

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



The Little Pilgrim

**week of
January 28, 2024**

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

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Rev. Mark Porizky – 860 705-1262
porizky@gmail.com

Rev. Stan White - 860 303-9622
sewhite3022@gmail.com

**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:

**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.

1/14 - Live viewings: 1 country; 25
states; 69 cities; 100 viewings

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday Service – 9:30A

Sunday School – 9:15A

AA - Wed 7:30P Dudek Hall

FROM THE DESK OF REV. MARK...

Did you know that men get heartburn when they eat their birthday cakes? You know why? They forget to blow out the candles before digging in!

I don't have a birthday. Well, I do, but I prefer a birthday month. Hint. It's February!! As I celebrate another birthday, I'm thankful for every experience that brought me to this month (ok, day) and for all the days that I have yet to live.

But more than anything, I'm graciously thankful for this awareness: although my physical body may become less "young" as the birthdays go by, my spirit never ages. And I'm lovingly thankful for my ageless spirit. I don't know if my spirit has always been, but I am certain that it always will be. That knowledge is my peaceful place, my safe embrace, and my saving grace. And on every birthday, I vow to live more in *reverence* each day for this beautiful life that I have been gifted and blessed with.

Birthdays are a time to reflect on where we are in our lives, and oftentimes we wonder if we should be in a different place on our paths than we currently are—much further along the way. We all ask "should" questions:

Should I have written a book? (My big ego thinks I have one in me!)

Should I have helped more people? (How many is enough?)

Should I have made more money? (I might have helped fewer people in the process!)

Should I have done a lot more by now? (I wish I had concentrated on Spanish and playing the piano when I had the chance!)

When we appreciate where we are and we keep ourselves open to God speaking, *signs* and *messages* appear that remind us that we might be *exactly* where we're supposed to be in our lives.

On my last birthday, I kept reflecting on Romans Luke 12:48, "**To whom much is given, much is expected.**" That verse was part of what led me to working as your part-time interim pastor alongside Rev. Stan. PCCC became part of my path, and I'm constantly being reminded that I am where I'm supposed to be on my path. To be able to work as a chaplain and still be able to preach to a vibrant congregation, I am truly birthday blessed!!

This year I'm reflecting on, "**What does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God**" (Micah 6:8).

What are the details to doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humble? They differ for each person. Give them some reflection on your birthday and let me know what you come up with.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Mark

COVID UPDATE 3/16/2022

The Standing Committee has determined
that wearing a mask is optional.



Coffee Fellowship

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

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

The February Senior Luncheon is scheduled for **Tuesday February 13th** at noon. A pasta dinner will be prepared by the Migliaccio family.

CONGRATULATIONS to our own, Deacon Kimberly Lang! On January 27th, Kim was at the Appalachian Trail gathering and awarded a fleece vest and a certificate for 1000 hours of volunteering as a caretaker at Upper Goose Pond Cabin along the AT in western Mass. How proud your church is of you Kim!

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.

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.



SCOUT SUNDAY will be celebrated on February 25th, 2024. Scout Sunday recognizes the contributions of young people and adults to Scouting. All Scouts are encouraged to wear their uniforms on that Sunday.

ASH WEDNESDAY is on February 14th. There will be a prayer vigil in the Sanctuary from noon to 6 p.m. During this time, volunteers are asked to pray for others, for 15 minutes. We will supply the prayer list. You may fill out a slip of paper requesting a prayer for someone which is available on the table by the elevator and downstairs on the table outside Dudek Hall. Place the paper inside the box provided and this will be put on the list. If you would like to participate in the vigil, please select a time to pray from the sign-up sheet posted on the mid-level bulletin board or call the office. At 7 p.m. that evening, an Ash Wednesday service will be held in the Sanctuary.

SCHOLARSHIP MONTH IS COMING!



In 1992, February was established as Scholarship month, in order to give church-goers the opportunity to contribute to the Helen Benjamin Scholarship Fund. Helen worked in the Preston School system for many years and was dedicated to the education of our youth. Upon her passing, the family established the fund in her memory, in order to provide assistance for young people seeking to further their education. When her husband died in 2015, the fund was renamed as the Winthrop C. and Helen Benjamin Scholarship Fund. Through the years, many of our young people have benefited from this fund, thanks in part to your giving.

We are offering the opportunity to members and friends of the church to consider giving a monetary gift to the scholarship fund. You may give your gift in memory of or in honor of someone. A listing of donors (no amounts) will be printed in the worship folder on Scholarship Sunday, which is usually in June. You may place your donation in an envelope marked *Scholarship Fund* and place it in the offering plate, or mail it to the church. Checks should be made out to PCCC with *Scholarship Fund* on the memo line. Donations are accepted through the end of May.

Please give as you are able and help our young people reach their goals.

2024 ANNUAL MEETING CALL & AGENDA FEBRUARY 11, 2024 11:00A

The Annual Meeting of the Preston City Congregational Church will be held in the Sanctuary, on Sunday, February 11, 2024, at 11:00A for the following actions:

1. To accept the reports of Officers, Boards, Committees, and other church organizations.
2. To vote on the proposed 2024 budget of \$246,561.
3. To act on the Nominating Committee's proposed slate for 2024.
4. To vote on the proposed Bylaw revision.
5. To transact any other business that may be brought before the congregation.

Susan Brosnan
Clerk

We will have a coffee hour with finger foods and coffee cakes following our service, before our meeting. Please do not bring food or drinks into the sanctuary. Call the office if you would like to bring something to share.



Wow, what a great Sunday last week! The Sunday School Children were able to bring in 197 nonperishable food items for our food Pantry!!! The 5 Kindergarteners who brought in 66 items were the winners of a donut party this Sunday! Please congratulate all the children when you see them. (Don't tell but for all their efforts Mrs. Van Alst will have Munchkins for the other classes) Our next time being upstairs is on Sunday February 25th. Ash Wednesday is Feb. 14th and will start the church season of LENT, mark your calendars for our Annual Good Friday Event Friday, March 29th. Registration Forms will go home starting THIS SUNDAY. If you would like to help please let me know. We will need grape juice boxes, goldfish crackers, uncrustables, and snacks for lunch. We also will have 8 make and take Easter crafts set up that will need volunteers. 7th - adults can be helpers at the different stations. Ages 3 through 6th are invited to participate in this fun event.

Do you like puzzles, solving riddles, competing against the clock???? Then our Noah's Ark Escape room is for you! Gather a team of 5 to 6 together and head over to church Sunday February 18th to Escape the Ark. Recommended for ages 6 to 100. FREE, but sign - ups are required. If you would like to help with this adventure we will be meeting after service this Sunday in Dudek Hall at 10:30. Come join the fun.

Lastly, all First Graders will be receiving a new Bible on Children's Day. Now is the time to let me know if you would like to sponsor a First Grader, \$ 25 covers the cost of the Bible and Dedication page. Please see Mrs. Van Alst with any questions or concerns

Thoughts from a friend...

People don't always say "I love you"
 Sometimes it sounds like:
 "Did you eat?"
 "Be safe."
 "Call me when you get home."
 "I made you this."

From the Food Pantry



Coordinator:

The church's food pantry workers and everyone wish to thank the Sunday School children, the teachers and the children's parents for donating all the food for the food pantry. Bless all of you! *Stella Dawley*



Our next meeting will be Saturday, February 3rd at 10am.



TRIVIA NIGHT WILL BE BACK ON APRIL 6, 2024.

The Men's Group is working hard to update this event. Stay tuned for more information!



Choir Rehearsals

Rehearsals are Thursday nights at 7:00pm. Join us as you are able. More voices are always welcome.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Saturday February 3 Men's Group 10A
- Sunday February 4 Communion
- Sunday School 9:15A
- Service 9:30A
- Sunday February 11 Annual Meeting 11A
- Tuesday February 13 Senior Lunch Noon
- Wednesday February 14
- Ash Wednesday Prayer Vigil Noon – 6P
- Ash Wednesday Service 7P
- Tuesday Night Bible Study 7P
- Wednesday AA 7:30P
- Thursday Choir Rehearsal 7P

LITTLE PILGRIM COORDINATOR The Little Pilgrim comes out twice a month. Please send information to be included in the week of February 11th newsletter no later than Tuesday, February 13th at noon to: susan.brosnan@gmail.com or leave information at the office.

325TH ANNIVERSARY NEWS

Our Church's Anniversary



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!

WE ONLY NEED 8 MORE DONORS TO REACH OUR GOAL! To offset the cost of this commissioned piece exclusively for our church, we are seeking 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.

SUMMER TRAVELS SCHEDULED

Two bus trips have been arranged for this summer, and brochures for both trips are available on the Information Center table (mid-level). These trips are planned for 40 passengers, and friends outside the church are welcome to join us. Please sign the sheet posted on the bulletin board (mid-level) AND drop off your deposit at the office. Here are some of the highlights of this summer’s travels:

MAINE (JUNE 3-6)

4 days – 3 nights

\$725.00 per person (double occupancy), DEPOSIT: \$250.

3 breakfasts, 3 full-course dinners including a “Downeast” Lobsterbake Dinner

A tour of Portland, Perkins Cove, A harbor cruise of Casco Bay, Boothbay Harbor tour, Kennebunkport tour, and more!

Cost includes: Transportation, Lodging, Luggage handling, Taxes and meal gratuities, PLUS TIPS for the guide(s) and bus driver.

Cancellation Insurance is available and highly recommended. See details on the reverse side of the brochure.

SIGHTS & SOUNDS OF LANCASTER, PA (AUGUST 19-21), featuring “Daniel” at Sight & Sound theater.

3 days – 2 nights

\$525.00 per person (double occupancy), DEPOSIT: \$250.

2 breakfasts, 2 dinners (including a Smorgasbord dinner) Guided tour of the Amish Countryside, Kitchen Kettle Village and miniature Horse farm

Cost includes: Transportation, Lodging, Luggage handling, Taxes and meal gratuities, PLUS TIPS for the guide(s) and bus driver.

Cancellation Insurance is available and highly recommended. See details on the reverse side of the brochure.

We hope to see you “on board” this summer!