  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS.**

You ARE loved!

**Rev. Stan**

**If you asked to receive offering envelopes** when you filled out your pledge card in November, they are now available for pick-up in the mid-level hallway. If you did not request envelopes, but would now like a box, contact the office, and we will see that you get them. We remind you to discard any unused 2023 envelopes after December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Offering  
Envelopes**



**IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN...**

Time to start working on those annual reports for 2023! Reports will be due to the church office by January 15, 2024. The reports need not be typed. Please contact the office if you have questions about needing to submit a report for your committee or board. Thank you

## FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

**The January Senior Luncheon** is scheduled for **Tuesday January 9<sup>th</sup>** at noon. A ham dinner is planned. A sign-up sheet is posted.

\*

**DO YOU PLAY CHESS?** We have a request from a young male adult who likes to play chess but needs someone to challenge!!! If you would consider doing this, we could make arrangements to meet at the church at a time convenient to both of you.

Call the office and let us know and we'll call you back.

\*

**INCLEMENT WEATHER CANCELLATIONS** Tune in to Television Channel 3 (WFSB), local radio stations or you may check Facebook, our website [prestoncitycongregational.org](http://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.

**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. that are reserved for this purpose), please check with the office. They may have been requested by someone else!

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 AND CHECK all doors.** Thank you.

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

**BRICK ORDERS** are being taken for the area located in the lower parking lot beside the walkway. You can purchase a brick in honor of, in celebration of, or in memory of someone. Perhaps a holiday gift? A 4"x 8" brick costs \$75, and can have up to 3 lines of engraving and up to 18 characters per line. An 8"x 8" brick costs \$125, can have up to six lines of engraving and up to 18 characters per line. There is a signup sheet on the mid-level bulletin board for those who are interested. Speak with Joy Chalifoux if you have any questions. **We need at least ten brick purchases to process an order.**



## 325<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY NEWS

The 325<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our church is now underway! To date, we've dedicated the stone acknowledging this historic milestone. It's located on the annex lawn between the two flag poles. If you haven't seen it, stop by. It's impressive!

Wasn't the organ concert on December 10<sup>th</sup> a glorious event? We thank Robert Potterton for his fine presentation of classical organ compositions as well as the light-hearted music from several well-known Christmas movies. It was a wonderful afternoon of music, complete with a reception in Halls' Hall! Thank you to all who made it possible.

Did you know that a choral piece marking the 325<sup>th</sup> year is now "in the works?" Joseph Martin, who composed "House of Grace" for our church's 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary (1998) was commissioned to write another piece exclusively for our church. It will premiere at the anniversary worship service scheduled for November 2024. A special choir will be formed from the congregation to sing it for the first time. After November, the anthem will be available for purchase by choirs across the United States. There will be an inscription on the music stating that it was commissioned by our church on the occasion of the 325<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

To offset the cost of this commissioned piece exclusively for our church, we are seeking 18 individuals or families, to donate \$100. All donors will be listed in the anniversary worship service folder next year. If you'd like to be part of this exciting project, please let Pat Marino (325 Committee Chair) know. You can mail your check, made payable to **Preston City Congregational Church** (or PCCC), to Pat at **61 McClimon Road, Preston, CT 06365**. Be sure to include the name as it should appear in the program. Feel free to call Pat if you have any questions: 860.887.3359.



**A COAT DRIVE** is being held through January 1<sup>st</sup>. All sizes are welcome for men, women and children. Boots, hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves are also needed.

The coats may be left in or on the Elizabeth Allyn box located to the right of the table in the mid-level hallway. Let's help keep everyone warm this winter! Thank you for supporting this mission.



Bible  
STUDY  
Join us!

**The Tuesday Night Bible Study** meets @ 7pm in the Meeting Room. We will start up again on January 9, 2024. If you have any questions, please call Pastor Scott VanAlst @ 860-237-7964.



**TRIVIA NIGHT WILL BE BACK ON APRIL 6, 2024.**

**Actual children’s versions of Christmas Carols:**

“...sleep in heavenly peas”;

“Joy to the world, the Savior rains”;

“This is he whom Sears of old...”;

“Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plane”;

“While shepherds washed their socks by night.”



**DECEMBER – JANUARY EVENTS**

SUNDAY December 24 ~

Christmas Sunday Service ~ 9:30A

Children & Families Christmas Service ~ 4P

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service ~ 8P

SUNDAY December 31

Sunday January 7

Service 9:30A

Sunday School 9:15A

Tuesday January 9 ~ Senior Lunch ~ Noon

Tuesday Night Bible Study ~ January 9 ~ 7P



**The Cookie Sale was a great success!**

Thank you to all of the ‘elves’ that helped, from baking cookies, to helping at the sale, to helping setup and cleanup! And of course, to all who made

purchases! (\$1788 was their profit!) The Miller family was honored that the tradition Jean started continues.

**LITTLE PILGRIM COORDINATOR** The Little Pilgrim comes out twice a month. Please send information to be included in the week of December 17th newsletter no later than Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at noon to: [susan.brosnan@gmail.com](mailto:susan.brosnan@gmail.com) or leave at the office.



**ADVENT**

God is the light of the world. He is the sunrise, sunset, and noonday sun. We turn our gaze toward Him as the sunflower follows the sun across the heavens. As the moon shines its borrowed light in the night, so we receive the divine light and shine it in darkness. As God sent His only son to bring light into the world, so Advent is like the pre-dawn luminescence that spreads its rays across the sky and reflects them on the waters. - Michael Barrett