

Preston City Congregational Church



The Little Pilgrim

week of
September 24, 2023
OFFICE CLOSED OCTOBER 9

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.

WEEKLY EVENTS

AA - Wed 7:30P Dudek Hall

Sunday Service – 9:30A

Sunday School – 9:15A

NEXT LITTLE PILGRIM week of
October 8th.

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. MARK

It's so good to be back in church with you! And now, I just finished two weeks in the pulpit preaching on forgiveness. Sadly, so many thoughts and ideas for my sermons end up on the cutting room floor. That is, unless I choose to keep you there for an extra hour!

Among the many parts of forgiveness that got cut was one part on being blessed with "**eyes that are able to see, and ears that are able to hear.**" (Matthew 13:16)

When I am angry, hurt, injured, or betrayed, I always pray first for better eyes and ears. And I look for help from others who have travelled the path before me. Among many, I have let Antwone Fisher's story inspire me on my forgiveness journey.

Antwone had ample reason to live with a cluttered heart. For the first 33 years of his life, he knew neither of his parents. His father had died before Antwone was born. And his mother, for reasons that he longed to know, abandoned him as a boy. He grew up as a foster child in Cleveland, abused, neglected and desperate to find a single member of his family.

Equipped with the name of his father and a Cleveland phone book, he began calling people of the same last name. His life changed the day an aunt answered the phone. He told her his date of birth and his father's identity. He described the difficult turns his life had taken: being kicked out by his foster mom, serving a stint in the Navy, now holding his own as a security guard in Los Angeles.

Her voice was warm. "You have a big family." Before long another aunt invited him to Cleveland for a Thanksgiving reunion and filled the week with a lifetime of belated love.

And then, after days of calls and attempts, his family found his mother's brother. He offered to take Antwone to the housing project where she lived. On the drive Antwone rehearsed the questions he'd longed to ask for the last three decades:

Why didn't you come for me? Didn't you ever wonder about me? Didn't you miss me at all?

But the questions were never uttered. The door opened, and Antwone walked into a dimly lit apartment with shabby furniture. Turning, he saw a frail woman who looked too old to be his mother. Her hair was uncombed. She wore her night-clothes.

Antwone's uncle said to her, "This is Antwone Quenton Fisher." Antwone's mother made the connection and started to moan, losing her footing, holding on to a chair. "Oh, God, please...Oh, God." She turned her face away in shame and hurried out of the room, crying.

Antwone learned that his mother had tried to get a man to marry her so she could raise her son but couldn't. She had gone on to bear four other children, also raised as wards of the state. Over the years she'd been hospitalized, incarcerated, and put on probation. And when he realized how painful her years had been, he chose to forgive.

He writes, "Though my road had been long and hard, I finally understood that my mother's had been longer and harder... Where the hurt of abandonment had lived inside me, now there was only compassion." (Reader's Digest, July 2001)

Friends, forgiveness, genuine forgiveness, is never easy. But that's what makes it so special.

I just couldn't find a way to squeeze this story in...

Grace and Peace, Mark

On behalf of the Pastoral Search Committee, we are happy to report that the church voted on September 10, 2023 to adopt the following statements proposed by the Pastoral Search Committee and recommended by the Standing Committee:

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."

Pastoral Search Committee member, Sandy Dudek

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

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.

On September 17, 2023 we welcomed into the Household of Christian Faith through the sacrament of Baptism, Brielle Paige Tully, the daughter of Ryan and Paige Tully. We ask God's blessing on this little one.

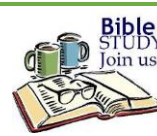


We express our condolences to the family of Emma Abrahamson on the passing of her son Gary on September 13, 2023.

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



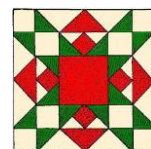
Tickets go on sale September 24th and are \$19 for Adults and \$10 for Children. The menu includes: turkey, gluten free stuffing, fresh green beans, roasted root vegetables, homemade cranberry relish, rolls & dessert. Dine-in and Take-out will be available from 4-6PM.



The Monday morning Bible Study is back together again, meeting 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.

THOUGHTS FROM A FRIEND...

Remember...When you forgive, you heal.
And when you let go, you grow.



QUILT DRAWING Nov 11th

Tickets are available singly or in books of ten at \$1.00 per ticket, for this beautiful handmade quilt created by women in the church. View the quilt after our service on Sunday. Get your tickets now!

BINGO at Strawberry Park –

We have weekend games coming up in October and on Columbus Day, October 9.

Check the signup sheets on the bulletin board. Our last session is October 20th.



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!



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.



Our next meeting is Saturday October 7th at 10A.



CHOIR REHEARSALS are at 7P in Halls' Hall. New voices are always welcome.

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.

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.

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!!!

IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING...



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

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.



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. If you are not sure you can make it Rev. Mark said "Just like Jesus, last minute people are welcome!"

LOOKING AHEAD AT OCTOBER EVENTS

World Communion Sunday October 1

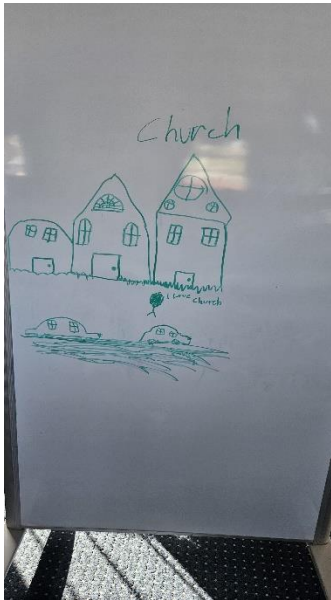
Informational Meeting for Ireland Trip October 10

Nut Sale Orders begin October 15

Turkey Dinner October 21

New Members Sunday October 22

Confirmation Sunday October 29



As their mom, Jennifer Matteson, and grandmother, Shari Purcell, prepared for the Scarecrow Festival, McKinley and Edison Matteson showed their love for their church!

"Sometimes we say, 'out of the mouths of babes, this is out of the artistic hands of babes'" says their proud grandmother!

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

LITTLE PILGRIM COORDINATOR The Little Pilgrim comes out twice a month. Please send information to be included in the week of October 8th newsletter no later than Tuesday, October 10th 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.



THE SCARECROW FESTIVAL IS BACK...and what a day it was! Some said we were lucky with the light rain we had. I believe it was the power of prayer!! Many thanks to the Scarecrow Festival Committee and most especially to our Chairperson, **Shari Purcell**, who with energy that was endless worked day and night for weeks getting ready for this event. So much good came out of the Festival. It was heartwarming to see people we haven't seen in some time and people who came to help us with all the things that needed to be done. Renewed friendships and community involvement mean a lot to so many. It's nice to make money for the church expenses, but caring, working together, and yes, even forgiving others when necessary, is what successful churches are about. Praise and glory to God from whom all blessings flow. Here's to Scarecrow Festival 2024...let the planning begin. *Sandy Dudek*

THE WINNING SCARECROWS & CREATORS ARE:

INDIVIDUAL

1st Place: King of the Forest - Debra LaBree
2nd Place: Glenn the Ski Guy - Glenn Heavens
3rd Place: Pumpkin Head Cow - Madeline Donnelly

CHILDREN

1ST Place: White Hat Lady - Aurora & Xavier Andruskiewicz
2nd Place: Pikachu - Austin Judy
3rd Place: Pumpkin Man - Vanessa & Tommy Elliot

MAIN STREET:

1ST Place: Edward Scissorhands – 4 G's Pizza – Urania Perry
2nd Place: Ghost Mechanic - Stilly's Auto - Jennifer Scott
3rd Place: Lounging Llama - Fleming's Feed – Aubrey Fleming Ducharme

VENDORS

Best Overall: Chewbacca – Broad Brook Maple Syrup - Ted Zajac
2nd Place: Pottery Scarecrow – Cathy's Creations- Cathy Cosey
3rd Place: Sweet Tweet – Trish's Jewelry and Gifts - Trish Maerkle



A note from the Scarecrow Festival Chairperson

The 2023 Scarecrow Festival was a huge success. The festival is a yearlong project. Like a wedding, you work toward that special day and when it's over, you are left standing in the Field of Dreams, in the pouring rain, reflecting. There is no more crowd, the vendors have packed up and left, there are no more smells of hamburgers grilling, there are no more sounds of children laughing and rolling down the hill. But the memories of the day will forever stay in my heart.

Throughout the planning and execution of this event it did not go without barriers, but God always seemed to show Himself by inspiring a congregation of faithful servants. He answered every prayer, even holding off the rain for much of the festival.

Friendships were made throughout this process and some exciting ideas for the 2024 festival are already being discussed.

I wish to thank everyone who took part in this year's festival. Whether you coordinated part of the event, baked a pie, made a scarecrow, helped in the setting up and tearing down, folded a brochure, financially sponsored, were a vendor, came as an attendee, or just prayed for good weather, it took all to make the 2023 Scarecrow Festival a success. There is no "I" in team. **WE** the members and friends of the Preston City Congregational Church brought this festival back.

May God continue to bless this amazing place. We are the church together.

Sincerely,
Shari Purcell

2023 Preston City Congregational Church Scarecrow Festival

Antique Car Show

1931 Model A Ford Phaeton Deluxe
Owner: Charley Obreiter

1964 Dodge M37 Cargo Truck
Owner: Steve Orlomoski
Voted most popular

1964 Chevrolet Corsair Convertible
Owner: Ed Shea

1987 Jaguar XJS V12
Owner: Chuck Norris

1988 Mercedes-Benz 560SL
Owner: Lynwood Crary