

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



**week of
February 25, 2024**

Church Office Hours:
Monday – Friday, 9AM – Noon
Interim Co-Ministers
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. MARK...

ON JUDGEMENT

Easter is God's word on forgiveness. But how seriously do we take this loving, forgiving God who holds judgment in his hands?

John (not his real name) was hard to connect with. He didn't have much to say until I said, "John, you're 88, I'm 60. What advice would you give me?" He didn't answer my question. He had another agenda. He said, "Well, it started when I was 52. That's when the judge said, I had two choices: go to jail or go to AA. I had always been a mean drunk." I had opened the door, and John walked through.

He told me the following story: John married early and had six kids before he was 30. But he was rarely home, and rarely faithful. He had taken up with a wealthy, older woman and, somehow, his wife knew about them. One night he took his wife to dinner at a restaurant where this woman happened to be (John says he didn't know she would be there.) The two women confronted each other and his wife asked the woman if she wanted John. The woman said, Yes," and John's wife said, "You can have him," and ran out of the restaurant. She ran through the parking lot and jumped over a rock wall separating the restaurant from a closed auto dealership. She had thought the ground would be level on the other side, but it dropped off ten feet. She fell to her death.

John said he and the woman moved into a house on the Cape, and the kids he didn't have a relationship with moved in with them. They moved in with their father's lover who was, at least indirectly, responsible for their mother's death. This was shocking but John then said that both of them were working (he was a plumber) and they needed someone to watch the kids. They hired a babysitter to watch the children. Of course, over time, John took up with the babysitter. He dumped the older woman and married the babysitter who the children had come to love. John says he didn't stop drinking and he stayed with the babysitter for about 15 years. Then he started up with some woman and divorced her. The kids chose to stay close to their "stepmom" until she died a few years later of cancer.

John hadn't seen any of his kids for almost thirty years. When he was diagnosed with chronic COPD, and placed under hospice care, he reached out to them. Three of them agreed to meet with him. He said the meeting didn't go all that well.

Upon finishing the story, he sat there shaking his head. Finally, he spoke: "What a waste of life." John wasn't seeking forgiveness, at least I didn't get the impression that he was in search of forgiveness. It certainly didn't sound as if any was rendered, at least not in this world. Instead, he seemed to recognize in his dying days how poor his collection of choices had been over a lifetime.

I sat there thinking about judgment. John is going to die pretty much alone. He's worried about judgment from heaven. But I think he's already been judged. Would some eternal judgment be fair, or just piling on at this point? But, equally, what would forgiveness be like for John? What would it equate to for all the damage he created?

I told this story to one of my social workers who said, "Wow, that's horrible, awful actually. But, you know, I can't still help but to like him."

I pray that the Social Worker's words are what God says about me with regard to judgment and forgiveness.

Quickly come Easter!

Rev. Mark

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

March 12th is our next Senior Lunch and the last for this season. We are looking for some soup makers. Call the office if you have a soup to share. Thank you

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

March 24 – 31

PALM SUNDAY – Worship service at 9:30 A.M.

MAUNDY THURSDAY – 6:30 p.m. in Halls' Hall (coffee hour room) We will have a seder meal (Passover) meal with communion. Everyone is invited, but you must sign up on the mid hallway bulletin board. You may call the church office as well. Children are invited to attend.

GOOD FRIDAY – Service at noon. A Children's Message will be offered.

ECUMENICAL EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE –6:30 A.M. at Amos Lake, Hollowell Road, Preston. In case of inclement weather, it will be held in our Sanctuary.

EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE – 9:30 A.M. The choir will be singing and Memorial Easter lilies will adorn the church.

NEW MEMBERS

Palm Sunday is one of the two Sundays we traditionally welcome new members into our church. This year Palm Sunday is March 24, 2024. If you are considering becoming an "official" member, with voting rights and the ability to serve as a church officer or to chair committees, please sign up on the notice posted on the mid-level bulletin board. The last day to sign up is Sunday, March 10.

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.



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS AT 2AM ON SUNDAY MARCH 10TH
REMEMBER TO SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR**

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.



The next **MEN'S GROUP** meeting is Saturday, March 2nd at 10A.

MEN'S GROUP

NEW DAY/NEW TIME

The **Women's Fellowship** will be meeting on **Thursday**

March 14th at 2P. All women are welcome. Should you have any questions, Bridget Park can be reached at 860-710-1316.



Thoughts from a friend...

Accept what is,
let go of what was,
and have faith in what will be.

MEMORIAL LILIES

The Decorating Committee will be adorning the Sanctuary with memorial lilies on Easter Sunday. We will be available to take orders on March 10th and 17th during coffee hour after services. Lilies are \$13.00 apiece.



Any questions, please see Sharon Breen (860-303-1184) or Wendy Zajac (860-886-1588).



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



2024 Scarecrow Festival
"KICK OFF" MEETING



The Scarecrow Zoom Kick-off meeting will be Wednesday March 13th at 6:30 PM.

I will send a link to all past committee members and anyone who would like to attend.

We are in need of a **Crow's Nest coordinator or coordinators**, to organize a team of cooks throughout the day, and follow all Uncas Health regulations. **A silent auction/marketing team** is needed to coordinate persons to visit and contact local and area business owners and ask for donated items and services for the silent auction, get a team of monitors to watch over donations on the day of the festival, money handlers to arrange for payments, people to register and record bidders, and people to call the winners on the day of the festival. Also needed is someone to market our festival to businesses and get financial sponsorships to assist in festival advertising costs. This included personal contacting and mailings. These are important areas of the festival and bring in a large financial portion of the festival.

We need you! Email me if you would like a Zoom link @ sharilpurcell@gmail.com

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. Start getting your team together!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday March 3 & 10
Sunday School 9:15A
Service 9:30A

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 March 10th newsletter no later than Tuesday, March 12th 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 TRAVEL

MAINE (JUNE 3-6)

4 days – 3 nights

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

This trip is planned for 40 passengers, and friends outside the church are welcome to join us. The last day for payment is Monday April 1st.

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.

