

Preston City Congregational Church



The Little Pilgrim

**week of
November 5, 2023**

Church Office Hours:

Monday – Friday, 9AM – Noon

Have a question?

Need help?

Please call: The Office

860 887-4647 or 860 886-7200

Rev. Mark will be available some
Wednesday evenings. Please call the
office to make an appointment.

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:

10/29 – 2 countries; 24 states; 53
cities; 55 viewings

11/5 – 1 country; 24 states; 53
cities; 72 viewings

WEEKLY EVENTS

AA - Wed 7:30P Dudek Hall

Sunday Service – 9:30A

Sunday School – 9:15A

NEXT LITTLE PILGRIM week of
November 19th.

THURSDAY & FRIDAY ~

November 23 - 24 ~

Thanksgiving ~ Office Closed

COVID UPDATE 3/16/2022

The Standing Committee has
determined that wearing masks is
optional.

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



Coffee Fellowship

From the desk of Rev. Mark...

Fall is my favorite season of the year. The colors are majestic. The air is warm, but not too hot. Clyde's Cider Mill has donuts! The World Series (baseball is my favorite sport) gets underway. And some of my most beloved instrumental music derives from the season (think George Winston's Autumn album and Vivaldi's Four Seasons Concerto piece, also called, "Autumn"). If, as the Psalmist says, "the Heavens declare the glory of God" (Psalm 19:1), then what can a heavenly fall season teach us about ourselves? I can think of a couple of things:

First, we should APPRECIATE GOD-GIVEN GIFTS. Autumn brings an abundance of gifts in fall colors and textures: reds, oranges, yellows, golds, and rust tones to delight the senses. We should take time to consider our own God-given bounty of gifts. And we should ask ourselves if we are paying attention to them. For instance, for many years, because I enjoy preaching, I failed to realize that my best gift might well be listening to others who are struggling. What beautiful God-given gift might you be underappreciating? Look for the bright colors within!

Next, CONNECT WITH YOUR SHADOW. After the long, bright, sunlit days of summer, autumn brings earlier sunsets and longer shadows. It's an ideal time for thoughtful introspection and shining the light of awareness on our own shadow parts. One shadow I struggle with is my need to be an inveterate people-pleaser. I want (need?) people to be happy with me. How does that shadow get in the way of my being all that God wants me to be?

Third, LEARN TO LET GO. Trees willingly and naturally shed their leaves after putting on a radiant fall show of colors. Is there anything in your life that's ready to be released? Enjoy the brilliance of all that has ripened and come to fruition, but be willing to let go; it will pave the way for new beginnings. This past month I let go of the idea that I would be an administrator at my hospital. I was asked, I declined, and I let it go. I love patient care, not management, despite the benefits. I feel lighter. And ready for the right next thing.

Fourth, SAVE FOR LEAN TIMES. Even as birds and woodland creatures are enjoying the abundance of fall, they are also storing away portions of their autumn harvest and preparing for leaner times. Enjoy the blessings of the season, but remember to plan for the future. One of the best reasons I know for tithing is that it demands that we budget our resources well. Most of us can't be generous unless we plan for it.

Finally, FIND BALANCE. In a world of duality, balance is key. The autumn equinox signals equal amounts of night and day, serving as a reminder to find balance in our own lives. Family, Work, and Self. With Faith over all of them. Sometimes they overlap, sometimes they don't. What's crying out for attention in your life this autumn because the balance is out of whack? "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven," (Ecclesiastes 3:1) says Scripture. The season is autumn. What matter under heaven might we learn from it?

Grace and Peace, Mark

Our Church's Anniversary



THE 325TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

**Please plan to join us right after church on Sunday,
November 12th to kick-off our yearlong 325th**

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION. We plan to gather on
the front lawn of the Annex for a short service of
dedication to commemorate this special day. The
children of the Sunday School will be joining us, and the
anniversary slogan will be announced.

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

**THURSDAY & FRIDAY ~ November 23 - 24 ~
Thanksgiving ~ Office Closed**

The November Senior Luncheon is scheduled for November 14 at noon. A meatloaf dinner is planned. The sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board.

Thank you Laurie Waldron for hemming more baptismal cloths!

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

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.



ON OCTOBER 29TH, WE WELCOMED NEW MEMBERS

Kyra Deroy, Madelyn Hopkins, Seth Klewin, Brock Nowakowski, Reed Nowakowski, Corbin O'Brien, Riley Tucker, and Arianna Turner. They all completed the

Confirmation Class which began in August and was taught by Rev. Stan. Congratulations!

A COAT DRIVE is being held through January 1st. 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.

THOUGHTS FROM A FRIEND...

Often when you think you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else. Fred Rogers



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.

The Tuesday Night Bible Study will begin on Tuesday, Oct. 10th @ 7pm in the Meeting Room. In this session, we'll study the life and ministry of the Apostle Paul. There is no book or study guide this time. All are welcome. If you have any questions, please call Pastor Scott VanAlst @ 860-237-7964.

NOTE FROM THE CHURCH CLERK

The Bylaw Committee will be meeting soon to review our church bylaws. Church members are welcome to submit any proposed bylaw change, consideration, or amendment, **stated in writing**, to a committee member. You may also mail it to the church office (ATTN: Clerk), or email it to Clerk@prestoncitycongregational.org by November 30th. Any changes agreed upon by the committee will be presented to the Standing Committee for preliminary review, comments, and suggestions, before presentation to the membership for final approval at the Annual Meeting in February 2024. Susan Brosnan, Clerk



MUSIC "IN HONOR OF"...

You can purchase a musical piece and dedicate it to someone. They can be living or passed. You can have the choir sing it "in memory of", "in honor of", "in thankfulness for", etc. It can also be for anniversaries, birthdays, or any special day.

Let the choir director know the details, and she will pick a song to fit.

Your song will get a sticker with the dedication on it, which will be printed in the worship bulletin, the first time it is sung. We can inform you, in the future, when we sing it again, so you can be sure to hear it.

The cost would be around \$75.00.

Trish Maerkle
Organist/Choir Director
(860) 705-5391



Sunday School is ROCKING! We kicked off November with the TEENS' Class cooking 16 turkey dinners complete with apple tarts for dessert. The Meals that Heal crew then delivered those meals to our shut - ins. This ministry will return in January!

The 1st - 6th grade Sunday School classes sang "Shine Jesus Shine" for the Congregation last week. All of the Sunday School children will be leading the song again this Sunday for our kick - off event celebrating our 325th year of gathering as a church. Join us after the service as we unveil our slogan for the year and get the party started!

Tomorrow the Christmas Bazaar is BACK! Come check out the 20 Baskets, Christmas Room, Almost Antiques Room, Bake Sale, Vendors of all kinds, and you can even enjoy lunch! All proceeds from the Basket Drawing will support the Sunday School programs. Operation Christmas Child ends Sunday. I am so proud of the generosity of this church! You all are amazing and take shining Jesus' light so seriously. The children are so excited to share an update with you this Sunday, so don't miss the service or live stream! Mark your calendars Dec. 17th @ 2p.m. the children will be presenting our Christmas Pageant. Rehearsals have started and they are so excited. It's a free afternoon of fun and we even have desserts after the performance. Come celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

Finally, Sunday, November 19th the Preston City Congregational Pilgrims will be greeting you at the service! If anyone has a steamer we could borrow to get those costumes pressed that would be awesome! They were washed and could use a little help! Please contact me if you are able to help.

Lisa Van Alst



A CHRISTMAS ORGAN CONCERT has been arranged for **Sunday, December 10th at 4P**. This is a family-oriented event, and will include a carol sing-along. Refreshments will follow.



THE FALL YARD SALE realized a profit of \$1917.08.

Thank you to all who participated: the donators, the workers, the buyers!

Greenville Congregational Church Thrift Shop and the Johnnycake Center also benefitted from our sale.



TRIVIA NIGHT WILL BE BACK ON APRIL 6, 2024.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR REMINDER

November 11, 2023 from 9am to 2pm

It will be a great time with the Christmas music and the decorations, delicious food, beautiful crafts, yummy baked goods, the baskets and quilt drawings, vintage items and Christmas items for sale. This is a perfect time to get some of our Christmas shopping done!

THE FOOD PANTRY could use some Thanksgiving 'fixins' in addition to the basic monthly staples given to our patrons.



Requested items include: stuffing mix, canned cranberry sauce and gravy.

Distribution day for Thanksgiving is November 15th.

Please consider picking up an extra item or two when you are grocery shopping.

THE TOUCAN FOOD PANTRY is a recipient of a **\$1500 grant from the Jewett City Savings Bank.**

We thank them for their generosity, enabling us to continue our mission to help others!

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT is scheduled for December 17th at 2P, same time, new date!

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

Please see Wendy Abrahamson for further information.



NOVEMBER IS STEWARDSHIP MONTH



Members and friends of our church should have received a mailing with pledge cards and letters to explain the proposed 2024 budget that will be decided at the annual meeting in February 2024. How can you support the church? Consider your time, talents, and treasure; these are the gifts you can share with your church. These contributions are what will determine the success and future of our church.

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:21

Pledge forms are available on the tables outside of the sanctuary or you may call the office if you did not receive one.

NOVEMBER is also the month the Nominating Committee will be seeking candidates to fill the many positions in our church. It is time to ask yourself "How can I help to keep my church moving forward?" "What talents do I have that can be shared with my church?" It takes many people to keep our church running smoothly throughout the year. Please consider serving in one of the open positions.

LITTLE PILGRIM COORDINATOR The Little Pilgrim comes out twice a month. Please send information to be included in the week of November 5th newsletter no later than Tuesday, November 7th 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 DECORATING

COMMITTEE will be placing memorial Poinsettias on the altar on Christmas Sunday, December 24th. Is there someone you would like to remember this holiday season? More information and pricing will be available in our next newsletter.



NOVEMBER EVENTS

WEDNESDAYS ~ Christmas Pageant Rehearsals

SATURDAY ~ Bazaar November 11

SUNDAY ~ 325th Anniversary Yearlong Celebration begins November 12

TUESDAY ~ Senior Lunch November 14

SUNDAY ~ Thanksgiving Sunday November 19

THURSDAY & FRIDAY ~ November 23 - 24 ~ Thanksgiving ~ Office Closed

FINAL THOUGHTS

GIVE THANKS...



November 11th



November 23rd