

THE PRESTON PILGRIM



**The newsletter of
The Preston City
Congregational Church
Gathered 1698
(Now in our 321st Year!)**

AUGUST 2019

CHURCH ADDRESS
321 Route 164
Preston, CT 06365-8108

TELEPHONE
(860) 887-4647, (860) 886-7200

FAX
(860) 887-4647

SUMMER WORSHIP
9:00 A.M.
(May 26 – September 1, 2019)

EMAIL: PCCC@SNET.NET

WEBSITE: prestoncitycongregational.org

News and information for the September newsletter must be received by **August 18th**. You may leave information in the holder located on the wall in the kitchen.

CAN'T MAKE IT TO CHURCH?

Now you can watch the service online, Sundays at 9 A.M., or later in the day. All services are archived so you can watch them any day, any time, from anywhere. However, for optimum viewing, join us in person!



“Wah, Wah, Wah”

We live in a noisy world, and it's getting worse every day. People speaking over each other, interrupting each other, raising their voice to drown-out someone else's! It drives me CRAZY! Watch just about any TV talk show where there are multiple guests, and you'll see what I mean. It seems whomever speaks or yells the loudest is the victor in having their point be heard, or so they think! I seldom hear anyone when everyone speaks at once. It's just a bunch of noisy sounds.

It reminds me of Miss Othmar, the teacher Linus had a crush on in the Peanuts comic strips/TV specials. You remember her... whenever she spoke, all you heard was, “wah, wah, wah.” Noise made by a slide trombone! In reading about Miss Othmar this week, I read:

“Miss Othmar and other Adults are only heard through the sounds of a muted trombone. Schultz was simply not interested in depicting grownups, so, he denied them the luxury of intelligible speech.”

To me, when everyone speaks at once, there is no intelligible speech; just a bunch of “wah, wah, wah.” Often, many good points go unheard.

Yes, we live in a noisy “wah, wah, wah,” world, and it's not getting any better. Nowadays, people “multitask.” They can do several things at once. It's often thought to be a good skill to possess in the work place. But when it comes to listening, it's best to hear one voice at a time.

When God speaks, it is said *He whispers* (“a still small voice”). Are you listening for His voice? He speaks, but He will not yell and compete with other voices. He doesn't have to. His is the ultimate voice. Get rid of all the “wah, wah, wah” in your life and you'll hear Him. Elijah did (1 Kings 19:11-13). I'll talk more about it this Sunday. See you in church!

Rev. Stan



DON'T FORGET

We are still on our summer worship schedule. There will be one service of worship; 9 A.M. until September 8th, when we return to two services of worship; 9 & 10:30 A.M. The Sunday School will begin another year on the 8th as well (8:45 A.M.). We're looking forward to the return of families and individuals who have been away over the summer.

September 8th is a great day to bring someone new to church or to Sunday School. Got new neighbors and families where you live? Why not tell them about your church? Better yet, why not invite them to join you? Our church is a great, family-friendly, children & youth-friendly place to be on Sunday mornings.

You are the best advertisement for your church!

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NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

Summer Choir is back! On August 25, we will have a "pick-up choir" sing at morning worship. If you would like to sing, just show up at 8:30 in the Meeting Room, and we'll warm up and go over parts of a favorite hymn to sing during the Offertory. All are welcome.

Still looking... Choir Director Needed. We are seeking a new director for our "Kidz Praise Choir." We need someone to rehearse our young singers for 20-30 minutes each Sunday. Kidz Praise is a ministry using songs that teach, encourage, compel, and call to action. Please contact Robin Lyon at lyon.family@comcast.net or 860.705.5943 if you would like to lead our youngest singers. This is a volunteer position.



SUMMER GIVING

WOW! We are so pleased to tell you that as of July, we are a little ahead of our budget. Usually, during the summer months, when Sunday School is out and people are away the Sunday offerings decrease considerably; not so this year! As of July, we are right on budget! We appreciate your financial faithfulness all year long, but especially during the summer. To see how well things are going, check out the financial statements on the mid-level bulletin board across from the table.

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TO KEEP YOU INFORMED

All meeting minutes and financial reports from the monthly Standing Committee meeting which is held on the 3rd Wednesday at 7 P.M. in Halls' Hall are now posted on the hallway bulletin board opposite the Information Center table. Want to know what's happening in your church? Check out the bulletin board. Please know that anyone is welcome to attend this meeting.



LOCK THE DOORS

Any groups or meetings being held at the church are encouraged to lock the doors once their meeting or event begins.

New **FIRST AID KITS** have been purchased for the church. They are located in the kitchen, in the back hallway just off the Sanctuary, and the lower level hallway where the majority of classrooms are located; please take note of their locations. If any items need to be re-stocked, please let the office know.

-- *The Safety Committee*

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READING MATERIALS

Copies of *The Upper Room* and *Our Daily Bread* are available on the Information Center table. These are great daily devotional booklets, written to encourage you in your faith journey. Please pick up a copy, they're "FREE."

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. If you're interested in helping out with this important outreach, please sign the sheet posted on the mid-level bulletin board, or call meal coordinator Lois Woodmansee at 860.889.2128. *Thank you.*



JOIN US

We're heading back to beautiful Lancaster, PA from November 18th – 20th. The itinerary is a little different this time:

2 nights lodging

2 breakfasts, 2 dinners (family style dinner & Smorgasbord)

3 hour guided tour of the Amish countryside with various stops along the way.

We'll visit the Lil' Country Store and Miniature Horse Farm

We'll attend the "Miracle of Christmas" at Sight & Sound Theater, as well as "Joy to the World" at the American Music Theater, and enjoy a visit to Kitchen Kettle Village.

The cost is \$415 per person/double occupancy which includes: Motor coach transportation, guides, a ticket to each show, all meals, and bus driver's gratuity. *Cancellation insurance is available upon request.* A \$50 deposit per person is due at sign up. An additional \$25 payment is due by August 20th. If you're interested in going on this trip with Rev. Stan, please sign your name to the sheet posted on the hallway bulletin board, or call the church office (860.887.4647). Flyers with all the trip information can be picked up on the Information Center table. **Please note:** this trip will be canceled if we do not have 35 travelers by September 8th. This wonderful trip is open to the community, spread the word!

The Preston

Junior Pilgrim



A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION...

ALL OF US HAVE HAD things to do in life that have been hard to do! I was recently thinking of that following a few awesome sermons (they're all really good) that Rev. Stan recently gave on what your life (Bible) verse would be. He shared with us his grandmother's as found in her Bible: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not unto thine own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct thy paths." (King James Version) He said this verse directed her path until her dying day!

THIS PAST SUNDAY, Shari Purcell delivered an inspiring sermon. Towards the end of it she spoke about the life verse of Rev. Stan's grandmother and how that inspired her. She, too, has a life verse, but, in the end, she did not share it, keeping us all in suspense! I called her today to find out when the BIG REVEAL would be and she said the next time she visits CT! I thought she might tell me, a best friend, but mum was the word.

NOW I OPENLY share mine with you: "**I can do everything through him who gives me strength.**" **Philippians 4:13** Going back to my opening sentence about having things in life that are hard to do, it could be something as simple as having to reprimand one of our children or grandchildren (you know those kind where it hurts you more than them) or as hard as going from home into a nursing facility. Our challenge is always doing new things that we often do not want to do or think we can't do, like waiting a year for the remnants of a shattered elbow to heal! It could be the death of a loved one that is hard to face or accept. Who makes all of these things possible...the strength of our Lord in our lives! It has brought me triumphantly through some of the greatest challenges of my life.

HOW ABOUT YOU...what are some of the challenges you face in your life today that you don't know how you'll possibly do? Factor in your love of Christ and the strength he has to offer you. Pray on your concern daily and watch God work and see goodness at its best. Not like a strike of lightning although it might be!

HAVE YOU THOUGHT about what your life verse might be today? Be sure to share it by emailing it to Rev. Stan (sewhite3022@gmail.com) or put it into the offering plate. You might hear an excellent sermon on it one day!

.May the **SON**shine through me, *Sandy Dudek*

THIS FALL when Sunday School opens, there will be challenge Bible verses for those looking for some verses that are harder than the ones we've had. I hope many of our kids will take the challenge and learn some very important lessons while doing so.



SUNDAY SCHOOL begins September 8th at 8:45 a.m. We hope your children will be there. Their faith life is more important than you might imagine!

SENIOR PICNIC...Are you a senior 62 or older who regularly attends our church...if so, you are invited to a senior picnic on Tuesday, August 6th (rain date, Wednesday, August 7th) at noon at the pavilion. You may park down on the "Field of Dreams." If it is uncomfortably hot, we may move it to Dudek Hall. We will be having hot dogs and hamburgers, baked beans, potato salad, cole slaw and dessert. There will be guitar music to enjoy! You can sign up on the Church Information Center bulletin board or call Sandy at church (860.887.4647).

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WAS AWESOME! Everyone had the best time from kids to adults. Shari Purcell did a phenomenal job decorating and preparing hundreds of details to make the school run smoothly. We had 41 kids as well as 6 teens who were crew leaders. We couldn't have done it without the commitment of the adults we had as well who served in many different capacities. We want to thank everyone who helped us in any way. Jean MacLauchlan has been involved with tie dyeing shirts for many years and finished up this year. She has served her church and the children well. Thank you, Jean, for being so dedicated.

August 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Communion worship 9a	5 Yoga 6:30p	6 Senior picnic Noon	7 Senior picnic rain date Noon AA 7:30p	8	9	10
11 Worship 9a	12 Yoga 6:30p	13 Board of Religious Ed. 6p	14 AA 7:30p	15	16	17
18 Worship 9a	19 Yoga 6:30p	20	21 Trustees mtg. 6p Standing Comm. 7p AA 7:30p	22	23	24
25 Worship 9a "Pick-up choir" 8:30a Food distribution	26 Yoga 6:30p	27	28 Creamery Brook worship 3p AA 7:30p	29	30	31

Please note: Active church members who wish to borrow church property (tables, chairs), call the church office.
Contact Rev. Stan or Sandy before using our names as a reference. This courtesy would be appreciated.

July 2019

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Notes: To place the flowers upon the altar during August, sign the Flower Chart on the mid-level bulletin board, fill out the reservation form and give it to Doreen Mainville (860) 639-4500 or place in the envelope to the left of the Flower Chart.

September 2019

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					