

Preston City Congregational Church



**week of
September 10, 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:
8/27 – 58; 2 Countries; 19 States; 43
cities
9/03– 33; 1 Country; 13 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 24th.

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.**

FROM THE DESK OF REV. STAN

325 and still alive! That's something to celebrate!

On November 16, we will begin a year-long observance of our church's existence. Once only an idea, a thought, twelve men stood on the "grassy knoll" just outside our present church building and said, *This is a good place to build a church! (My words)*. Their idea caught on; the townspeople agreed. It wasn't long before the construction of a crude, wooden structure, with no heat or lights took shape. Today, we call it a church, but back then the people referred to it as a *Meeting House*. The building served several purposes; it was not only a place of worship, but a building where town meetings were held. Interestingly, there are still some old, historic, Congregational Churches (congregations) around New England that refer to their church as a Meeting House. Call it what you will, it was a place where people of faith could *freely* gather and worship God in a way they believed was best. In a way that would honor and glorify God.

Imagine it, 78 years after the landing of the Mayflower in Plymouth, Massachusetts, descendants of some of those brave souls (Pilgrims) ventured out to explore the wilderness around them. Eventually, some of them made their way to a place called Connecticut, and discovered land with possibility! Some decided to settle in the area, build their homes, and raise their family. They named the area "Preston," after a town in England, the country they left behind in search of freedom, especially religious freedom, and more. The Congregational church is often referred to as "The Church of the Pilgrims." Like our forebears, our church believes strongly in freedom, especially religious freedom. The head of our church is Jesus Christ only! Not a King, not a Pope. And the voice of the congregation, through voting, determines the direction in which the church will go -- of course, after much prayerful consideration.

You will be hearing more about programs and events that are "in the works" for the 3-2-5 celebration. It is hoped that you will attend many of them, and consider inviting a friend to enjoy them with you.

The Christian Church is facing tough times today; declining attendance, financial issues, and a lack of interest. God has been faithful to us. He has brought us to this moment in time. Let's celebrate it and give thanks.

325 and still alive!

Rev. Stan

PRAYER SQUARE MISSION



This is a great way to spread God's love, share our faith with others, or strengthen our own faith, but especially, touch a life!

You can pray for others or yourself, and this can be done by anyone!!! Say a prayer, tie a knot; it is as simple as that!

The Squares are available in the baskets at both entrances of the sanctuary and the church office.

When we run out, more will be made!

If you have any questions, please contact Kim Lang during church or at krmlang@sbcglobal.net.

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Funeral for John O. Fleming, Sr.

Saturday morning, September 16, 10 a.m.
Rev. Gregory Perry will be officiating.

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 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.

CONFIRMATION CLASS meets Monday evenings at 6:30P except on Monday holidays when the church office is closed. (Columbus Day Oct 9)

NEW MEMBERS will be welcomed into the church on October 22nd. Please sign the sheet on the mid-level bulletin board if you are interested. You will be sent all of the information. October 1st is the last day to sign up. Call the church office with any questions.

THE FALL YARD SALE is planned for Saturday October 7th. Donations are now being accepted. Please contact Stella Dawley to make arrangements for donation drop-off.



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



THE SUPPER COMMITTEE is planning a turkey dinner for October 21st.

Tickets go on sale September 24th and are \$19 for Adults and \$10 for Children.



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.

LOOKING AHEAD...TRAVELERS...

June 2024 – Maine – featuring tours of Portland & Kennebunkport

August 2024 – Sight & Sound of Lancaster, PA, featuring Sight & Sound's "DANIEL"

October 2024 – Ireland

More information will be forthcoming.



PRESTON CITY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Presents

~ IRELAND ~

Join us as we travel to this beautiful part of the world!

October 12 - 21, 2024

Departing from Logan Airport, Boston

An informational meeting and slide presentation will be held at the church (321 Route 164)

Tuesday, October 10, at 6:30 p.m.

All interested travelers from the church and community are welcome to attend.

A representative from *Collette* will be present on the 10th to answer any questions.

At the present time, we have 20 seats reserved for this amazing 10-day adventure.

Join Rev. Stan on this wonderful trip!

THE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR IS BACK!!!!
November 11, 2023 from 9am to 2pm

It's so exciting it is to have one of our PCCC traditions coming back!!! The Christmas Bazaar is one of the favorite social events for our church family and friends. To help make this a great success, we will need donations of items and volunteers to help set up before and clean up after. Please let me know if you will be available to help out. If you would like to rent a table to sell crafts, our church family has first pick till September 17 then it will be open to the public.

Tables are:
8-foot table - \$30
6-foot table - \$25 (one available)
4-foot table - \$15
(sharing half of an 8 ft. table, if available)

Please give me, Nancy Obreiter, a call at 401-206-3881, if you can help. We will be accepting donations for the Christmas room, Vintage room, and completed baskets for the Sunday school drawing. There will also be a donation drawing for a beautiful quilt made by members of our church! Stella will be accepting baked good donations for her bake sale. It's going to be a great time!!! You can also sit and chat with friends in the Kitchen Café with delicious breakfast or lunch items, desserts, a drink and/or something you bought at the bake sale table! Mark your calendar for one of our favorite traditions!!!

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.



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.



Choir rehearsals are at 7P in Halls' Hall. New voices are always welcome.

IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING...



The Nut sale will be back! We will begin taking orders starting October 15th.

THOUGHTS FROM A FRIEND...

Kindness is a language
the deaf can hear and the blind can see.
Mark Twain

YOU ARE INVITED to the home of Rev. Mark and his wife, Lucretia, on **Sunday, October 1st, from 3-6P.** They are located at 100 Shewville Road, Mystic. A sign-up sheet is posted if you plan to attend. There is also a sign-up sheet if you like to bring a dish; i.e. main dish, salad, dessert, etc. If you are not sure you can make it Rev. Mark said "Just like Jesus, last minute people are welcome!"

Our Church's Anniversary



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.

LOOKING AHEAD AT OCTOBER EVENTS

World Communion Sunday &
3rd Grade First Communion October 1

Informational Meeting for Ireland Trip October 10

Nut Sale Orders begin October 15

Turkey Dinner October 21

New Members Sunday October 22

Confirmation Sunday October 29



Families please check your emails! I will be sending little notes on Sunday about SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS and any UPCOMING EVENTS for your Children and the entire family!

Should you forget to check, that's ok, *The Little Pilgrim* will also have NEWS, the church *Worship Folder*, and occasionally the church's *Facebook page*, make sure you are signed up for all of these!

Sunday School started with 38 students and NOT everybody was here!!!! It's never too late to enroll and it is ALWAYS OK to invite a friend.

I hope to see families at the two " **Build a Scarecrow**" events this weekend, as well as the festival itself.

Sign-ups are on the main bulletin board for the BASKET DRAWING as well as the Children's Christmas Pageant. All ages are welcome. Wendy Abrahamson will be the director and she can answer any of your questions (860-376-4696).

As you attend church Sunday or Sunday School watch for a special announcement about Operation Christmas Child! The first grown-up to tell me the dates will win a prize. The 1st child to tell me what Operation Christmas Child is... will also win a prize! Come find me at the info table during coffee hour.

This week let us pray on New Beginnings as children start a new school year. For some that's a new building, new classmates, teachers, and bus, intimidating situations when you're only 5 and up! This is a chance to let them know they have a choice to look at this year with all the potential that God sees in them, an opportunity! Jesus is with us all the time, so we can do tough things. I ask that you pray this week for your children and all children. Teachers, Bus Drivers, Custodians, Cafe-Workers, Paraprofessionals, Administrative Assistants, Principals, and PARENTS. Pray for opening doors, seeing God's light and for being God's light. Realizing every day is a gift and to use everything we have been given. Help us to hear God's voice and to see God's face .

I can do great things because Jesus is my Savior,
Lisa Van Alst

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



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 24th newsletter no later than Tuesday, September 26th 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!