

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



**week of  
November 19, 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  
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:

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

11/12 – 1 country; 12 states; 23  
cities; 37 viewings

**WEEKLY EVENTS**

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

**Sunday Service** – 9:30A

**Sunday School** – 9:15A

**NEXT LITTLE PILGRIM** week of  
December 3rd.

**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.**



**Greetings from Florida!** The weather is great. It's amazing what  
sunshine and warmer temps., green grass, and flowering plants can do for  
one's state-of-mind! Best of all? There's no snow in the forecast!

REMEMBER. DO NOT FORGET.

I've been attending a small, near-by Presbyterian church. It's a nice  
congregation, very mission-oriented, especially local missions. This past  
Sunday, they blessed 25+ Thanksgiving baskets over-flowing with items  
that will help neighborhood families in need enjoy a special meal on  
Thursday. Why does this congregation go "all out" for the many missions  
they support during the year? There's a simple answer: God asks them to  
*remember* and *not to forget*. Take a few minutes before this Thanksgiving  
to read Deuteronomy 8:7-18. Moses encourages the Children of Israel to  
*remember* their years in Egypt and the years they lived as slaves. Moses  
goes on to say, "*Do not forget*" the One who is about to lead you to a  
better life in the Promised Land.

*"Remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get  
wealth."*

Can you remember a time(s) in your life when resources (financial and  
other) were so slim, so scarce, so extremely limited, that you wondered if  
you could afford even a scaled-back Thanksgiving dinner for your family?  
Somehow you found a way to do it. Maybe someone, some community  
group, a local church, or an agency came through for you and your family.  
*Remember* those times. *Don't forget* those times.

For 325 years, this church we love has remembered others in their hour of  
need. We have not forgotten that all around us are people, individuals and  
families in need of our help. We should do whatever we are able to do to  
aid others; quietly, without seeking recognition or praise. This is what God  
asks us to do for our neighbors in need, as well as for the stranger.

As you come to the table on Thanksgiving, remember to give thanks to God  
for all that he has done for you. Don't forget where you've been in life and  
where you are today. He is the Great Provider, the One who supplies all our  
needs – through people just like you!

Enjoy the day, and remember, you ARE loved!

**Rev. Stan**

**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.

## FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

**The December Senior Luncheon** is scheduled for **Thursday December 14th** at noon. A roast pork dinner is planned.

**THE SECRET SANTA PROGRAM** will be available this year. Please call the church office if you could use a helping hand at Christmas. All requests will be kept confidential. If you would like to be a Secret Santa, please call the office and I'll take your name and be in touch with you if help is needed. It is often adults that could use a gift. Requests for children's gifts have been minimal in the past years.

### INCLEMENT WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

TUNE IN to Television Channel 3 (WFSB) 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. We have been assured that when we post on Channel 3, they notify all the local radio stations.

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 all doors.** Thank you.

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

## THE MEMORY TREE is up and waiting for

**ornaments!** Is there someone you would like to remember this Christmas? Ornaments may be hung on the tree (remember to add your last name on the back!) and then fill out the memorial form for names to be added to the list in the church bulletin.

Ornaments may be taken after December 25<sup>th</sup>.



## Pastoral Search Committee

The committee has been working hard to finalize our church resume and advertise for the Senior Minister position. The job posting is officially live on a number of different websites and seminary schools.

Marisa Stankiewicz  
Pastoral Search Committee Chair

**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.**

**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.



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

**On Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>** a dedication for the 325th Anniversary Memorial was held. The slogan for our yearlong celebration was announced: "Gathering in Faith Since 1698".



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

**Join us for this 325<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event!**

**THOUGHTS FROM A FRIEND...**

Thousands of candles can be lit  
from a single candle and  
the life of the candle will not be shortened.  
Happiness never decreases by being shared.  
~ Buddha



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



**The Monday morning Bible Study** is back together again, meeting at 10am. **November 27 is our last meeting until the spring.**

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** meets on Tuesdays @ 7pm in the Meeting Room. Our last study will be December 19. We will start up again on January 9, 2024. If you have any questions, please call Pastor Scott VanAlst @ 860-237-7964.

**FANTASTIC CHURCH BAZAAR!!!**

I want to thank everyone who helped make our bazaar such a great success. So many people worked so hard to help set up, to put the rooms together and later clean up. Also, I want to thank those who donated items, baked goods, made baskets, worked on the quilt, cooked, decorated, set up music and played Santa and helped advertise. We had a great team of people who were organized and worked so well together. Our results from all this work came to \$3687 after expenses. We had a great team!

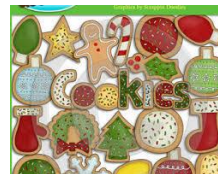
Thank you again for everything!  
Nancy Obreiter

**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](mailto: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

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

**Rehearsals for "The Night Before" begin November 1<sup>st</sup> from 5:30-6:30P.**



**THE JEAN MILLER MEMORIAL COOKIE SALE** will be held on December 16, 2023 from 9A – 2P (or until sold out!).

**2023 COOKIE TEAM**

The Team is in need of at least 40 individuals willing to bake/make a double batch of cookies, brownie bites, or fudge for the Annual Jean Miller Cookie Sale! **Please consider joining the PCCC Cookie Team!!!!**



Rehearsals Mondays at 6P.

Hear them ring on December 17<sup>th</sup> during our Sunday service.

**NOVEMBER is the month the Nominating Committee** will begin 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

## JUDGE NOT...

A young couple moved into a new house. The next morning while they were eating breakfast, the young woman saw her neighbor hanging the washing outside. "That laundry is not very clean; she doesn't know how to wash correctly. Perhaps she needs better soap powder. Her husband looked on, remaining silent. Every time her neighbor hung her washing out to dry, the young woman made the same comments. A month later, the woman was surprised to see a nice clean wash on the line and said to her husband, "Look, she's finally learned how to wash correctly. I wonder who taught her this?" The husband replied, "I got up early this morning and cleaned our windows."

And so it is with life...

What we see when watching others depends on the clarity of the window through which we look. So don't be too quick to judge others, especially if your perspective of life is clouded by anger, jealousy, negativity or unfulfilled desires. Judging a person does not define who they are. It defines who you are.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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 24<sup>th</sup>.



Is there someone you would like to remember this holiday season? Orders will be taken on Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> and the cost is \$13.00.



**The Men's Group** will meet  
Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10A

## NOVEMBER/DECEMBER EVENTS

WEDNESDAYS ~ Christmas Pageant Rehearsals ~  
5:30 -6:30P

SUNDAY December 10 ~ Church Vote Disbursement of  
Mission Funds

SUNDAY December 10 ~ Christmas Organ Concert ~  
4P

THURSDAY December 14 ~ Senior Lunch ~ Noon

SATURDAY December 16 ~ Jean Miller Memorial  
Cookie Sale ~ 9A-2P

SUNDAY December 17 ~ Christmas Pageant ~ 2P

SUNDAY December 24 ~  
Christmas Sunday Service ~ 9:30A  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service ~ 8P

## FINAL THOUGHT

### ADVENT

DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> – 24<sup>TH</sup>



**THE SEASON OF PREPARATION**

**FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE**

**CHRIST CHILD'S BIRTH**

**CHURCH MEMBERS 18 years and older will vote December 10, 2023** at the end of the 9:30AM service to disburse mission funds to the following local and overseas programs:

<b>Missions Committee Recommendations For 2023 Giving</b>		
National Association – Missions fund	\$750 (3 @ \$250)	
<i>Word Alive Missions (Rev. Charles Nyane)</i>	\$250	<i>Western Ghana/ Ivory Coast based Mission</i>
<i>Piedmont College</i>	\$250	<i>Congregational College</i>
<i>Olivet College</i>	\$250	<i>Congregational College</i>
NACCC Hurting Churches Fund	\$250	Builds new Churches and helps Churches in need
Congregational Library	\$300	Congregational Library in Boston
Gideons International	\$250	Bible Distribution
Missionary Flights International	\$250	Missions Air Support
Heifer Project International	\$250	Income-Producing Animals
American Red Cross Disaster Relief	\$300	Relief to Disaster Victims / Connecticut Chapter
Salvation Army	\$350	Norwich Chapter / Charity
Madonna Place	\$400	Supports Local Families
St. Vincent de Paul	\$400	Soup Kitchen
Safe Futures	\$400	Transitional Housing and Assistance for Domestic Violence
Martin House	\$400	Housing for homeless with addiction or mental health problems
Bags of Hope NE	\$400	Provides personalized duffle bags to children in foster care
Pastor's Discretionary Outreach	\$800	One Time Financial Help
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,500</b>	
The Missions Committee would like to thank the Congregation for your generosity; your support made this possible.		

**OUR COUNTRY WALKS**

Michael Barrett, Author  
Jean Barrett, Publisher

Many of you had known Jean Barrett, who passed away a couple months ago. Years ago, Michael had written and Jean had published this delightful book on the beauty and peace of nature. It speaks about the tranquil smells and sounds in the lovely woods all around us, in a poetic sort of way. The phrase, "one with nature" is crystal clear when you step onto nature's path while reading their book.

In loving memory of Jean, Michael is offering a copy of his book to the people in our congregation for free. He even signed the 60 books he has given to our church. If you wish to donate an offering to the church for the book, which is not necessary, please place it in a marked envelope and into the offering basket. Michael just wishes to share with others the lovely moments that he shared with Jean among the beauty God created. If you are not a reader, perhaps you have someone you know who would enjoy the short stories in his book. The books and envelopes are placed on the tables near the entrances to the sanctuary. If you don't see the book, please let Nancy Obreiter know and she will get you a copy. Thank you.