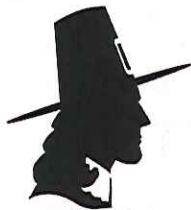


THE PRESTON PILGRIM



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

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2019

CHURCH ADDRESS

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Preston, CT 06365-8108

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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

WEBSITE: prestoncitycongregational.org

News and information for the March newsletter must be received by **February 17th**. You may leave information in the holder located on the wall in the kitchen.



February is the month for saying thank you to the men and women who served our church in 2018. Some served on boards and committees for more than a year. These people accepted the call to serve their church, and they did so with commitment and faithfulness. I thank them for their service. Their terms in office will conclude following the Annual meeting next Sunday (2/10). They are: Clerk: Barbara Perry (8 yrs.), Sr. Deacon: Stella Dawley (6 yrs.), Trustees: John Marino and Ron Racicot (3 yrs.), Board of Religious Education: Debi Berube and Marisa Stankiewicz (3 yrs.), Members-at-Large: Rena & Phil Whitworth, Missions Committee: Melanie Scheuermann, Decorating Committee: Joyce Brewster, Gail Hull, Sara Quinn, Mary Lou Jensen, Sue Tomis (*many years!*), Flower Committee: Melanie Scheuermann.

Coffee Hour Committee: Doreen Mainville, Melanie Schuerermann, Diane Pease, and Dot Haskell.

Where would a church be without volunteers coming forward to say, "You can count on me!" Some served a year, others served longer. The length of time served is commendable, but their devotion to the church means even more to me.

We are fortunate to have such committed men and women among us. I thank them for all that they have done to make our church operate smoothly in 2018. I look forward to working with the men and women who accepted the call to serve in the year ahead. You can see who they are by looking at the Nominating Report in the Annual Report.

Thank you. Thank you!

Stay close to God!
Rev. Stan

**DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER
WE WELCOMED INTO THE HOUSEHOLD OF
CHRISTIAN FAITH** through the Sacrament of
Baptism:

12/2, *Christian Alexander Colon*, son of Aubrey
Tarr, of Griswold, CT

12/2, *Ava Laureen Bourque*, daughter of
Brenda & Kipp Bourque of Uncasville, CT

12/9, *Reeve Victoria Luft*, daughter of Nikki and
Nicholas Luft of Wallingford, CT

We ask God's blessing upon these little ones.

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SCHOLARSHIP MONTH

February is Scholarship Month. It was established in 1992, in memory of church member Helen Benjamin. Now, more than 20 years later, scholarship awards have been awarded to many well-deserving young people in our congregation. Today, the scholarship fund is named for Helen & Winthrop Benjamin.

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

We're asking members and friends of the church to consider giving a financial gift to the scholarship fund this year. Give your gift in memory of someone, or in honor of someone, or some special event (a birthday, anniversary, etc.) A listing of donors (no amounts) will be posted in the worship folder on Scholarship Sunday (June 9th). You can place your donation in an envelope marked "*Scholarship Fund*" and place it in the offering plate, or mail it to the church.

We have many deserving young people who will graduate this June. Let's show them how much we care for them and their future aspirations. Please give if you are able. *Thanks!*

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HAVE YOU SEEN IT?

The mid-level bulletin board has been spruced up, thanks to Linda Bruckner. Linda is a Sunday School teacher who goes "all-out" for her Kindergarten students. She was asked to dress-up the church board, and she did a fine job! Thanks, Linda. She hopes to change the board from season-to-season. Check it out!

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ANNUAL REPORTS

Copies of the 2018 Annual Report are now available on the Information Center table. Pick up a copy and look it over before the Annual Meeting on February 10th, beginning at noon in Dudek Hall. At 11:30, a soup luncheon (\$5) will be offered in Halls' Hall. There will be five soups to choose from! If you live out of town or state and would like a report, contact the church, we'll be happy to send you one.

SENIOR LUNCH

The next get-together begins at noon on February 12th, (and March 12th). These are the last two luncheons until November. You **MUST** sign up to attend as space is limited to 60 people. Watch the bulletin board each month for the sign-up sheet. It's a great afternoon out!

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DOOR MONITORS

Volunteers are needed 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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WE'RE STILL LOOKING for someone (individuals) to Chair the 2019 Scarecrow Festival? How about you? Fortunately, all the areas of the festival have been filled with experienced chair- people. Now we need the one(s) who will oversee this popular community event. After 13 years, those in charge of their areas truly know what they are doing. Please consider chairing the SCF - one of our church's largest fundraisers this year. Contact the church office if you would like to know the specifics of what's involved. We'll have you meet with last year's co-chairs; they will answer all your questions. We appreciate that both of them (Joy and Bob) plan to be involved with this year's Scarecrow Festival which is scheduled for Saturday, September 28th.

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Monday morning Bible study has resumed. We're currently enjoying an interesting video series entitles *Follow* by Andy Stanley. *No matter what you believe, no matter how you behave, Jesus invites you to... FOLLOW.* We meet on Monday mornings from 10 - 11 a.m. in Halls' Hall. You 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 for free from the Deacons' Fund.

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CONFIRMATION DAY

Plan to be present as five young people join the church through the Rite of Confirmation on March 10th, during the 10:30 service. These students have been meeting with Rev. Stan and Sandy Dudek since September in preparation for this special day. We are so proud of each of them!

WOMEN'S GROUP TO START

We are excited to announce that our church will now host a *Women's Group*. It will meet bi-monthly from 8 – 9:30 a.m. on the first Saturday of the month. The first gathering will be March 2nd. We will meet on the opposite month of the *Men's Group*. The Women's Group will be a relaxed setting, allowing a free exchange of thought and ideas important to the women of our faith community. On March 2nd, our goal will be to get to know each other. Coffee and donuts will be provided for our first get-together. We hope to see many of you in Halls' Hall (the coffee hour room). Bridget Park will be coordinating the Women's Group. Please contact her if you have any questions (860.710.1316).

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CHURCH SWEATSHIRTS

A few sweatshirts remain for purchase. The sweatshirt has a picture of the church on the front, with the church's motto on the back: "*Where Friends Become Family.*" The shirts will sell for \$20 each and are available from Bunny Perry. Please contact her if you are interested in making a purchase (860.376.6474). Here are the sizes and colors that are available:

1 XL (Navy), 3 Small (Navy), 3 Medium (Navy), 1 Large (Forest), 1 Large (Cardinal), 1 Small (Cardinal)

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THE LENTEN SEASON

begins on **Ash Wednesday**, March 6th. We begin this holy day with the annual *Prayer Vigil* which will be held in the Sanctuary from noon until 6 P.M. During this time, volunteers are asked to sign up to pray for others for 15 minutes. We will supply you the prayer list. If you would like to participate in the meaningful event, please select your time to pray and sign-up on the Information Center bulletin board.

At 7 p.m. that evening, an Ash Wednesday Communion service will be held in the Sanctuary. This quiet service recalls the start of Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness before the start of his public ministry. Please make time to join us on this important evening.

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NEW MEMBERS

will be welcomed into the church on **Palm Sunday**, April 14th, during both services of worship. If you are interested in joining the church, sign the sheet posted on the mid-level bulletin board and plan to attend the informational meeting and luncheon scheduled for April 7th, at noon in Dudek Hall. This meeting is required for church membership. Please speak with the minister if you have any questions. Membership information will be mailed to you. Please note, the last Sunday to sign-up will be March 31st.

THE ANNUAL BREAD FESTIVAL

This popular Lenten event will be held following both services of worship on Palm Sunday, April 14th. We're asking you to bake your favorite bread and share it with others during the coffee hour. Bring your bread to the church, and it will be sliced up for the special coffee hour that morning. The bread festival reminds us that Jesus IS the "*Bread of Life!*" We thank church member Evey Putman for bringing this idea of a bread festival to our church years ago. Please sign the sheet posted on the hallway bulletin board if you are able to bake a bread for that day.

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WEB STREAM NEWS

Did you know you can watch the 9 a.m. service "live" online (prestoncitycongregational.org)? Press the web stream icon. If you miss the live-stream at 9, you can view it later in the afternoon. All services are archived, so you can view any past service any time! Spread the word, tell your family and friends. Of course, for optimum viewing join us in person at 9 or 10:30!

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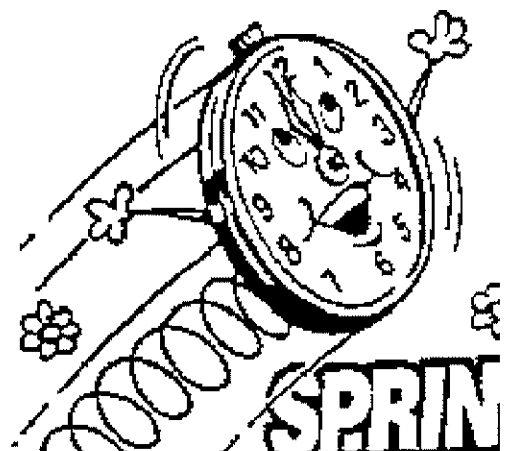
READING MATERIALS

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."

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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.*



DON'T FORGET to turn your clock ahead one hour on Saturday night, March 9. Daylight Saving time begins March 10th. You don't want to be late for church!

The Preston Junior Pilgrim



A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION...

FEBRUARY 3RD, SUPER BOWL LIII will take place in Atlanta, GA where the New England Patriots and Los Angeles Rams will face off. Thousands of fans will be present for the BIG game as well as millions of fans at home. Superbowl parties will be in abundance. Everyone will be rooting for their favorite team or maybe just watching the game because it's so widely publicized!

I've been thinking a lot about that game as I've watched some of the games leading up to the climax. Referees don't have the easiest job I've decided and fans will show up no matter how cold it is! There will be a winner and a loser.

THEN IN THE DEPTHS OF MY THOUGHTS, I thought how we as Christians, as followers of Christ, can ALL be winners. If we fumble up something in our lives, God gives us chance after chance to straighten it out. If we miss a "pass", God is always on hand to get us going again. **"Humble yourselves, then, under God's mighty hands, so that He will lift you up in His own good time. Leave all your worries with him, because He cares for you."** 1 Peter 5:6-7

SPORTS add another dimension to life for sure, but I'm so glad God does not emphasize competition. Everyone has the opportunity to be a winner and how great is that! Whether you are a child, have disabilities, have made major mistakes in life, everyone has an opportunity. This is something to rejoice about!



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

JANUARY BIBLE VERSES

Toddler 3 – Grade 2: "Do to others what you would have them do to you."
(Matthew 7:12) **Golden Rule**

Grades 3-12:

"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

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The next newsletter, April 2019, will be sent out by email to those who provide us with an email address. Please send your email address to pccc@snet.net by **March 15th** and we'll get it into our data base to receive the newsletter in your inbox. If you do not have a computer, please call the church office (860.887.4647) and request a hard copy and we'll see that you get one either at church or through the mail. Bob Vescovi and I are diligently working with our new Servant Keeper software to make this possible saving the church on postage.

SOME THINGS I'D LIKE YOU TO KNOW:



IT'S NOT TOO LATE to sign up for this year's Youth Mission Trip to the Adirondacks, NY July 14th-19th, 2019. 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. Present eight graders through those who graduate high school this year may be eligible to go.

THE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS is working on favors for the March senior luncheon.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL dates are July 8 -12, 2019. Please mark your calendar today.

THE PAINT NIGHT on January 11th was very successful with many participants painting a winter scene. There was an excellent profit benefitting our young people. Thank you Lisa Van Alst and Robin Backofen for coordinating this event.

FEBRUARY 23RD at 6 p.m. a special appreciation evening will be held for our teachers, Board of Religious Education members, KidZ Praise directors, and VBS directors. Much time and effort is put into instructing and guiding our young people. A full turkey dinner will be served and many items will be needed including homemade pies. If you can help me in any way by providing an item or two or working on the dinner itself, there is a sign up sheet on the hallway bulletin board.

February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Kidz Praise Meets Sunday mornings in Room 13 from 10-10:25a					1	2 Men's Group 8-9:30a
3 Communion Worship 9, 10:30a Choir sings 9a SS communion 9:05a Two-can	4 Bible study 10a Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	5 Bible study 6:30p	6 AA 7:30p	7 Adult choir 7p	8	9
10 Worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a Youth Sunday 10:30a Annual meeting Noon	11 Bible study 10a Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	12 Senior Lunch Noon Bible study 6:30p Annual mtg. snow date 7p	13 AA 7:30p	14 <u>Valentine's Day</u> Adult choir 7p	15	16
17 Worship 9, 10:30a Adult choir sings 9a SS 8:45a Baptism 10:30za	18 Presidents' Day No Bible study No Confirmation Yoga 6:30p	19 Board of Religious Ed. 6p Bible study 6:30p	20 Trustees 6p Standing Committee 7p AA 7:30p	21 Adult choir 7p	22	23 Youth Volunteers Appreciation Dinner 6p
24 Worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a Food distribution Sunday	25 Bible study 10a No Confirmation Yoga 6:30p	26 Bible study 6:30p Israel Information mtg. 6:30p	27 Creamery Brook 3p AA 7:30p	28 Adult choir 7p		
Please note: Active church members who wish to borrow church property (tables, chairs)	call the church office.	Lost or found something at church? There is a basket in the Inform. Center.				

January 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 flowers in church during the month of February, 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

March 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						

INCLEMENT WEATHER CANCELLATIONS: Tune into Channel 3 or WICH 1310. You may also check Facebook or our website: 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.

March 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Women's Group 8-9:30a
3 Communion Worship 9, 10:30a Choir sings 9a Sunday School Communion 9:05 Two-can Sunday	4 Bible study 10a Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	5	6 Ash Wednesday Prayer vigil Noon-6p Communion worship service 7p AA 7:30p	7 Adult choir 7p	8	9
10 Daylight Saving Time begins Worship 9, 10:30a SS 8:45a Confirmation 10:30a	11 No Bible study Yoga 6:30p	12 Senior Lunch Noon Board of Religious Education 6p	13 AA 7:30p	14 Adult choir 7p	15	16
17 Worship 9, 10:30a Choir sings 9a Sunday School 8:45a	18 No Bible study Yoga 6:30p	19	20 Spring begins! Trustees 6p Standing Committee 7p AA 7:30p	21 Adult choir 7p	22	23
24 Worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a	25 Bible study 10a Yoga 6:30p	26	27 Creamery Brook 3p AA 7:30p	28 Adult choir 7p	29	30 Halls' Hall in use 10:30a- 2:30p
31 Worship 9,10:30a Sunday School 8:45a Food Distribution Sunday	Please note: Active church members who wish to borrow church	Property (tables, chairs) call the church office.	Lost or Found something at church? There is a basket in the Information Center.		9:00 a.m. Service is web streamed.	

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		

Notes: To place flower in church during the month of March, sign the Flower Chart, fill out the Reservation form and call Doris MacLachlan (860.564.2609).

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Prestoncitycongregational.org

April 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				

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