

THE PRESTON PILGRIM

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

FEBRUARY 2015

CHURCH ADDRESS
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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 March newsletter is due in the church office by **February 15**. You may leave information in the holder located on the wall in the kitchen.

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

"In this world you will have trials and tribulations, but take courage; I have overcome the world." John 16:33

These words, spoken more than 2,000 years ago are worth remembering today. Almost daily we hear reports, or read stories, or see on the nightly news our world spiraling downward, out-of-control! We think, "It can't get any worse," and then the next tragedy, the next terrorist attack, the next unimaginable story crosses our TV sets. Some scenes are starting to become routine, ordinary; so much that they don't shock us as they once did. As a society, we're becoming numb to all the evil in our world - shootings, beheadings, plane crashes, kidnapping of children, and so on...

Did you ever think thirty-one days into a new year that you would be witnessing so much inhumanity to humanity? Will it get worse? I believe it will.

When little thought, or no consideration at all is given to the One who created us ("in His image") there is bound to be chaos in the world and in our lives. That's why it's important, I believe, to remain close to God in these disturbing days. His promise to be with us until the end of the age (Matthew 28:20) means that even on the worst of days, He is with us and we are not alone.

Jesus spoke to his disciples of trials and tribulations (*troubles*), and having courage, because He knew their toughest days lie ahead... the cross. He wanted them to be at peace... "so that in me you may have peace."

I am very concerned about the times we live in, but I have a sense of peace about these troubling days - that he will continue to watch over and protect his faithful people. In His time, He will step in and destroy evil forever! Then, peace will reign... FOREVER!

Take courage!
Rev. Stan
Rev. Stan



FEBRUARY

DURING DECEMBER & JANUARY

WE EXPRESSED OUR SYMPATHY to the family of *Michael Nylen* who passed away on December 3, 2014. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sue, Matthew, and Justin.

We expressed our sympathies to the family of *John "Jack" Brosnan*. Jack was Sue Brosnan's and William Brosnan's brother. Jack passed away on December 6, 2014. Our prayers go to his entire family.

A service of remembrance and celebration was recently held for *Beckie A. Pappas* who passed away on January 1, 2015. Our thoughts and prayers continue for the Pappas and Rice families.

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WE CONGRATULATED *Christiana Mott* and *Douglas Ouimette* who were united in marriage on December 13, at the Botanical Gardens at Roger Williams Park, Providence, RI.

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FEBRUARY IS SCHOLARSHIP MONTH

The Preston City Congregational Church Scholarship Fund was established in 1992, following the passing of church member, Helen Benjamin. Over these last 23 years, many scholarships have been presented to deserving young people in our congregation **thanks to your generosity!**

Throughout the month of February, the congregation will be hearing from past scholarship recipients about their hopes and goals for life. You will hear how your giving to the scholarship fund has helped them.

We ask the members and friends of the church to consider giving a gift to the fund this year. Give it in memory of someone, or in honor of someone. A listing of all donors (no amounts) will be listed in the worship folder on Scholarship Sunday (June 14). Place your contribution in an envelope marked "Scholarship Fund" and place it in the offering plate, or mail it to the church.

We have great young people in our midst. They bring life and joy to the church. Let's show them how much we care for them and their future endeavors!

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PRISON MINISTRY NEWS

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 is spent listening to the men talk about their needs, concerns, heartaches, and sometimes triumphs! Many of the men are knowledgeable about the Bible and minister back to those who come to visit.

Any man interested in joining this ministry can contact Claude Flory (see bulletin board). A weekly commitment does not need to be made. Committing to help every 2 or 3 weeks would be very helpful. An application would be completed and submitted to the Connecticut Department of Corrections. This would be followed by an orientation session before receiving a volunteer badge for admission to the prison. The process would take several months. Please consider getting involved with this important ministry.

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HELP

Volunteers are needed to serve as door monitors on Sunday mornings during both services of worship (*and especially at the second service*). The duties of the monitor are posted on the hallway bulletin board (mid-level). Your help is needed and appreciated. Please contact coordinator Lowell Calkins (860.887.5939) if you have any questions.

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ADULT STUDY GROUP

Join us Monday mornings, from 10 to 11 A.M. in Halls' Hall (coffee hour room). We're reading and discussing Max Lucado's best-selling book, "*Fearless*." You can pick up a copy in local bookstores, or from Amazon.com. Attend the discussion when you can; it's a different topic each week. Check the Information Center for the topic to be discussed. As always... the coffee pot will be on!

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LET'S HAVE SOME FUN!

GAME NIGHT, Saturday night, February 21, from 6 - 9 P.M. in Fellowship Hall. This is a night out for adults -- an opportunity to meet other people, play some games, and enjoy a fun evening. Although there is no cost to attend, everyone is asked to bring a snack to share, if possible. Soda and coffee will be available. Bring your favorite game, or play one of the many we have at the church. Please sign the sheet on the bulletin board if you plan to attend.

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FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

This very popular DVD course created and taught by syndicated columnist, radio talk show host, and author, *Dave Ramsey* is coming to our church for 9 weeks, starting February 17, from 7-9 P.M. The course is \$93 per married couple or single adult IF you register at the church office (we have 10 membership kits available). The price is a bit higher if you register online. Want to know more about FPU and the topics that will be covered? Go to daveramsey.com. Registrations are already coming in! Speak with Rev. Stan if you have any questions.

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FRIENDS & FAMILY CAFÉ

Tuesdays, 9-11:30 A.M.

In the coffee hour room

Enjoy a cup of coffee, some sweets,
and some great people, too!

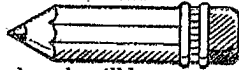
GREAT NEWS!

We, as a church, are the beneficiaries of an Eagle Scout project!

In December of 2014, *Will Carver* of Preston received the title "Eagle Scout" during a special ceremony held at the church. Family, friends, and fellow scouts were present to witness this impressive accomplishment. Will's project was to create much-needed shelves for our church's food pantry. We appreciate Will taking on the project. Those who work in the pantry are most appreciative! Stop in and see the finished project.

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The next **SENIOR LUNCH** is scheduled for Tuesday, February 10, starting at noon. The cost is "Free," however, you must sign up. A sheet is posted on the hallway bulletin board. The lunch is limited to 60 people.



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THE ANNUAL MEETING of the church will be held on February 10, beginning at 6:30 with refreshments!! The actual meeting will start at 7 P.M. Copies of the 2014 report will be available for review on Sunday, February 8. Be sure to pick up a copy on the Information Center table. Any adult is welcome to attend this meeting, however, only **church members** may vote on issues that may arise. Come and see where we've been over the last year, and where we hope to go, with God's help, in this new year!

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THE SEASON OF LENT begins on *Ash Wednesday*, February 18. The day begins with a Prayer Vigil, held in the Sanctuary from noon until 6 P.M. We ask individuals to sign up to pray for 15 minutes in the Sanctuary; a prayer list will be provided. If you would like to submit a prayer request, please fill out a form by the upper level elevator and place it in the box nearby. You will also find a box and forms on the Information Center table. At 7 P.M. that evening, a communion service will be held in the Sanctuary. Plan to be present at the start of this holy season, which leads to a cross, but then an empty tomb!

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LOOKING AHEAD...

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS March 8. Don't forget to "spring forward" 1 hour on Saturday night. You don't want to miss out!

A MEATLOAF SUPPER is planned Saturday, March 14. Save the date, and watch for more information!

NEW MEMBERS... We're happy to say that new members will be welcomed into the church on Palm Sunday, March 29. Would you like join the church? We'd love to have you as a member. Watch for a sign-up sheet on the Information Center bulletin board, and more information in the worship folder!



Mark Your Calendar!

THE CHURCH MEMORIAL FUND

For many years, the church has had a memorial fund – a monetary fund established in memory of a loved upon their death. The primary purpose of the memorial fund is to keep the church financially healthy, and to aid her in her many endeavors.

According to our current bylaws, upon the death of a loved one, the family may establish a memorial fund account for one year. After one year, if the family has not approached the church expressing a desire to use their loved one's memorial fund for a specific purpose (approved by the Diaconate), the account will be placed in the church's general memorial fund.

What better way to remember and honor the passing of a loved one than having contributions offered to the church following their death? So much good has been accomplished through the years because of the memorial fund.

If you have any questions about the memorial fund, please contact the church office.

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YOUR COOPERATION IS NEEDED

Please remember if you are planning to use one of the church halls for an event on Sunday that **both halls and the kitchen are in use until 1 P.M.** Please **DO NOT** arrive early planning to set up for your event while church-related events are still in progress. Your understanding is appreciated.

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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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TRIPS AND TRAVELS

Brochures are now in for a trip planned in **New Orleans** in October. Pick up all the details from the Information Center table on the mid-level.

How about a trip through the Canadian Rockies & Glacier National Park? This church trip is scheduled for August 14 - 20, 2015. Highlights include: Calgary, Waterton Lakes National Park, Glacier National Park, "Going to the Sun Road", Banff, Columbia Icefield. The cost is \$3,199 (Double), \$3,949 (Single), \$3,169 (Triple) which includes: Round trip air from Logan International Airport, air taxes and fees/surcharges, and hotel transfers. *Not included in the price is the cancellation Waiver and insurance of \$205 per person.* This trip is open to the community.

The Preston Junior Pilgrim



Preston City Congregational Church Sunday School Newsletter



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:



THE STILL SMALL VOICE OF CALM... Today is day #2 of the blizzard! There is something definitely mysterious about storms! How long will this one last? Has everyone made the proper preparations? How will this storm impact all the plans we have made. And on and on we all could go. If we think we are in control, today is the day when we definitely know we are not. Sometimes we must just sit back and let the storm pass. And through all the anxieties of the storms of

our lives, may the words of America's beloved Quaker poet, John Greenleaf Whittier, settle our minds: "Breathe through the pulses of desire Thy Coolness and Thy Balm; let sense be dumb, let flesh retire; speak thru the earthquake, wind and fire, O still small voice of calm."

NOT JUST IN snowstorms, but let us always remember that our heavenly Father can assist us in meeting our daily challenges with serenity and calm assurance. We need quiet confidence in God and a peaceful resting in His eternal love and always remember to listen carefully for God's "still small voice of calm" in the midst of all the turbulence of our lives. Why not decide today to let Him guide you and give you peace in this hectic world. What an example for the children; they especially have storms to pass through just trying to grow up in the world with all its challenges.

May the SONshine through me,

Sandy Dudek



FEBRUARY BIBLE VERSES

"...God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7) (N3-Grade 2)

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." Psalm 119:11 (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:** students who have recited the Bible verses will be posted on the Sunday School bulletin board in the SS Hall.

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THE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS MISSION PROJECT for December was to bake and mail cookies to all our college kids who were previously in the Sunday School. They were a big hit by the sounds of the notes we received. Little things mean a lot!

They also put together a Christmas basket for a 24 year old woman in need. They received a lot of things and one Sunday they wrapped all of them so each one could be a surprise for her on Christmas morning. Her thank you note to the class was one of great appreciation!

THIS PAST WEEK they made cards for shut-ins and those who are ill.

WE THANK their teachers for all the time and effort they put in to our young people. Without their dedicated support, this pilot program of missions could not have happened.

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A **LASAGNA DINNER** will take place February 14th. On the menu is lasagna, salad, bread, beverage and dessert. Adult tickets are \$10.00 and children 12 and under are \$5.00. We hope you can come to this fundraiser hosted by the Senior Pilgrim Fellowship.

THE JANUARY storytelling has been postponed until February 8th. I hope your children will be there as Judy Ladegard interacts with the children on the calling of the first disciples and Shari Purcell works with them on an enrichment activity. On February 22nd, Linda Kent-Farinha will be the storyteller and Naomi will do enrichment. I hope your children will plan to be there.

YOUTH MISSION TRIP PARTICIPANTS... Please be sure that your mission trip payments are up-to-date. If you are unsure, contact the Giulianos (860.376.8901). Also a reminder that in order to go on the trip, you need to be present in Sunday School at least two Sundays per month.

THE JUNIOR PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP plans to go sledding after church today (February 1st) at the McCaslin's. We know they'll be plenty of snow! Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 are welcome to join the JPF. For more information call Leader Linda Kent-Farinha (860.608.6641) or Andy McCaslin (860.917.6572).

THE SENIOR PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP went to the movies in January and am now preparing for their Lasagna Dinner. They welcome new kids grades 9-12 anytime. For more information call the Giulianos (860.376.8901).

CONGRATULATIONS TO MATTHEW EXLEY who graduated in December 2014 with his Masters of Engineering in Electrical Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY. He has accepted a job with the Naval Undersea Warfare Center in Newport, RI. Your church family applauds you, Matthew!

CHRISTMAS IN REVIEW...seems so long ago, now:


THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT, *Star of Wonder*, was presented to a large audience. The kids did an excellent job! We thank Naomi Bushnell, Melissa Blondet, and Katy Hopkins for directing them.

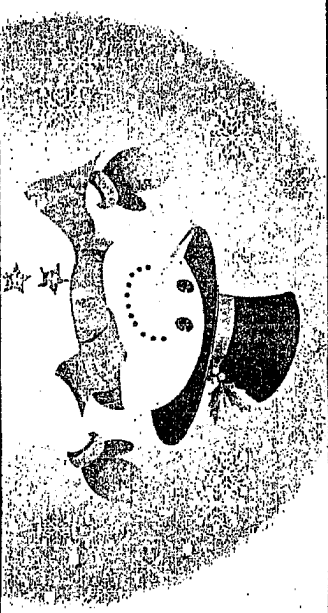
CHRISTMAS EVE 4 P.M....What a marvelous day this was as the chancel was completely open so everyone could see! Our kids presented "Letters from Santa", a musical production that they did so well. Cory Converse, Jack Zachem, Georgia Barry, Ryleigh Pappas, Delaney Farinha, Lauren Hodgkinson, and Hunter Bustamante outdid themselves. I am so grateful to the parents who brought them for rehearsals during Christmas week. Gabriella Farinha made her debut on the piano with the prelude. She did great...I was so proud of her. Many thanks to Hunter Bustamante and Heidi Willard who did solos and to Evelyn Cournoyer whose playing the harp so beautifully left us in awe! Completing the afternoon was the march of the angels when Christmas angel Bella Blondet sang Happy Birthday Jesus and placed Jesus in the manger.

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 February dates are the 8th and the 22nd. Please come and join us, invite someone to come with you, or tell someone about it.

ENVELOPES similar to those the adults use for worship are available to the children. Please ask me if you'd like a box for your child. The Sunday School is self-supporting so even if your child attends church in the summertime, when the offering is placed in a Sunday School envelope, it is given to the Board of Religious Education treasurer.

<p>See how many of these words you can find in the puzzle. The words can be forward, backward or diagonal.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Snow Seaman Winter Weather Shovel Cold Freezing Snowflake Slipper Slide Skating Skating Scarf Hat Earmuffs Mittens 	
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WINTER WORD SEARCH

JANUARY
 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

MARCH
 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

FEBRUARY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion worship 9, 20:30a Sunday School 8:45a SS communion 8:05a Adult choir sings 9a Two-can Sunday	2 Book discussion 10a Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	3 Staff meeting 10a Friends & Family Cafe 9-11:30a Arc 10:30a Financial Peace University Preview 7p	4 ARC 10:30a AA 7:30p	5 Hand bell rehearsal 6p Adult choir 7p	6 Wedding rehearsal 6:30p	7 Wedding 2p
8 Worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School Storytelling 8-4:5a *Bring it! 10:30a	9 Book discussion 10a Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	10 Friends & Family Cafe 9-11:30a ARC 10:30a Senior Lunch noon Annual meeting Refreshments 6:30p Meeting 7p	11 ARC 10:30a St. Jude's worship 11a Board of Religious Ed. 6p AA 7:30p	12 Hand bell rehearsal 6p Adult choir 7p	13 Dinner preparation	14 Senior Pilgrim Fellowship Lasagna dinner 5-7p
15 Worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a	16 PRESIDENTS' DAY Office closed NO Book discussion NO Confirmation Yoga 6:30p	17 Friends & Family Cafe 9-11:30a ARC 10:30a Financial Peace University 7p	18 Ash Wednesday ARC 10:30a Prayer vigil Noon-6p Communion worship 7p NO Trustees or Standing Comm. meetings AA 7:30p	19 Hand bell rehearsal 6p Adult choir 7p	20	21 Game Night 6-9p
22 Worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School Storytelling 8-4:5a Baptism 10:30a *Bring it! 10:30a Food distribution Sun.	23 Book discussion 10a Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	24 Friends & Family Cafe 9-11:30a ARC 10:30a Financial Peace University 7p	25 ARC 10:30a Creativity Brook worship 3p AA 7:30p	26 Hand bell rehearsal 6p Adult choir 7p	27	28
	LOST OR FOUND Something at church? There is a basket in the Information Center.	To place flowers in church during February, call Joyce Brewster (860.376.4167)	Are the name and address correct on this mailing? If not, please get in touch with the church office to update your information.	Please check with Rev. Stan or Sandy before using our names as references. This courtesy would be appreciated.	Jr. & Sr. Pilgrim Fellowship activities, watch the church worship folder	PLEASE NOTE: Active church members who wish to borrow church property (tables, chairs), call the church office.

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:
presoncitycongregational.org

INCLEMENT WEATHER CANCELLATIONS: Tune in to WJCH, WCTY, WNLC, WKNL, or Television Channel 3 or you may check Facebook or our website: presoncitycongregational.org
 When Sunday School is cancelled, church is **NOT CANCELLED** unless specifically announced.

*An excerpt from The Rose
 By Bette Midler*

Just remember
 in the winter
 Far beneath
 the bitter snows
 Lies the seed that
 with the sun's love
 In the spring
 becomes a rose.

