

# THE PRESTON PILGRIM

The newsletter of  
The Preston City  
Congregational Church  
Gathered 1698

**DECEMBER 2017**



#### CHURCH ADDRESS

321 Route 164  
Preston, CT 06365-8108

#### TELEPHONE

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

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(860) 887-4647

#### WORSHIP

9:00 & 10:30 A.M.  
(Sept. 10 - May 20)

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL

8:45 A.M.  
(Sept. 10 - May 20)

EMAIL: [PCCC@SNET.NET](mailto:PCCC@SNET.NET)

WEBSITE: [prestoncitycongregational.org](http://prestoncitycongregational.org)

Visit us on **FACEBOOK**

News and information for next month's newsletter is due by December 17<sup>th</sup>. You may leave information in the holder located on the wall in the kitchen.



#### "MAKE ME A SERVANT"

From the moment I first heard the song we sing as our opening to worship on Sunday mornings, I was drawn to it; the tune, and even more, the text.

Each Sunday, we sing:

*Make me a servant, humble and meek,  
Lord, let me lift us those who are weak,  
And may the prayer of my heart always be:  
Make me a servant, make me a servant,  
Make me a servant today.*

When I think of Christmas, I think of those "servants" who played important roles in the story of Christ's birth: Mary, a maid-servant. She served as the mother of God's Son. Joseph served as the earthly father of the One whose birth we celebrate. He was an amazing servant. Unlike Mary, Joseph had no idea of his role in God's plan. He wanted nothing to do with a woman like Mary, until the angel revealed God's vision for the world. Once he understood the plan, Joseph was "all in."

The Innkeeper... Even he was a servant, although I still wish he could have offered the parents-to-be a better place to stay the night the Child was born. I know, God planned it that way. The Child was meant to be born of humble beginnings, to first-time young parents who most likely had very little to offer the Innkeeper, the Child, or even God, his real Father. They did, however, have something to offer that no amount of money could buy -- a servant's heart!

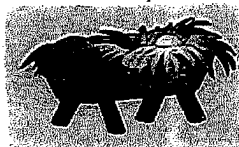
There could be no finer earthly parents of this Child than Mary & Joseph. They were committed to each other, to their Son, to God, and their "Call" to serve.

This Christmas, why not consider ways you can serve others. Consider giving some of your time to a local soup kitchen. Donate clothing, money to a legitimate and worthy organization; maybe a shelter, an area women's program, an agency that advocates for children, or a Veteran's home. There are so many places that need servants right where you live.

The next time you sing our opening song, pray the song! Remember, even Jesus came to serve others. We will be most like Him when we live our lives as He lived His - serving others.

Prayer: *Thank you God for servants like Mary & Joseph, the Innkeeper, Shepherds, and Wise men, and the greatest servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ. 'Make me a servant today.' Amen.*

I wish you and yours many Christmas blessings!



Stay close to God,  
*Rev. Stan*  
Rev/Stan

## DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

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

- 11.05 *Wyatt James Soucier*, son of Miranda & James Soucier of Griswold, CT
- 11.12 *Benjamin James Panosky*, son of Kelsey & James Panosky of Oakdale, CT
- 11.19 *Weston Louis Robert Koniecko*, son of Kimberly & Joshua Koniecko of Preston  
*We ask God's blessing upon these little ones.*

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### WHAT A JOY

We were pleased to welcome the following people into the membership of the church on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, they are: Karen Dupont-Porter, Diane Pease, Phillip & Rena Whitworth. Get to know these fine people!

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**THE AMERICAN FLAG** waving proudly on the annex lawn flies in memory of Donald Moxley; given by Shirley & Don Walsh.

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### A FINANCIAL REPORT

Income received in October \$23,212.73  
Expenses paid in October \$19,062.00

Help us to end the year in the black again this year.

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### DECEMBER HAPPENINGS

Join us as we go **caroling** through the neighborhood on December 10<sup>th</sup>. We'll meet at the church at 1:45 and leave by 2 P.M. Following the caroling, we'll gather back in Halls' Hall for soups, sandwiches, and desserts. If you can join us, sign your name on the sheet posted on the Information Center bulletin board. Come and join us as we spread a little holiday cheer!

On December 12<sup>th</sup>, join us for the next **Senior Lunch** in Dudek Hall. Be sure to sign up on the Information Center bulletin board. Space is limited to 60 people.

Don't miss the annual **Christmas pageant(s)** presented by the children of the Sunday School on Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6:30 P.M. in the Sanctuary. Who will play the role of Mary & Joseph? Come and see!

### 12.24 CHRISTMAS SUNDAY & EVE

**Service times: 9 A.M., 4, and 11 P.M.**

Note... There is NO 10:30 service, and the Sunday School is NOT in session.  
*Year-end giving is needed by today to receive credit for 2017.*

### 12:31 NEW YEAR'S EVE SUNDAY

There will be one service of worship; 9 A.M. The Sunday School will not be in

session. We will return to two services on January 7<sup>th</sup>, and the Sunday School will resume on this day also.

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### 2018 budget news

The proposed budget for the coming year is \$259,573. Here's where we stand as of today, December 2<sup>nd</sup>:

Budget	\$94,604
Missions	3,866
Youth Missions	3,520

Have we heard from you? Stewardship letters and green pledge forms are available on the Information Center table, or by calling the church office. We count on our members and friends to help keep our church financially strong from year-to-year. Please consider offering a pledge of support today. *Thanks!*

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### NUTS AND CANDIES

They're still available for purchase on Sunday mornings between services. You can also fill out an order form located on the Information Center table and give it to Sandy or Rev. Stan. We'll give it to coordinator, Cindy Lowe. She'll have your order ready for pick up at your convenience.

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### MEMORIAL ORNAMENTS

Again, this year, you're invited to hang an ornament on the *Christmas Memory Tree* in remembrance of a loved one. Be sure your name is on the ornament, and fill out a slip of paper beside the tree stating who the ornament is in memory of. Then, place the paper in the box nearby. We'll list all the memorials in the worship folder each week throughout Advent.

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### ADVENT GIVING REMINDER

We had such a wonderful response to this idea last year that we're doing it again! Throughout the Advent season, we're asking families/individuals to place canned goods in a box for each day of the season (22 cans, 12/3 - 12/24). Then, bring your box of canned goods to the church on Christmas Sunday and place them under the tree in the Fessenden Foyer. All food items collected will go to the "Two-Can Food Pantry" here at the church. What a great way to *serve* someone in need this special time of year.

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### COAT DRIVE...

Laurie Bowers is still collecting new and "gently used" coats for those in need. Please leave your donations in the library, located at the back of the Sunday School hall. *Thanks for serving others!*

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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. If you're interested in helping out with this important outreach, please call meal coordinator Lois Woodmansee at 860.889.2128. *Thank you.*

# The Preston Junior Pilgrim



## Preston City Congregational Church Sunday School Newsletter

### A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION...



#### WHAT A GRAND DAY IT WAS...

at the Senior Luncheon on November 14th when four of our members who are veterans were bestowed the honor of a handmade quilt by Jan Roberta of the Quilts of Valor Foundation. Pictured on the left wrapped in their quilts (by Jan) are:

(l to r) **Chuck Norris, Felix Prokop III, Guy Nadeau, and Bob Abrahamson.**

These quilts of valor are stitched with love, prayer and healing thoughts.

**WHAT THEY** convey in this short impressive ceremony is this: "Thank you for your service, sacrifice and valor." Jan hopes to return to Preston City next year to award more quilts until no one is left out that would like to receive one.

**Charles (Chuck) C. Norris** had a 20 year career with the Navy retiring in 1972. His last duty was being in charge of the 637 class computer controlled submarine diving trainers! (a very interesting and detailed writing about his career is available from Sandy at the church office.)

**Felix Prokop III**, was in the United States Navy from October 1965-1969. He left as a ship fitter 3<sup>rd</sup> Class. He came to the lunch with his wife, Jane, on their 48<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary day!

**Guy Francois Nadeau** had a 20 year (and 2 days) career with the United States Navy retiring in 1981 as an E6 1<sup>st</sup> class Petty Officer (a very detailed and interesting writing about his career is available from Sandy at the church office.)

**Bob Abrahamson** served in the Air Force from October 1955 until October 1959. At one point (1957) he was stationed at Truax Field in Madison, Wisconsin where he was a crew chief on F 102's. He also met Nan there and married her six months later; this spring they will celebrate 60 years!

**FOR THOSE** who have served our country in any capacity, we have a debt of gratitude that can never be fully paid. This was such a special day in our church and I do hope other people who served in the military will speak to me about a future Quilts of Valor event here at the church.

May the SONshine through me,

*Sandy Dudek*



#### DECEMBER BIBLE VERSES

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

"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)

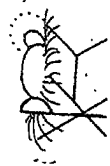
**PLEASE ENCOURAGE** students to learn these verses; they will serve them well the rest of their lives. To qualify for an award at the end of the year, verses must be correctly recited by the end of each month to Mrs. Dudek or their teacher. **PLEASE NOTE:** Bible cutouts are posted on the bulletin board 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.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL PAGEANT...** YOU are warmly invited to attend "Sleepover at the Stable" directed by Tammy Sabados and Maggie Tourangeau and "The Nativity" directed by Sandy Dudek assisted by Elizabeth Bartoshevich and Julia Rider. This takes place on **December 15<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 p.m. Why not come and bring a friend and watch the children present some good messages to add to the joy of the Christmas season. Everyone is invited downstairs following the pageant for cookies and beverages. We thank Debi Berube for coordinating this.





# DECEMBER 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																																
To place flowers in church during Dec., sign the Flower Chart, fill out the Reservation form, and call Melanie	Scheuermann (860.334.0843)	<b>LOST OR FOUND</b> Something at church? There is a basket in the Information Center next to the table.	Please check with Rev. Stan or Sandy before using our names as references. This courtesy would be very much appreciated		1 New York City travelers return	2 Men's Group 8-9:30a																																																																
3 Communion worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a SS communion 9:05a Adult choir sings 9a The Nativity rehearsal 4	4 NO Bible study John Supicki funeral 10:30a Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	5 SS pageants rehearsal 6p Handbell rehearsal 6p Financial Peace University 6:30p	6 AA 7:30p	7 Adult choir 7p	8 Children's cookie bake 3-6p	9																																																																
10 Worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a Baptism 10:30a Christmas caroling 2p Duke Hall in use 11:30a-1p	11 Bible study 10a Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	12 Senior lunch noon Board of Religious Education 6p SS pageants rehearsal 6p FPU 6:30p Handbell rehearsal 6p	13 St. Jude worship 11a AA 7:30p	14 Adult choir 7p	15 Sunday School Pageant 6:30p	16																																																																
17 Worship 9, 10:30a Adult choir 9a Sunday School 8:45a Food distribution Sunday	18 Bible study 10a Confirmation mid-year exam 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	19 Handbell rehearsal 6p	20 Trustees' meeting 6p Standing Committee meeting 7p AA 7:30p	21 Adult choir 7p	22	23																																																																
24 CHRISTMAS EVE Worship 9a NO service at 10:30 Christmas Eve Worship 4p, 11p	25 CHRISTMAS Christ our Savior is Born! Have a blessed Christmas.	26	27 Creamery Brook worship 3p AA 7:30p	28 Adult choir 7p	29	30																																																																
31 ONE service of worship at 9:00a NO Sunday School	Two services and Sunday School resume January 7th	<table border="1"> <tr> <th colspan="2">DECEMBER</th> <th colspan="7">JANUARY</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table>	DECEMBER		JANUARY							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	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												29	Did you know...the newsletter is posted on our website: <a href="http://Prestoncitycongregational.org">Prestoncitycongregational.org</a>	
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## IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

### SUNDAYS:

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

9:00 a.m. service is web streamed

Sunday School 8:45 a.m.

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

Kidz Praise: 10-10:25 a.m.

Senior Pilgrim Fellowship

Check church worship folder

The newsletter is posted on our website:

[prestoncitycongregational.org](http://prestoncitycongregational.org)

## INCLEMENT WEATHER

**CANCELLATIONS:** Tune in to

Television Channel 3 or you may

check Facebook or our website:

[prestoncitycongregational.org](http://prestoncitycongregational.org),

or call the office. A message will

be announced on the answering

machine. When Sunday School is

canceled, church is **NOT**

**CANCELLED** unless specifically

announced.



## OUR SENIOR PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP

enjoyed Friendsgiving Sunday...the Van Alsts

baked a turkey and the high school students

brought their favorite side dishes. They ate,

enjoyed each others company and prepared

Thanksgiving placemats for a local nursing

home.

## BREAKFAST WITH residents of Preston

housing was an outreach of our High School

Sunday School Class whose focus is missions.

It was enjoyed by seniors and students alike!