

# THE PRESTON PILGRIM



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

**DECEMBER 2018**  
&  
**JANUARY 2019**

**CHURCH ADDRESS**  
321 Route 164  
Preston, CT 06365-8108

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**FAX**  
(860) 887-4647

**WORSHIP**  
9:00 & 10:30 A.M.  
(Sept. 9 – May 19, 2019)

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
8:45 A.M.  
(Sept. 9 – May 19, 2019)

**EMAIL:** [PCCC@SNET.NET](mailto:PCCC@SNET.NET)  
**WEBSITE:** [prestoncitycongregational.org](http://prestoncitycongregational.org)  
Visit us on **FACEBOOK**

News and information for the January newsletter must be received by **December 16<sup>th</sup>**. You may leave information in the holder located on the wall in the kitchen.



Dear church family,

Although Stewardship month has concluded, pledges of financial support for 2019 are still being received through December 31<sup>st</sup>.

As I think back over 2018, I can recall many ways that God has been faithful to us. He has enabled us to do some really great things for His church -- *inside* the building, and *outside* in the community and world. Inside, we've created all kinds of programs and activities for children, youth, adults and seniors – just read this year's Annual Report. On the outside, our outreach to the community has never been stronger. Our food pantry, now in its ninth year, continues to feed those who are most in need. **You make it possible!**

Last year, our annual coat drive collected more than 200 coats. Many people benefited from your kindness. **You made a difference!** I could write of many more instances where you were faithful to others.

More-and-more people in the community look to our church for spiritual direction and guidance. They see our church as a positive, encouraging, welcoming place, where anyone and everyone is welcome. We do our best to help others, and to offer hope. Our church truly is an amazing place. And it's because of people like you, and the Spirit of God at work among us!

Please help us keep the ministry of this church we love moving forward in 2019. We need your financial support to continue doing the good work that is already underway. This year, let your giving reflect your gratitude to God for ALL that He has given you!

Stay close to God,

*Rev. Stan*

**DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER**  
**WE CONGRATULATED** *Rebecca Towle* and *Thomas Gage* who were united in marriage on November 24<sup>th</sup>, at the Celebrity Ballroom in Mashantucket, CT. The couple resides in Manchester, NH

**WE WELCOMED** the following people into the membership of the church on Thanksgiving Sunday: Glenn Heavens and Mary Anne Lajoie, Deborah & Wayne Morse, Beverly Baker, and Urania Perry. Welcome these wonderful people into the church family. *We're glad you joined us!*

**THE CHRISTIAN FLAG** waving proudly on the church lawn is given in memory of Felicia Fenton by Shirley & Don Walsh.

### SENIOR LUNCH

The next get-together begins at noon on December 11<sup>th</sup>. These once-a-month meals are held on the second Tuesday, November through March. You **MUST** sign up to attend these very popular lunches as space is limited to 60 people. Watch the bulletin board each month for the sign-up sheet (It's posted NOW!) It's a great afternoon out!

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### FINANCIAL REPORT

We are a few weeks away from the end of the church year. Although the numbers look doubtful that we will end the year meeting our budget, we are hopeful that we will at least meet our expenses. Please help keep our church financially strong as 2018 winds down. Is your pledge up-to-date? We appreciate your faithful support of the church, and all we seek to do through the year. If you have a question about where you stand with your pledge, contact the Financial Secretary, Sue Creamer at 860.376.2731 and she'll answer any questions you have. *Thanks.*

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### DOOR MONITORS

Volunteers are needed for January to monitor the doors on the mid-level during the 10:30 service. Please lend a hand if you are able. All the details pertaining to the responsibilities of door monitors are posted on the Information Center bulletin board. Contact Lowell Calkins if you have any questions (860.887.5939). *Thanks!*

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### WEBSTREAMING NEWS

A few more volunteers are needed to assist with the production of our web stream services on Sunday mornings. It's not as hard to do as you may think. Those presently overseeing the production would be glad to show you what's involved. Jim & Sandra Wright, along with Sue Brosnan and Patrick Magowan will answer any questions you have. Stop by and see how it's done. Consider sitting in on a recording session some Sunday morning. The Web streaming room is off the coffee hour room.

**WE'RE STILL LOOKING** for someone (individuals) to Chair the 2019 Scarecrow Festival? How about you? Contact the office.

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### ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL BAZAAR

We thank Alison Lowe for organizing a wonderful bazaar again this year. In addition to the church tables, outside vendors were invited to sell their merchandise. Thank you to everyone who made the bazaar such a great day!

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### OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE

Several people have asked that you, the congregation, consider one or all the opportunities below this Advent season:

**COATS** for the homeless and those in need. **Laurie Bowers** is continuing to collect. She has been bringing your donations to area shelters and centers for those in need. Please put your unwanted coats in the library at the back of the Sunday School hall (NOT in the clothing bin in the parking lot). Last year, more than 200 coats were collected and distributed thanks to your generosity! Coats will be collected through December 16<sup>th</sup>.

**TOYS** for kids at the Children's Hospital in Hartford. Consider donating something new to a child who will most likely be spending the holidays in the hospital this year. A list of suggested gifts and needs is posted on the mid-level bulletin board. **Koren Jopson** is coordinating this opportunity. You may leave your gift(s) at the back the Sunday School hall. Toys will be collected through December 16<sup>th</sup>.



**Monday morning Bible study** continues through December 17<sup>th</sup>, in Halls' Hall. We're nearing the end of our study of the Gospel of John (honestly!). Our next study will be an interesting video series (*Follow*) by Andy Stanley. *No matter what you believe, no matter how you behave, Jesus invites you to... FOLLOW.* We will begin this series on January 7<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome to attend whenever you are able. Rev. White leads the group, and the coffee pot is always on! Please bring your Bible if you have one. If you'd like a Bible, speak with Rev. Stan. They are available from the Deacons' Fund.



The **Tuesday evening Bible Study** will resume on January 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M. in Halls' Hall. Scott Van Alst is the group leader.

## RESCHEDULED

After numerous weather-related attempts to hold the fall **Yard Sale**, look for it in the spring of 2019.

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## NUTS AND CANDIES

The bazaar may be over, but these items are still available for purchase on Sunday mornings during the coffee hour. You can also place an order and coordinator Cindy Lowe will have your purchase waiting for you at your convenience.

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## ANNUAL REPORTS

A reminder... Officer, Board, and Committee reports are due in the church office by January 20<sup>th</sup>. They do not have to be typed. If you're not sure you need to submit one, please check last year's report which is available on the Information Center table.

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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."



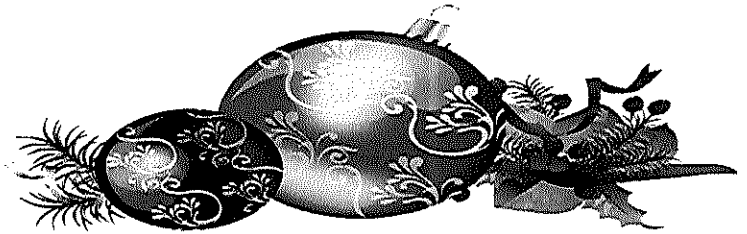
## COMING UP THIS MONTH

- 12/9 **CHRISTMAS CAROLING** through the neighborhoods. We'll meet in Halls' Hall at 1:45 p.m. and leave by 2 p.m. Following the caroling, we'll come back to the church for soup & sandwiches. Sign-up on the mid-level bulletin board if you plan to join us.
- 12/11 **SENIOR LUNCH**, noontime. Be sure to sign up as seating is limited to 60 people.
- 12/16 **THE ANNUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**, at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Don't miss this wonderful presentation of the Christmas story as told by the children of the Sunday School. Pizza and refreshments will be served in Dudek Hall afterwards. Join us!
- 12/23 **CHRISTMAS SUNDAY**, 9 & 10:30 a.m. The Sunday School will NOT be in session. Families are encouraged to worship together. A children's message will be offered by Sandy Dudek.
- 12/24 **CHRISTMAS EVE**, 4p.m., Sandy will lead a service for children and their families. Arrive early as it's usually a "full house!"

At 11 p.m., join Rev. White for service which includes candle lighting, readings, special music, and a Christmas message. Join us as we welcome the Child.

## 12/30 MORNING WORSHIP

There will be one service of worship; 9 a.m. The Sunday School will NOT be in session. Families are encouraged to worship together. A children's message will be offered by Sandy Dudek. We will return to two services of worship on January 6<sup>th</sup>, and the Sunday School will resume on this day also.



## MEMORIAL ORNAMENTS

Again, this year, you're invited to hang an ornament on the *Christmas Memory Tree* located in the Fessenden Foyer (mid-level). 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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## 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.*

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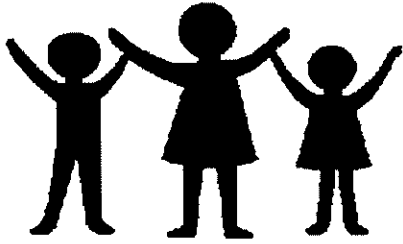
*Dear church family and friends,  
As Christmas day approaches, and another year comes to an end, I wish you and yours a wonderful Christmas, and the very best for 2019.*

*May the One whose birth we celebrate, be born anew in our hearts and minds each and every day in the coming year.*

*I'm so glad you're here!*

**Rev. Stan**

# The Preston Junior Pilgrim



A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION...

**THE 2019 CONFIRMATION CLASS** students are Georgia Barry (Killingly Vo Ag), Emily Bartoshevich (NFA), Jacob Bernier (NFA), Gillian Sabados (NFA), and Max Wotring (NFA). They have been meeting on Monday nights in preparation for becoming members of the church in March 2019. Some of the topics they have been learning about are the reformers, the church seasons, the Bible, and the various parts of the church (altar, chancel, Sanctuary, etc.) as well as sitting in church and doing an assignment on "How To Listen To A Sermon." Thank you to all who supported their recent bake sale.

**I WRITE** about these young people, not just to introduce them, but to bring up what a blessing it is they chose to be part of this class. In order for the church to continue, it is going to need committed young people like these. Let me tell you what I mean:

**THE SUNDAY SCHOOL** this year has many former Confirmation students who did not walk away after being confirmed, many of whom are staffing our Sunday School: Anne (Woodmansee) Klewin (1993); Kristin Rider (2018); Megan (Maynard) Linevitch (2009); Elizabeth Bartoshevich (2017); Haley Price (2017); Lauren (Woodmansee) Jurczyk (2000); Kiana Burdick (2017); Mckenzie Gauthier (2015); Julia Rider (2016); Kimberly (Abrahamson) Tucker (2003); Elizabeth (DelCore) Stammel (2002); Ethan Lehr (2016); and Michelle Wisniewski (2016). I might also mention here from our first Confirmation Class (1992) Patrick Magowan who staffs our Webstreaming Room); and Katie (Fessenden) Gates (2002) who works with Kidz Praise. I acknowledge that there are others who have moved away from the area that, too, are serving God in other churches.

**FOR THE CHURCH** to continue on through the ages, we are always going to need young people who have Jesus Christ in their heart and want to serve Him. Thanksgiving has passed, but I will never cease giving thanks for committed young people who will see our church well into the future.

**"PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW!"**



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

## DECEMBER BIBLE VERSES

(Psalm 23:1)

Toddler 3 – Grade 2: "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.."

Grades 3-12:

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

**SOME THINGS** I'd like you to know:

**TWO YOUNG PEOPLE** signed up for this year's Youth Mission Trip to the Adirondacks, NY July 14<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2019. We are hoping there are others who plan to go. A deposit needs to be given ASAP. Please speak to the VanAlsts if you plan to go and give your deposit to hold your spot.

**THE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS** designed cards for our military and sent them.

**SOME VERY GRATEFUL** people picked up Thanksgiving baskets. Thank you for all your contributions.

**A PAINT NIGHT** is planned for **January 11<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 p.m. to paint a winter scene. The cost will be \$30. Please contact Lisa Van Alst to sign up.

**OVER \$1,000** was realized on the basket drawings at the Christmas bazaar. This will be used to fund Sunday School programs. Thanks for all the support in providing baskets and purchasing tickets.

**I WOULD ENCOURAGE** you to take part in the activities planned as outlined in Rev. Stan's article to celebrate this very special season of the year – Advent and Christmas and Epiphany (visit of the wisemen).

# December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
To place flowers in church during December, sign the	Flower Chart, fill out the Reservation form and call Doreen	Mainville 860.639.4500	Kidz Praise Choir meets Sunday mornings in Room 13 from	10-10:25a	Sunday School meets at <b>8:45a</b>	<b>1</b> Men's Group 8-9:30a
<b>2</b> First Sunday of Advent Communion worship 9, 10:30a Choir sings 9a	<b>3</b> Bible study 10a Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	<b>4</b> SS pageant rehearsal 6p  Handbells rehearsal 6p	<b>5</b>  AA 7:30p	<b>6</b>  Adult choir 7p	<b>7</b> Children's cookie bake 3-6p	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> Worship 9, 10:30a Baptism 10:30a Christmas caroling 2p	<b>10</b> Bible study 10a Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	<b>11</b> Sr. Lunch Noon Sunday School pageant dress rehearsal 6p Handbells 6p <b>NO</b> Board of RE	<b>12</b> St. Jude 11a  AA 7:30p	<b>13</b>  Adult choir 7p	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  Halls' Hall in use 11a-4p
<b>16</b> Worship 9, 10:30a Food distribution Sun. Sunday School pageant 4p	<b>17</b> Bible study 10a Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Trustees 6p Standing Committee 7p  AA 7:30p	<b>20</b>  Adult choir 7p	<b>21</b> Winter begins	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Christmas Sunday Worship 9, 10:30a	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve worship 4p, 11p	<b>25</b> <u><b>CHRISTMAS</b></u> <b>Christ our Savior is born! Have a blessed Christmas.</b>	<b>26</b>  Creamery Brook 3p AA 7:30p	<b>27</b>  Adult choir 7p	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> One service of Worship 9a <b>NO</b> Sunday School	<b>31</b> Office closed	Two services of worship resume January 6th				

## November 2018

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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

**Notes:** Lost or found something at church? There is a basket in the Information Center net to the table.

## January 2019

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

**THE QUILTS OF VALOR** recipients at the November Senior Lunch were **Randy Gallogly, Edward Miller, John B. Shaw, Jr., and Al Raue**. We can't thank them enough for their service to our country. Plan to read a more detailed report about their service in the February newsletter.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER CANCELLATIONS:** Tune into 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 cancelled, church is **NOT CANCELLED** unless specifically announced.

# January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Kidz Praise Choir meets Sunday mornings in Room 13 from 10-10:25a		<b>1</b> New Year's Day "I know the plans I have for you," plans to prosper you and not harm	<b>2</b> you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11 AA 7:30p	<b>3</b>  Adult choir 7p	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Communion Worship 9, 10:30a Choir sings 9a SS communion 9:05	<b>7</b> Bible study 10a Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	<b>8</b> Senior Lunch Noon Bible study 6:30p Board of Rel. Ed. 6:30p	<b>9</b> Finance Committee meeting 7p  AA 7:30p	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  Paint Night 6:30p	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> Worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a	<b>14</b> Bible study 10a Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	<b>15</b>  Bible study 6:30p	<b>16</b> Trustees 6p Standing Committee 7p  AA 7:30p	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> Worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a Baptism 9a	<b>21</b> Martin Luther King, Jr. Day <b>No</b> Bible study <b>NO</b> Confirmation	<b>22</b>  Bible study 6:30p	<b>23</b>  Creamery Brook 3p  AA 7:30p	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> Worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a Food distribution Sunday	<b>28</b> Bible study 10a Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	<b>29</b>  Bible study 6:30p	<b>30</b>  AA 7:30p	<b>31</b>  Adult choir 7p		

### December 2018

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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

**Notes:** To place flowers in church during the month of January, sign the Flower Chart, fill out the Reservation form and call Carolyn Shea (860.887.8592)  
The newsletter is posted on our website:  
[prestoncitycongregational.org](http://prestoncitycongregational.org)

### February 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		

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