

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



**week of
December 31, 2023**

Church Office Hours:
Monday – Friday, 9AM – Noon

CLOSED M JAN 15

**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

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
January 14th.

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

A Few Spiritual Ideas For 2024

Every year I pick a relatively easy spiritual goal for the new year. No reading the Bible in a year. I always get bogged down in Leviticus and Numbers. No silent retreats. (Seriously, could you imagine!?)

Nope. I choose manageable goals. If I make it, I move on to the next. Here are a few I've accomplished in years past:

Memorize the words to a Hymn. "Of The Father's Love Begotten" was last year's memorization hymn. I know enough of them now to turn off the radio for a short drive. If you want a suggestion, try "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," by Isaac Watts. Great theology.

Memorize a Psalm. Psalm 8, 23, 30, 49, 121 and 139-8. I've memorized all of them at one time or another. I can still say all the words to Psalm 23, 121 and 139 (sorry 8, 30 and 49) because I usually have reason to recite them every day.

Read a cultural book that will give perspective on the modern world. Our faith is sometimes in opposition to American secular culture. Not always, but sometimes. It helps to know why. I suggest starting with Neil Postman's "Amusing Ourselves to Death." It may not make you want to throw out your TV, but it might.

Study one book of the Bible. Just one. Philippians. You can read it in 20 minutes. Do it ten times in a month. See if it makes a difference.

Begin and end each day with prayer. 30 seconds. Grace for what's ahead, and grace for what's behind. It's not just for dinner anymore!

That's it. If you need more goals, I've got them. But they're tougher. Baby steps.

Happy New Year, my friends. It's a blessing to be among you.

Grace and Peace,

Mark

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,

**Offering
Envelopes**



contact the office, and we will see that you get them. **We remind you to discard any unused 2023 envelopes after December 31st.**

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 14, 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 9th** at noon. A ham dinner is planned. A sign-up sheet is posted.

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INCLEMENT WEATHER CANCELLATIONS Tune in to Television Channel 3 (WFSB), local radio stations or you may check Facebook, our website 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.**



MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group will meet Saturday, January 6th at 10A.

Thoughts from a friend...

Every year you make a resolution to change yourself. This year, make a resolution to be yourself.

– Unknown



325TH ANNIVERSARY NEWS

The 325th 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!

Did you know that a choral piece marking the 325th year is now "in the works?" Joseph Martin, who composed "House of Grace" for our church's 300th 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 325th 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. 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.

Happy New Year! Have you created a list of resolutions for the 2024 year or perhaps just 1 important resolution? Or have you been to the doctor recently and come home with a list of things you should and shouldn't do? Like eating healthy and exercising more. It's like when the dentist asks if you floss. They know the answer, they're in your mouth after all, digging the buildup of tartar off. A few years ago I started a new habit that I've actually stuck with. I miss a week or two, but I'm always happy to have this new habit. You see, a few years ago I began going to Bible study. My original intention was to gain knowledge to prove I was right in my beliefs and be able to quote scripture to prove others were wrong. That was the type of person I was raised to be. We had to be right. What I didn't expect was to learn that I was in need of a transformation, a change of heart. I learned that pride was not an attribute God valued in people. Bible study is not what I expected it to be. Sure, we read scripture and discuss what the Apostles were conveying in their writings and how it applies to our lives, but I've made friends and we laugh a lot. I'm grateful to Scott VanAlst for his leadership of the Bible study. To say I have a closer relationship with God, doesn't quite sum it up. I've learned how God wants each of us to work and have faith. I learned how to ask God for help to behave, to take my stress away and to be a calmer, kinder person who can help others. I no longer care about proving I'm right. It just is not important anymore. God is what is important. Attending church services on Sunday is like eating healthy. It's important for a healthy relationship with God. Bible Study is equivalent to exercise. It's taking that next step to build a stronger relationship with God. Are you ready to exercise your soul? – Bridget Park



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.

JANUARY EVENTS

Sunday January 7
 Service 9:30A
 Sunday School 9:15A
 Tuesday January 9 ~ Senior Lunch ~ Noon
 Tuesday Night Bible Study ~ January 9 ~ 7P
 Sunday January 14
 Reports due for Annual Report
 Service 9:30A
 Sunday School 9:15A
 Monday January 15 ~ Office Closed ~ Martin Luther King Jr. Day

LITTLE PILGRIM COORDINATOR The Little Pilgrim comes out twice a month. Please send information to be included in the week of January 14th newsletter no later than Tuesday, December 19th at noon to: susan.brosnan@gmail.com or leave at the office.

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12-14-2012

I THINK YOUR LIGHTS MIGHT BE TOO BRIGHT THIS YEAR



JANUARY 6, 2024

**THREE KINGS DAY
 OLD CHRISTMAS
 THE TWELFTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS**

EPIPHANY