

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



**week of
February 11, 2024**

Church Office Hours:
Monday – Friday, 9AM – Noon
OFFICE CLOSED MON FEB 19
Presidents Day

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.

1/21 - 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

COVID UPDATE 3/16/2022

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

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



Coffee Fellowship

FROM THE DESK OF REV. STAN...

BELIEVE, FOLLOW, GO AND TELL!

In my opinion, this is basically what the Church is about:

Believe in God, *Believe* in Jesus Christ.

Follow God, *Follow* Jesus Christ.

Go and tell others about God and Jesus Christ.

I have mentioned these statements countless times in sermons over the years. Living out these words is what has drawn people to our amazing church and to become a part our loving, accepting, and encouraging congregation.

I heard the other day that there was a discussion about *online church membership* at last Sunday's annual meeting. How wonderful! Isn't it amazing? While many churches are in decline around us, and around the country, our church continues to increase with new attendees and members. The demographics of our congregation are healthy. People of all ages are seen in the pews on Sunday mornings. As I stated in my annual report, "*There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place.*" People see it, hear about it, and want to be a part of it!

Now, in our 325th year of *Gathering in Faith*, God is calling us to do something new; to understand that His Church is much bigger than the four walls in which we gather for worship. His Church is a worldwide congregation. The local church (US) ought to discover a way(s) to include people who live a distance from our church to be included in our church family; through *online membership*. I was pleased to hear that a committee (yes, another one!) was established to explore what online church membership might look like. Careful consideration must be given to this wonderful possibility. Before any decision is made on this subject, the committee will bring their suggestions and recommendations to the church membership for their thoughts, and what the next step should be.

The Church is living in some exciting days. "God *IS* doing a new thing!" (Isaiah 43:19). The Church that Christ established is always evolving into something greater than we can ever imagine; a church for all people – near and far!

Believe... Follow... Go and tell...! That's what He asks from us. It's all we should ask from others, too! Then, let God do the rest. He will!

See you soon!

Rev. Stan

A Membership Committee was formed at the Annual Meeting on February 11th to explore online membership. We are looking for 2 (two) members-at-large to join. Please leave your name with the church office by March 10th if you are interested. The Standing Committee will determine the members at its March meeting.

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

The February Senior Luncheon is rescheduled for **Tuesday February 20th at noon**. A pasta dinner will be prepared by the Migliaccio family.

As we begin our new church year and the Nominating Committee slate has been approved, all committees and boards are reminded to contact the church office to update the following information: **Who is the chair/contact person & when do you meet. The information needs to be added to the church calendar to reserve your space and it is helpful to have contact information when people call the office. Thank you**

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.

Thoughts from a friend...

"Try to be a rainbow in someone else's cloud."

Maya Angelou



St. James Episcopal Church

59th Annual Fish & Chips

When: Every Friday: 4:00 to 6:30 pm
February 16th through March 22nd
Where: St. James Episcopal Church
95 Route 2A, Preston, CT
Menu: \$16.00 per dinner Cash or credit/debit cards accepted
Baked, Fried or Combo Fish available
All meals include french fries, coleslaw & a dessert.

*To place your order, start calling at 1:00 pm at 860-889-0150
Or you can drive up in person.*

This is a Drive-Thru / Take-Out Only Event

Dinner Pick-up time: 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm OR until sold out



SCHOLARSHIP MONTH IS HERE!



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.



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. Come join the fun.

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.

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

FRIDAY FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Date: March 1, 2024

Time: 6pm till 8pm

Kids - bring in your favorite card or board games to play with other kids and families.



Middle school and high school kids - come and spend some time helping other kids or mentoring younger kids and/or being big brother or big sister. We are promoting family bonding and growing with other believers in the church, as well as bringing those outside the church in and be a part of God's family; friends are welcome! If this is something parents and families would like to participate in, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to get an idea of how many are interested. Also, it gives me an idea on how much juice, milk, water, and desserts to buy and coffee to make. Adults may also be asked to share time acting as door monitors to keep everyone safe.

Thank you – Chris

Questions? Contact Chris Burden 401-465-8900 or Lisa Van Alst 860 710-1262.

2024 Scarecrow Festival "KICK OFF"

Yes, it is that time to put our committee together again and start organizing the ANNUAL PCCC Scarecrow Festival! I love that we can say, " annual" again.



I will be reaching out to our past coordinators to see what night is best for everyone to meet. I would like to start in March via Zoom and then in person when I relocate back to CT for summer and fall.

Our biggest need is to fill the position of vendor coordinator. Our amazing Nancy cannot fill this position this year, but is willing to guide someone. She was very organized and I know anyone who steps up will have all they need to do this VERY important job. Please email me shariLpurcell@gmail.com or call me at 860-917-9011 if you are interested. I am praying to have a volunteer before our kick off meeting.

Let's get crowing,

Shari Purcell

TRIVIA NIGHT WILL BE BACK ON APRIL 6, 2024.



The Men's Group has heard your comments and suggestions and are updating their plans. Stay tuned for more information! Start getting your team together!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday February 18

Sunday School 9:15A

Service 9:30A

Tuesday February 20 Senior Lunch Noon

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 25th newsletter no later than Tuesday, February 27th 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 A FEW 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!