

THE PRESTON PILGRIM

The newsletter of
**The Preston City
Congregational Church
Gathered 1698**



**APRIL
2014**

CHURCH ADDRESS

321 Route 164
Preston, CT 06365-8108

TELEPHONE

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WORSHIP

9:00 & 10:30 A.M.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

8:45 A.M.

EMAIL: PCCC@SNET.NET

WEBSITE: prestoncitycongregational.org

Visit us on **FACEBOOK**

News and information for the May newsletter is due in the church office by **April 20**. You may leave information in the holder located on the wall in the kitchen.

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FROM THE MINISTER

Here's a nice thought; enjoy!

*With OUR EYES we see the beauty of Easter
as the earth awakens once more...*

*With OUR EARS we hear the birds sing sweetly
to tell us Spring again is here...*

*With OUR HANDS we pick the golden daffodils
and the fragrant hyacinths...*

*But only with OUR HEARTS can we feel
the MIRACLE of GOD'S LOVE
which redeems all people...*

*And only with OUR SOUL
can we make our "pilgrimage to God"
and inherit His gift of*

ETERNAL LIFE!

(Unknown)

Happy Easter to you!

Rev. Stan
Rev. Stan



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, April 13, 9 & 10:30 A.M.

Maundy Thursday, April 17, 7 P.M.

Good Friday, April 18, Noon

Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service*, April 20,
at 6:30 A.M. at Amos Lake, Hollowell Rd., Preston
**In the event of rain, the service will be held in our
Sanctuary.*

Easter Morning Breakfast, 7 A.M. Join us in the
Sunday school hall. There is no charge, however,
reservations are required. Sign up on the
Information Center bulletin board, or call the
church office to save seats for you and your
family.

The Celebration of Easter, 9 & 10:30 A.M. The
adult choir will sing at both services, and there
will be a special message for the children. The
Sunday School *will not* be in session; families are
encouraged to worship together.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, April 13, at Noon

The meeting will be held in the Sanctuary. All
church members are asked to be present to hear
plans for renovating the Sanctuary this summer.
A vote will be taken on whether to proceed, or
not. Please plan to be present!



Mark Your
Calendar!



DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH

WE WELCOMED into the Household of Christian Faith through the Sacrament of Baptism:

3-9, *Zoe Mae Aprin*, she is the daughter Mary & Michael Arpin of Griswold, CT.

3-16, Adult Baptism: *Lisa Marie Alder* of Voluntown, CT and *Michael Carlton Alder* of Jaffrey, NH.

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WE CONGRATULATED *Nikki Denicola & Nicholas Luft* who were united in marriage at the chapel in Old Mistick Village on March 9.

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CHICKEN POT PIE SUPPER

Saturday, April 26

Served: 4-6 P.M.

Tickets:

Adults \$10

Children 12 and under \$5

This very popular supper menu includes: Fresh-baked Chicken Pot Pie, green beans, Harvard beets, cranberry sauce, rolls, dessert, and beverage. Plan to purchase your tickets today! You can make your reservations by calling the church office; 860.887.4647

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YOGA CLASSES

We're pleased to say that Marcia Bartha will be offering classes throughout the month of April, on Monday evenings: 6:30 - 7:15 P.M. for Beginners, and 7:30 - 8 P.M. for Intermediates. The cost is \$5 per student/per class. Newcomers are always welcome. Classes begin April 7th.

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MEN'S PRISON MINISTRY

"Let the sighing of the prisoner come before thee."
Psalm 79:11

Why do we visit prisoners in prison? We go to be the ears of God; to be His ambassadors to those who have fallen to their weakness. We go in our own weakness because Jesus himself was a prisoner, and in today's prisoner, we see Him.

Every Tuesday night a group of men visit the York Correctional Institute in Niantic, CT to engage men in Bible study. A course of study developed by Charles Colson's Prison Fellowship Ministry is used. But much of the 90 minutes spent with the men is spent listening to them talk about their needs, concerns, heartaches, and sometimes triumphs. Many of them are knowledgeable about the Bible and minister back to those who come to visit. The prisoners bond together during our time with them, giving a vivid testimony of Christian brotherhood to others in the prison. In a way, it is an extension of the 90 minutes invested every Tuesday night. Friendships are forged between prisoners and those who come to minister. They hunger for this contact - it's very evident!

Any man interested in joining this ministry is asked to contact *Claude Flory* (see information posted on the Information Center bulletin board). An application would need to be completed and submitted to the CT Department of Corrections, followed by an orientation session before receiving a volunteer badge for admission to the prison. The process would take several months. Consider being part of this important ministry. - *Claude Flory*

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SCHOLARSHIP MONTH

We thank everyone who already offered a monetary gift to the Helen Benjamin Scholarship Fund in February. It's not too late to offer your donation. Put your gift in an envelope marked "*Scholarship Fund*" and be sure to include the information (in memory of..., in honor of...) that you want included in the worship folder on Scholarship Sunday, June 8th. We have many deserving graduates who would greatly benefit from your support. Please give as you are able.

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CHURCH CLEAN UP

Help us get the church grounds looking good for Easter. Individuals and families are asked to consider lending a hand in sweeping the parking lot, raking leaves, trimming hedges, etc. Please bring your rakes and brooms to the church on Saturday, April 12. We'll start at 8 A.M. (arrive when you can) and end no later than noon. There will be coffee, juice, and donuts for the workers. The more help we have the faster the clean-up will go. The rain-date will be April 19. Your help is so much appreciated.

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LOOKING AHEAD...

SAVE THOSE TREASURES!

The date has been set for the spring yard sale; May 17, from 8 - 2 P.M. (rain date: May 31). Good, clean, re-sellable items are now being accepted. Please note: *no clothing, air conditioners, tires or computers will be accepted.* Do NOT leave items outside the annex. Call Stella Dawley (860.887.6452) to arrange a time to drop off your items. Consider lending a hand on the 17th. A sign-up sheet for workers will soon be posted on the Information Center bulletin board.

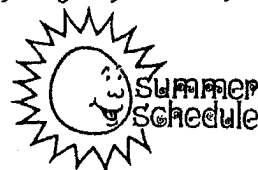
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SPECIAL SERVICES, MAY 18

REMEMBERING OUR CHILDREN - 9 a.m.

CHILDREN'S DAY - 10:30 a.m.

(See the Jr. Pilgrim for more information)



SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

We will go to one worship service beginning May 25; at 9 A.M. We hope you will be present with us on Sunday mornings throughout the summer.

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE

Did you know Sandra Wright, RN, our Faith Community Nurse is here at the church on Tuesday mornings at 11 A.M. in room #18. If you have any health-related questions, or wish to have your blood pressure taken, or are seeking prayer, Sandra is available to meet with you. No appointment is necessary. Stop by.

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PRESTON PILGRIM ONLINE

Did you know that you can now read the monthly newsletter online? Our website is: prestoncitycongregational.org. If you prefer to read it online, saving the church the cost of mailing one to you, please sign the sheet on the Information Center bulletin board, or call the church office.

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SCARECROW FESTIVAL NEWS

Our festival this year will be held on Saturday, September 27, and the committee has met and is in the planning stages. At this time we are looking for the following sub-committee chairs: Entertainment, and Children's Area. If you would like more information, or are ready to jump in, please contact Shirley Hodkinson at 860.887.8760. Our next meeting will be Monday, April 7, at 6:30 P.M.

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DID YOU KNOW...

that we have some extra copies of the new pictorial directory? They are available for purchase through the church office at a cost of \$20. It's a great way to put names with faces you see Sunday after Sunday. Please call or stop by if you are interested.

1ST CHOCOLATE GARDEN FUNDRAISER

This event will be hosted by the Junior Pilgrim Fellowship on Sunday, April 27th, from 3-5 P.M. at the church. This "heavenly" fundraiser will speak to the chocolate lover in everyone! With the purchase of an \$8.00 ticket, attendees will be sampling over 15 different chocolate desserts. Tickets will be on sale following both church services. Tickets are limited so purchase yours soon! If you have questions, please contact Linda Farinha at 860.608.6641.

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THE SENIOR PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP hosted a lasagna dinner as a fundraiser on March 29th. They had a profit of \$785.00! Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make this successful.

A retreat is planned by the Sr. P. F. on Fishers Island June 27-29.

CAN YOU HELP?

From time-to-time, people/families in our congregation are in need of a home cooked meal. Maybe it's following a hospital stay, or when a baby is born, or upon the passing of a loved one, etc. Many people have generously volunteered to take on this act of compassion in years past, and now we are in need of more volunteers when the need arises. If you would be willing to be a part of this important ministry, please call meal coordinator Lois Woodmansee at 860.889.2128.

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MISSING

While taking inventory of church property recently, we discovered that many of the metal chairs we loan to members of the congregation have not been returned. Do you have some in your basement or garage that you have forgotten to return to the church? Please bring them back as soon as possible so others may borrow them. Still missing are two 8' tables with tan laminate tops. Please remember that you must contact the church office before tables and chairs leave the property. Thanks.

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AN INTERESTING BIT OF HISTORY...

We received an old worship folder from December, 4, 1966 for a Service of Dedication for the Sunday School Hall. This is noted in it: "Construction of this building began in September of 1965. The planning and preparation began over 5 years ago. From planning to completion there have been a great many men and women who by diligent work and personal effort have brought us to this auspicious occasion. I am sure that God looks with favor on their sacrifices and efforts. As we dedicate this building to God's service let us also rededicate ourselves to greater heights of Christian witness."

It was also noted that the worship center (the Sunday School altar) was dedicated - it was a gift of The Priscilla Crary Memorial Fund. *We have a debt of gratitude to those who served before us!*

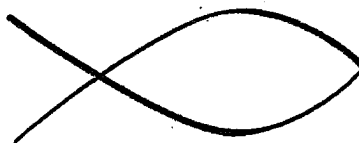
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MISSING...A walking stick that was a family gift. It was last seen in the Storytelling Room. We are hoping it will return or be found.

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ONLINE ANYONE?

DID YOU KNOW that you could read the newsletter online... prestoncitycongregational.org. If you prefer to read it online, saving the cost of mailing one to you, you may email the church office or sign the sheet on the Information Center bulletin board.



The Preston Junior Pilgrim



Preston City Congregational Church Sunday School Newsletter

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:



am the
RESURRECTION
and the
LIFE.

Who
believes in
me will
LIVE,
even though
he dies.

John 11:25

AS WE APPROACH the beginning of Holy Week on Palm Sunday, we will quickly move on from Jesus' joyous entry into Jerusalem to Maundy Thursday when we will remember Christ's experience - being with his closest friends for the *Last Supper*, eating with them and knowing that a few of them would betray Him. We'll move on to Good Friday, crucifixion day, but then **EASTER(!)**, the final day of Holy Week...the **RESURRECTION!**

The contemporary Bible writer, Eugene Peterson in **The Message*, Romans 8, helps us understand the significance of this final day, or is it a new beginning... "This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave-tending life. It's adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike "What's next, Papa?" God's Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we really are. We

know who he is, and we know who we are: Father and children. And we know we are going to get what's coming to us—an unbelievable inheritance! We go through exactly what Christ goes through. If we go through the hard times with him, then we're certainly going to go through the good times with him!"

What an inheritance! We share His suffering and we'll share his glory. It is far greater than the finest gold or any inheritance this earthly world has to offer.

I would encourage you, if you possibly can, to take in all the events of Holy Week beginning with the Palm Sunday worship service and joining us for communion on Maundy Thursday (7p) and then at noon on Good Friday, and of course Resurrection Day, Easter! These are holy days, full of meaning and significance to Christians. Do we take time to explain them to our children? I would encourage you to do so. Many of them will attend the Holy Week event on Good Friday. They are always excited to get their nail on Good Friday and often when they come to the front of the church, they'll ask if they can take a nail for Mom or Dad or someone they love who may be working. Yes, children, tell them about Jesus' suffering on the cross. And then, amid Easter baskets and chocolate rabbits, break away and come to the sunrise or Easter services. Then share in the Resurrection life, the contemporary writer speaks of.

LIVE A LIFE of hope among the sufferings of your present life. Live expectantly... God has promised us so much. All we must do is **believe!** The long, cold, winter has passed and as promised, spring is here, alive with all the signs of hope for us, and for our loved ones who have passed from our sight who now enjoy the promised inheritance... eternal life.

INVITE someone to come and see and experience the blessings we feel in a gathered community of believers. It's powerful and real and life-changing.

May the **SON**shine through me,

*The popular *Message Bible* (tenth anniversary edition) is now available through the church office at a cost of \$20.

Sandy Dudek ✕

APRIL BIBLE VERSES

"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." (Exodus 20:8) (N3-Grade 2)

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 (Grades 3-12)

PLEASE ENCOURAGE students to learn these verses. To qualify for an award at the end of the year, verses must be correctly recited by the end of each month to a Bible Memory Verse Coordinator assigned by Mrs. Dudek. **The May verse needs to be recited by May 4th to allow time for those receiving a Bible Memory Verses award.** Nursery 3 & 4 students say their verse to the teacher and she will mark them off.

PLEASE NOTE: students who have recited the Bible verses will be posted on the Sunday School bulletin board in the SS Hall.

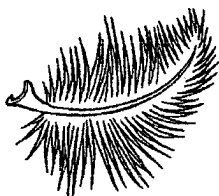
THE RECOGNITION DINNER for everyone who works with our youth... Sunday School teachers, Board of Religious Education, youth choirs leaders, and youth group leaders was held March 8th with over 50 in attendance. Thank you to everyone who came forward with donations and your help. A complete turkey dinner was served with pie. Entertainment was the **BEST** with our own Richard Breen and Hunter Bustamante!

THE STORYTELLING & ENRICHMENT continues this Palm Sunday, April 13th, with **Moses in the Wilderness** (10 Commandments) (Exodus 19-20). Faithfully, Storyteller Judy Ladegard and Shari Purcell, Enrichment Coordinator, will be there to instruct the children.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL dates have been set. We will participate in Wilderness Escape... Where God guides and provides. It will be a new innovative program the kids are sure to love with **Moses** on the premises (Rev. Stan), a real presence to the children. The Sunday School Hall will be turned into a desert with tents all around. We are so excited about this program. Mark your calendars for **July 14-18th**. Your kids will have an unforgettable week. VBS Directors Judy Ladegard and Sandy Dudek are in the "recruitment" mode right now. **Tuesday, June 3rd**, at 6:30 p.m. is a required meeting for "Tribe Leaders" and all participants.

CHILDREN'S DAY is scheduled for May 18th on the "Field of Dreams." The Preston Veterans Memorial School has been reserved in case of inclement weather. More details will follow. **SAVE THE DATE!**

HAVE YOUR CHILDREN BEEN MISSING SUNDAY SCHOOL? Please know that we miss them so much and would love to have them here on Sunday mornings. The high school class remains a strong presence at Sunday School, a sign to me that besides the learning that takes place, much bonding has happened that is meaningful for teens. I know there are sports, sleeping in, and lots of other things, but please do not underestimate the importance of a faith life and being in fellowship with other Christians.



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15th ANNUAL SPECIAL HOLY WEEK EVENT

When: Good Friday, April 18, 2014 11:45 a.m.
Where: Preston City Congregational Church
Age Group: Kindergarten through Seventh Grade



Parents are encouraged to bring their children to the Good Friday service at noon, if possible. If not, please drop your child off to attend the service with the Director of Religious Education, Sandy Dudek. High School young people and other adults will be assisting me. If your children have not been to a Good Friday service before, this should be a very meaningful service to them and also help them to formulate what happened to Jesus on this day and find out why such a day could possibly be considered "good".

Following the service, we will go downstairs for lunch, which will consist of sandwiches, chips, drink and dessert.

The children will then participate in a variety of activities, some of which will be making things to reinforce the meaning of Lent and Easter for the Christian. Hopefully, this will deepen their understanding of our Christian faith that Christ died for us...our salvation

Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions (860.887.4647)

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR PLANNING PURPOSES.

Child's Name _____ Grade _____

Child's Name _____ Grade _____

Child's Name _____ Grade _____

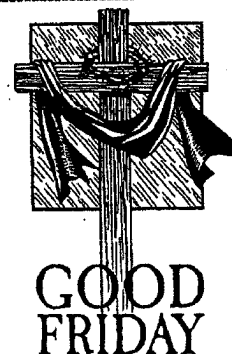
Please indicate below if a child is allergic to anything (food)

Parent or Guardian's Signature _____

If you would like to provide a food or drink item, please check here and I will call you. Phone No. _____

Telephone No. in case of emergency _____

In the event of an emergency, do we have your permission to take your child to a doctor if you cannot be reached?



PLEASE NOTE: This event is limited to children (75) who register from our church community. On April 8th, if all openings have not been filled, it will be open to those outside our church community so I urge you to return this form as soon as possible if your child(ren) would like to attend this popular event. There is no registration fee; however, donations to offset the cost would be gratefully accepted.

MARCH
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MAY
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11 12 13 14 15 16 17
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APRIL 2014



Jesus Raises Lazarus

John 11:1-45

Word Search

L A Z A R U S E S L E E P M P
Q U E N T R A N C E B D F L Y U
L J O A S O W D Y L I F E V L
F N I K T W E I X L G T O M B
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| SICK | LAZARUS | BROTHER |
| DISCIPLES | LIFE | BELIEVE |
| GLORY | MARTHA | RISE |
| DEATH | TOMB | SLEEP |

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|--|
| <p>Please note: Active church members who wish to borrow church property (tables, chairs), call the church office</p> <p>6 Communion Adult choir sings 9a SS communion 9:00a New members meet with deacons Bake sale Two-can Sunday</p> | <p>Please check with Rev. Stan or Sandy before using our names as references. This courtesy would be appreciated.</p> <p>7 NO Bible study Scanerow Committee meeting 6:30p Yoga beginners 6:30-7:15p Yoga intermediates 7:30-8:00p</p> | <p>1 Friends & Family Caf  9-11:30a ARC 10:30a</p> <p>2 Friends & Family Caf  9-11:30a Staff meeting 9a ARC 10:30a Board of Religious Education mtg. 5p Event Coordinating 7p</p> | <p>3 ARC 10:30a AA 7:30p</p> <p>4 9 ARC 10:30a St. Jude worship 11a Finance Committee Meeting 7p AA 7:30p</p> | <p>5 Handbell choir 6:15p Adult choir 7p</p> <p>6 Handbell choir 6:15p Adult choir 7p</p> | <p>7 Good Friday worship Noon Special Holy Week Event 11:45a-2:30p</p> | <p>8 Church clean-up 8a-Noon</p> |
| <p>13 Palm Sunday & New members Sunday Bring it! 10:30a Bread Festival Semi-annual meeting Noon Food distribution Sunday</p> | <p>14 Yoga beginners 6:30-7:15p Yoga intermediates 7:30-8:00p</p> | <p>15 Friends & Family Caf  9-11:30a ARC 10:30a</p> | <p>16 ARC 10:30a Adult choir 7p AA 7:30p</p> | <p>17 Maundy Thursday Communion Service 7p</p> | <p>18 ARC 10:30a Handbell choir 6:15p Adult choir 7p AA 7:30p</p> | <p>19 Rain date Church clean-up 8a-Noon</p> |
| <p>20 EASTER Sunrise service 6:30a Yarns Lake, Hollowell Road, Easter breakfast 7a Worship 9, 10:30a NO Sunday School</p> | <p>21 Yoga beginners 6:30-7:15p Yoga intermediates 7:30-8:00p</p> | <p>22 Friends & Family Caf  9-11:30a ARC 10:30a</p> | <p>23 ARC 10:30a AA 7:30p</p> | <p>24 Handbell choir 6:15p Adult choir 7p</p> | <p>25</p> | <p>26 Chicken Pot Pie Supper 4-6:00p</p> |
| <p>27 Food Distribution Sunday FIRE DRILL Bring it! 10:30a Chocolate dessert fundraiser 3-5p</p> | <p>28 Yoga beginners 6:30-7:15p Yoga intermediates 7:30-8:00p</p> | <p>29 Friends & Family Caf  9-11:30a ARC 10:30a</p> | <p>30 ARC 10:30a Creamery Brook 3p AA 7:30p</p> | <p>*In case of rain, the sunrise service will be held in our Sanctuary.</p> | | <p>To place flowers in church during April, call Mary Lou Jensen at 860.869.6400</p> |