

THE PRESTON PILGRIM

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

DECEMBER - JANUARY
2015/2016

CHURCH ADDRESS

321 Route 164
Preston, CT 06365-8108

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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 January newsletter is due in the church office by **December 20th**. You may leave information in the holder located on the wall in the kitchen.

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Can you believe it? Another year is quickly coming to an end. The hymn writer says it best:

"Time like an ever rolling stream..."

Isn't it true? The older you get the faster time goes. As children, we thought Christmas would never get here. As adults we think, "Christmas? Again?" Time rolls on faster and faster!

Each day, each season, each year, has its own uniqueness to be enjoyed and appreciated while it lasts. The wonderful moments we experienced during the year quickly become treasured memories in our minds.

That's what happens each Christmastime. New memories are created - meaningful moments captured in our mind that last a lifetime.

That first Christmas, more than 2000 years ago, a Child was born -- a Savior, the Hope of the world! At this time of year, we recall his arrival in Bethlehem, his days in Nazareth of Galilee, but also his death in Jerusalem. We remember that He was born to die so that we might live.

I will, forever, be grateful to God, for the greatest Christmas gift of all, Jesus Christ, my Savior.

He came for you, too!

Celebrate the Gift of Jesus, and all that his coming into the world means this Christmas and every day!

A blessed Christmas to you and yours!

Rev. Stan

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DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

We welcomed into the Household of Christian faith through the Sacrament of Baptism:

11.15 *Ryan Nicholas Rowe*, son of Amy and Jonathan Rowe of Griswold, CT

We ask God's blessing upon this little one.

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NEW MEMBERS

It was with great joy that we welcomed the following people into the membership of the church on Thanksgiving Sunday: Nancy Maerke, Jane & Felix Prokop, III, Janice & Charles Rice, Theodore Zajac, and Kimberly Lang. We're glad you've joined us. WELCOME!



NEW ANNEX LAWN SIGN

Have you noticed the new sign on the annex lawn? It is beautiful. Unlike the original sign, it states the address of the church (#321) which will be of help to people who have not been to the church before. It also states the location of the church offices. At the bottom of the sign is the logo of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (the Mayflower) and states that we are members of the NA. We thank Sharon Breen and Stella Dawley for funding the new sign. Be sure to take a look!

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DID YOU KNOW ...

That the food pantry received a check for \$240 from L.U.N.C.H.? During their concert on October 25th, a free will offering was received for the ongoing work of this group that sings to raise awareness of hunger. We thank these wonderful young people for being with us, and for their donation to help us feed those in need!

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BAZAAR NEWS

Those who coordinated this year's bazaar wish to thank everyone who contributed to its success. Thank you for the hand crafted items donated, and for the many baked goods as well. We appreciate what you did!

There are still nuts and candies available for purchase (but they're selling very fast). You can make a purchase on Sunday morning during the coffee hour - while supplies last!

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FOOD PANTRY NEWS

Thanks to the generosity of others, 90 turkeys with all the fixins' were distributed the week before Thanksgiving! The "Two-Can Pantry" does so much good to help those in need. Without your support, however, and that of the community, churches, and grants received, this outreach would be nearly impossible. We can't thank you enough for making all this possible!

Now the Pantry team is working on Christmas, and they are looking for 80 turkeys (people to purchase and donate 80 turkeys!). If you would like to donate one, please sign the sheet on the Information Center bulletin board. Please speak with Harriet Rosiene or Stella Dawley if you have any questions.

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DOOR MONITORS

Volunteers are needed for December and January, especially during the 10:30 service. Please consider signing up at the Information Center. All the details about being a monitor are posted there. Contact Lowell Calkins if you have further questions (860. 887.5939).



PHASE TWO (The church budget)

As you know by now, letters were mailed to the congregation the week of November 2nd, seeking financial support for the proposed budget of \$240,151. We're happy to report that as of December 1st, 71 pledges totaling \$103,751.00 has been received. We've also received 22 pledges for Missions (\$6,020.00) and 18 pledges for Youth Missions (\$3,458.00). This financial appeal will run until the end of the year. Have we heard from you? Every pledge will bring us closer to the goal. If you have not already offered a pledge, please consider doing so very soon. Forms are available on the Information Center table. You may place your pledge in the offering plate, or send it to the church office. Please mark "pledge" in the lower left corner of the envelope. We thank those who have already submitted a pledge. Your giving makes everything that we do possible!

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COAT DRIVE = SUCCESS!!

Laurie Bowers, from the Adult Missions group, wishes to thank the many people who donated coats to keep people warm this winter. The original goal was 50 coats, then 120 coats! After last Sunday (11/29) more than 200 coats were collected and delivered to various local agencies. Well done, church! Once again, you went above and beyond what was asked for. Thank you!

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BEGINNER HANDBELL WORKSHOP

Tuesdays, 6 - 7:15 P.M. on December 8 and 15 in room 6-8 on the lower level. Would you like a better understanding of handbells as an instrument? Would you like the skills to be able to ring in a group one day? Come to this two-part workshop and learn how to ring. The workshop is free. Please contact Robin Lyon at lyonfamily@comcast.com or 860.705.5943 if you're interested.

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THE MEN OF THE CHURCH...

are planning a breakfast here at the church on December 12th, from 7 - 10 A.M. The menu consists of : eggs, bacon, ham, sausage, homefries, toast, coffee, and juice. The cost is \$7 for Adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Tickets are now available. You can purchase them during the coffee hour on Sunday morning, or by stopping by the church office. If there are men wanting to lend a hand that morning, please speak with Rick Alletto or Tom Riley (Coordinators). A sign-up sheet is also posted on the Information center bulletin board.

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COLLETTE (Travel)

Alaska will be our destination for August 2016. It will be a land and cruise package and will leave August 2nd. Brochures for this wonderful trip have arrived and are available on the Information Center table. This trip, like all our trips, is open to the community. In fact, Collette can arrange this trip for anyone in the United States.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- 12.6 **CAROLING** through the neighborhoods. We'll meet at the church at 2 P.M. and divide up into teams and travel to homes in Preston and surrounding communities. We'll return to the church for soup and sandwiches around 4 P.M. This is always a meaningful event, especially for those on the receiving end. Consider joining us and bring the kids! For planning purposes, please sign up; let us know how many will be joining you.
- 12.13 **THE ANNUAL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT.** Showtime is 4 P.M. in the Sanctuary. Read all about it in the Jr. Pilgrim.
- 12.24 **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES** at 4 and 11 P.M. Sandy will lead the earlier service, and Rev. White will lead the 11. Both services are meaningful and very well attended. Arrive early!
- 12.27 There will be one service of worship after Christmas; 9 A.M. It will be a family Sunday as the Sunday School will NOT be in session. We will return to two worship services on January 3rd, and the Sunday School WILL BE in session.

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SPECIAL THANKS

to Dwight Hopkins and members of his family for setting up the Nativity on front lawn of the church in time for the start of Advent. We also thank the Migliaccio family for donating the beautiful, new, figures for the Nativity display. Be sure to take a look at the scene the next time you're at church. Watch for a photo on the church website, too!

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WONDERFUL NEWS

The "Two-Can Food Pantry" was awarded a \$1,000 grant from The Preston Community Fund Committee! This grant will help the pantry do so much good for those in need. We thank the committee for this generous amount.



THE WONDERFUL NEWS CONTINUES...

We also salute Boy Scout Troop #75 for collecting canned goods in town recently and giving them to the pantry. This year, a total of 3,004 canned goods were collected! Thank you Scouts, and thank you town's people for participating in the food drive.

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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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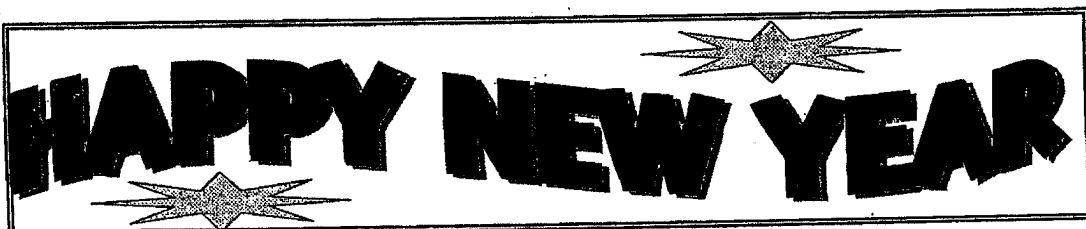
CAN YOU HELP?

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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ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

Officers, board and committee members are reminded that their report for the annual report is due in the office by January 17, 2016. The reports do not have to be typed. If you're unsure about whether you need to submit a report, please contact the office. The date of the annual meeting is Tuesday, February 9th at 7 P.M.



The Preston Junior Pilgrim



Preston City Congregational Church Sunday School Newsletter

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

A Christmas message,

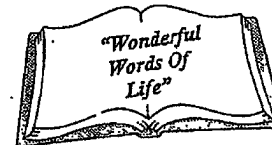
As these December days lead up to Christmas, I hope you will be thinking about the blessings you have had this past year. I hope these days will be an uplifting time of spending moments with those you love and of reaching out to those who could have their day brightened with a phone call or a note. I hope our children will come to see it's not all about toys and Santa and grow in faith to the deeper meaning of Christmas. May your days be filled with peace that oftentimes seems to elude us in the "real" world. As we create it in our own hearts and families, it cannot help but to spread to others. Let us never give up the hope that one day our world will exist in the peace that passes all understanding. Be sure to find joy in each day because it's there every day when we take a close look. Always look forward to the future and remember: The BEST is yet to come. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

May the SONshine through me,

Sandy Dudek



DECEMBER & JANUARY BIBLE VERSES



"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want." (Psalm 23:1) Grades Nursery 3- Grade 2) (December)

"...Do to others what you would have them do to you." (Matthew 7:12) Golden Rule (January)

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, according to his purpose." Romans 8:28 (Grades 3-12) (December)

"Do not judge and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven." Luke 6:37 (January)

PLEASE ENCOURAGE students to learn these verses; they will serve them well the rest of their lives. To qualify for an award at the end of the year, verses must be correctly recited by the end of each month to Mrs. Dudek or their teacher. PLEASE NOTE: Bible cutouts are posted on the bulletin board in the back of the Sunday School Hall. When the child has recited the monthly verse, they will place a sticker on the proper month. Let's hope many students get all nine of them this year! Even if they miss one, there will be an opportunity to make up one missed verse.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who donated a basket, purchased tickets, or helped in anyway with the recent basket drawings at the Bazaar. We thank Lisa Fessenden and Denise Luft for coordinating this. \$747.00 was realized which will be used to support Sunday School programs.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who donated turkeys and/or cash and pies for the Sunday School baskets Thanksgiving outreach. Your generosity helped many families.



CONGRATULATIONS to Kristen Rider who auditioned for the Middle School Eastern regional chorus. Out of 11 children to audition from her school, Kristen received the highest score with a 162 out of 170. She made it into the chorus...the concert will be in March! Your church family applauds you Kristen!

YOU'RE INVITED TO COME...December 13th at 4:00 p.m. to our church sanctuary when the Nursery 3 & 4, and Kindergarten students of our Sunday School will present "The Nativity" followed by children grades 1 & up who will present the Christmas pageant, "A tree Lot Christmas." The pageant will be followed by pizza and beverages sponsored and served by The Board of Religious Education and Confirmation students. Each pageant family is asked to bring a plate of cookies to share. Come and enjoy!

NOVEMBER
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

DECEMBER 2015

JANUARY 2016
S M T W T F S
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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

SUNDAYS:

Morning worship, 9a.m., 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School 8:45 a.m.

Coffee hour, 9:50 a.m., 11:30 a.m.

Children's Choir: 10:00-10:25 a.m.

Youth Choir: 10:00-10:25 a.m.

Junior & Senior Pilgrim Fellowship

Check church bulletin

The newsletter is posted on our website:

prestoncitycongregational.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
To place flowers in church during December, sign the Flower chart in the narthex, and call Joyce Brewster at 860.376.4167	PLEASE CHECK with Rev. Stan or Sandy before using our names as references. This courtesy would be appreciated.	1 Friends & Family Cafe 9-11:30a SS pageant rehearsal N3, N4, K, Grades 1 & up 6p	2 AA 7:30-8:30p	3 Adult choir 7p	4 Children's cookie Bake 3-6p	5
6 Communion worship 9,10,30a SS communion 9:05a Two-can Sunday Adult choir sings Youth Choir start-up 10-10:25a Christmas caroling 2:00 p	7 Bible study 10a Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	8 Friends & Family Cafe 9-11:30 a Senior Lunch noon Beginners Handbells workshop 6-7:15p Pageant rehearsal . All ages 6p Board of Religious Ed. 6p	9 St. Jude's worship 11a SS pageant dress rehearsal grades 1 & up Time TBD Habitat for Humanity meeting 6:30p AA 7:30-8:30p	10 Adult choir 7p	11	12 Breakfast (served by the men), a fundraiser 7-10a
13 Worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a Youth Choir 10-10:25a Bring It 10:30a SS pageant 4p	14 Bible study 10a Confirmation, Mid-year exam 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	15 Friends & Family Cafe 9-11:30a Beginners Handbells Workshop 6-7:15p	16 Creamery Brook Worship 3p Trustees' meeting 6p Standing Comm. Meeting 7p AA 7:30-8:30p	17 Adult choir 7p	18	19
20 CHRISTMAS SUNDAY Worship 9, 10:30a NO Sunday School Food distribution Sunday	21 NO Bible study Yoga 6:30p NO Confirmation	22 Friends & Family Cafe 9-11:30a NO Handbells Adult choir 7p	23 AA 7:30-8:30p	24 Christmas Eve worship 4, 11p	25 CHRISTMAS We welcome the birth of a savior.	26
27 ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP 9A NO Sunday School NO Bring It	28 NO Bible study NO Confirmation Yoga 6:30p	29 Friends & Family Cafe 9-11:30a Handbells & adult Choirs potluck supper 6:30p	30 AA 7:30-8:30p	31 New Year's Eve Drive safely!	PLEASE NOTE: Active church members who wish to borrow church property (table, chairs, etc.), call the church office.	LOST OR FOUND something at church? There is a basket in the Information Center.

THE SCRIP PROGRAM is an ongoing fundraiser that greatly benefits the youth missions trips program. Scrip (debit) cards are available to purchase for hundreds of stores, gas stations, donut shops, bookstores, grocery stores, etc. where you do business. You do not pay any extra amount to purchase these cards; however, the youth missions will receive a percentage back that varies according to the business. For example...if you purchase a Macy's card for \$100.00, youth missions will be rewarded 10% for the sale...no charge to you but profit to the program; WalMart is 2%, Stop & Shop 4%, etc. Cards can be purchased for varying amounts. Sheets with participating businesses listed are always available in the Information Center. Checks to purchase these cards should be made out to "PCCC Youth Missions". If you have questions call coordinators Jerry & Cheryl Giuliano (860-376-8901).

INCLEMENT WEATHER


CANCELLATIONS: Tune in to WICH, WCIV, WNLC, WKNL, or Television Channel 3 or you may check Facebook or our website: prestoncitycongregational.org
When Sunday School is cancelled, church is NOT CANCELED unless specifically announced.



OCTOBER 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

JANUARY 2016

FEBRUARY						
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					

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
To place flowers in church during January, sign the Flower Chart, in the narthex, and call Joyce Brewster at 860.376.4167.	Please check with Rev. Stan or Sandy <u>before</u> using our names as references. This courtesy would be very much appreciated	LOST OR FOUND Something at church? There is a basket in the information Center next to the table.			1 HAPPY NEW YEAR! Health and happiness!	2
3 Communion worship 9, 10:30a Adult choir sings 9a SS communion 9:05a Two-can Sunday	4 Bible study 10a Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	5 Friends & Family Café 9-11:30a Handbell rehearsal 6p	6 AA 7:30p	7 Adult choir 7p	8	9
10 Worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a "Bring It" 10:30a	11 NO Bible study Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	12 Friends & Family Café 9-11:30a Senior Lunch Noon Board of Religious Ed. 6p Handbell rehearsal 6p	13 St. Jude's worship 11a AA 7:30p	14 Adult choir 7p	15	16
17 Worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a Adult choir sings 9a Bring It 10:30a Annual reports due	18 Martin Luther King Day Office closed NO Bible study NO Confirmation Yoga 6:30p	19 Friends & Family Café 9-11:30a Handbell rehearsal 6p	20 Trustees 6:00p Standing Committee meeting 7:30p AA 7:30p	21 Adult choir 7p	22	23
24 Worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a "Bring It" 10:30a	25 Bible study 10a Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	26 Friends & Family Café 9-11:30a Handbell rehearsal 6p	27 Creamery Brook 3p AA 7:30p	28 Adult choir 7p	29	30 Chill/soup supper 4-6p Inclement weather—held following day
31 Worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a Food distribution Sun. Inclement weather/alternative date Chill/soup supper				PLEASE NOTE: Active church members who wish to borrow church property, (tables, chairs, etc.) call the church office at 860.887.4847.	Did you know...the newsletter is posted on our website: Prestoncitycongregational.org	

YOUTH MISSION TRIP 2016... Six young people have signed up to go. Count deadlines are this month. Please get in touch with one of the leaders as soon as possible if you are considering going. Each youth must be registered in and active members of (in attendance at least two Sundays per month) of the current Sunday School year. Students who are presently in 8th grade as well as students who will complete 12th grade this year are eligible to go. Call the Giuliaros (860.376.8901), the Van Alists (860.230.9947) or the church office (860.887.4647) if you have questions.

THE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS constructed another bench at the Veterans Home on South Main Street in Jewett City in November. They brought a light breakfast to the residents. The next week they cleaned the community room at the firehouse also as a mission project. On November 29th cookies were baked, packaged and mailed to our college students. Our young people continue to reach out to others.

BRING IT...

is our Contemporary Young Adult Worship Service. If you or someone you know is between the ages of 14 to age 22, we're inviting you to this exciting way to worship. "Bring It" uses multiple forms of media, interactive demonstrations, and music to bring God's message to life. The worship service starts at 10:30 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. The November dates are the 8th and the 22nd. Please come and join us, invite someone to come with you, or tell someone about it.