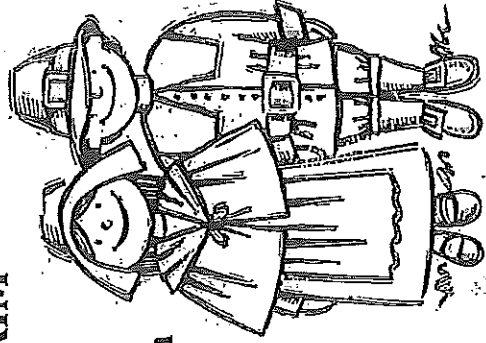


THE PRESTON PILGRIM

The newsletter of
The Preston City
Congregational Church
Gathered 1698



MARCH 2018

CHURCH ADDRESS

321 Route 164
Preston, CT 06365-8108

TELEPHONE

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

FAX

(860) 887-4647

WORSHIP

9:00 & 10:30 A.M.
(Sept. 10 – May 20)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

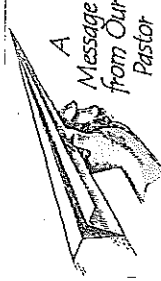
8:45 A.M.
(Sept. 10 – May 20)

EMAIL: PCCCC@SNET.NET

WEBSITE: prestoncitycongregational.org

Visit us on **FACEBOOK**

News and information for next month's newsletter is due by March 18th. You may leave information in the holder located on the wall in the kitchen.



A
Message
from Our
Pastor

It was nice to see so many people at the Annual Meeting, on February 13th. In addition to accepting all the Officer, Board and Committee reports, the 2018 budget (\$259,573) was approved, as well as the Nominating Committee's slate of names to serve the church in the year ahead.

Three bylaw revisions were presented and passed unanimously:

- 1) The date of the Annual Meeting will now be held on the second Sunday in February, or the following Tuesday if weather necessitates.
- 2) The Stewardship Committee shall seek support of the proposed budget by arranging short presentations on selected Sunday mornings during the fall Stewardship Campaign...
- 3) In the unlikely event that the church should one day dissolve, all assets of the church, with the exception of real estate, shall become the property of the Northeast Fellowship of Congregational Christian Churches, or in the case of their dissolution, the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches.

Members in attendance also voted to move \$20,000 from the church checking account to the Capital Improvement Fund for future projects.

The Trustees will continue to obtain bids to pave the lower parking lot. A report of their findings will be presented at the semi-annual meeting in April.

All-in-all, it was a productive meeting. We are blessed to have so many men and women serving our church. They truly have the *heart and well-being* of the church always in mind when decisions are made.

If you have not read the Annual Report, you can obtain a copy at the Information Center table. If you're not in the area and would like a copy, please call the church office and we'll be glad to send you one.

In closing, I thank those who faithfully served on boards and committees, and have completed their terms. I (we) appreciate your willingness to serve your church. To those who have agreed to serve on boards and committees in the year(s) ahead, I say *welcome aboard, thanks for accepting the call to serve.*

My prayer for the year ahead is that God will continue to bless us as a congregation as we work together to serve Him and others.

Stay Close to God,
Rev. Stan
Rev. Stan

P.S. We thank Rich Lavoie for serving as Senior Deacon in 2017, and we look forward to Stella Dawley's leadership as our new Senior Deacon!

DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

WE EXPRESSED OUR SYMPATHY to the family of **Marie McClimon** who passed away on February 3rd. Please keep her daughters and grandsons in your prayers.

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LENTEN HAPPENINGS

Now that we are in the midst of the season of Lent, here are some important dates for you to consider:

The Lenten Bible Study, led by Scott Van Alst continues to meet in Hall's Hall on Tuesday evenings starting at 6:00. The night begins with a meal of soup & bread followed by the study of scripture. Each session ends at 7:30. Attend the sessions when you are able. More information about this Bible study can be found on the Information Center bulletin board, or speak with Scott.

NEW MEMBERS will be welcomed into the church on Palm Sunday, March 25th, during both services of worship. If you're interested in joining the church, sign the sheet on the hallway bulletin board and plan to attend the informational meeting on March 18th, at noon. Please speak with the minister or a member of the Diaconate if you have any questions. Membership information will be mailed to you. The last Sunday to sign-up is *next Sunday*, March 11th. We are late in getting this membership news out to you, our apologies...

The **ANNUAL BREAD FESTIVAL** will be held following both services on Palm Sunday. We ask you to bake your favorite bread and share it with others during the coffee hour. Bring your bread to the church, and the festival committee will slice it for the special coffee hour. This is a popular event, reminding us that Jesus IS the *Bread of Life!*

On **MAUNDY THURSDAY** (Holy Thursday or New Commandment Thursday), March 29th, a worship service remembering the night before Christ's crucifixion will be held in the Sanctuary beginning at 7 P.M. On this night we will also observe the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Be with us on this very special and solemn evening.

A **GOOD FRIDAY** service of remembrance will be held in the Sanctuary, March 30th, at noon. Many businesses and schools are closed on this day so people may observe the day Christ died. **WE** hope you will be present at worship. Be sure to read the *Junior Pilgrim* for a special children's event to be held downstairs following the service.

THE CELEBRATION OF EASTER begins early Easter morning at Amos Lake in Preston. Join with others as we worship and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. The

service begins at 6:30. In the event of rain the service will be held in our Sanctuary. An Easter breakfast will be served at 7 A.M. in Hall's Hall. We thank Kim Lang for, once again, coordinating this meal. If you'd like to attend, you must sign up at the Information Center bulletin board. The last day to do so is Palm Sunday. You can also call the office to make your reservations.

At 9 & 10:30 the **EASTER CELEBRATION** continues with worship services in the Sanctuary. The Adult Choir will sing at both services, and a message especially for the children will be presented. Because Easter falls on the first Sunday of the month (April 1st), the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be offered. The Sunday School will **not** be in session on this day; families are encouraged to worship together.

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CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Plan to be with us next Sunday morning as we welcome six young people into the membership of the church through the Rite of Confirmation. This special service will take place at 10:30. Come and welcome our newest members. We're so proud of each of them!

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BINGO NEWS

We are looking for someone to oversee Bingo at the Strawberry Park Campground in Preston starting in May. Mary Lou Jensen, who has served in this capacity for the past twelve years, is willing to train the new Bingo Coordinator before opening day. If you would like to be considered for the position, or would like more details, please contact the church office.

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FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

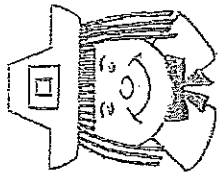
What if you knew where all your money was going next month? What if you were debt-free, investing and making wise spending decisions? With FPU, you CAN take control of your money and start planning for your future. Our next FPU program begins April 10th. It's a nine-week program held each Tuesday evening from 6:30-8:30 here at the church. If you're interested, there's a sign-up sheet on the mid-level bulletin board. If you have any questions about FPU, please mail or call Bob Vescovi at RVesco2010@comcast.net or 401.583.7840.

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WEBSTREAMING NEWS

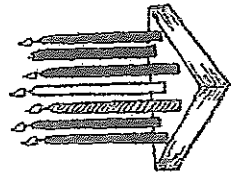
Since we started web streaming our Sunday services over a year ago, the same people have been operating the cameras and producing the wonderful "streams" you see on the net week-after-week. This team of hard working people very rarely gets to attend worship in the Sanctuary. They are looking for volunteers to help with the web streaming on Sunday mornings. They will train you to operate the cameras, which they say is easier to do than one may think. They invite you to stop by the their "office" in the furnace room off of Halls' Hall and

The Preston Junior Pilgrim



Preston City Congregational Church Sunday School Newsletter

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION...

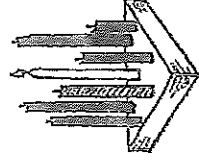
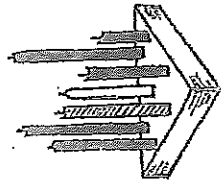


FROM THE MERRIMENT of the Christmas season to being solemn during the Lenten season must be hard for our children to understand. The Lenten triad pictured to the left helps them to go through the season of Lent (6 weeks) with a better understanding. In it are 5 purple candles, 1 pink candle and 1 white Christ candle in the middle. The first Sunday in Lent we talked about "covenants" and the promises God has made to each one of us-promises of love and forgiveness; promises of wholeness for all creation; promises of life beyond death. We also looked at the promises we have made, in response to God's great love for us. We extinguished the first candle to remember the beauty of God's creation and how we continue to do things that hurt our world. With sadness we acknowledged that creation is threatened by pollution and our mismanagement of the earth's resources. Our choices have not always been wise ones.

The second Sunday in Lent. We put out the second purple candle to remember the times we have not kept our word and failed to keep our promises. We can imagine how easy it must have been to shout hosanna with the rest of the crowd as Jesus rode into Jerusalem. Most of us can also imagine how easy it might have been to shout "crucify him" with the crowd only days later, Being a responsible person of faith takes commitment. It often means going against the crowd. It's hard and often we fail.

Today (March 4th) is the third Sunday in Lent, we will reflect upon the walls we build between God and ourselves and others by our disobedience to God's call for justice and commitment. God's laws call us to a world where all people are valued, not put down. But we often do not treat everyone as important. We forget God's way. The third candle will be extinguished.

We will progress with the fourth, fifth and sixth candles until we get to Good Friday, the darkest day of the year. On that day the light from the Christ candle will be extinguished. But not for long because on Easter Sunday we will celebrate the light which has conquered the darkness. The Christ candle will be lit and we will be aware that the power of the Resurrection has forever changed who we are and given us the power to become children of the light. We will celebrate new life, new joy, new possibilities, and new light! Thanks be to God from whom all blessings flow.

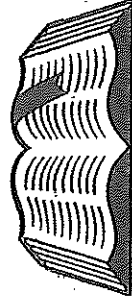


May the **SON** shine through me,

Landy Dudek

MARCH BIBLE VERSES

"Children, obey your parents..." (Ephesians 6:1) Grades Toddler 3-Grade 2



"...The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control..." Galatians 5:22-23(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.

YOUTH MISSION TRIP...Seven young people have signed up to serve at Rutland/Green Mountains, Vermont. The leaders accompanying them are Scott & Lisa Van Alst. They will be departing from the church on July 22, 2018. **One spot** is available. Please speak to the Van Alsts or Cheryl Giuliano if you are interested in going. It may prove to be a life changing experience!

HAVE YOUR CHILDREN BEEN MISSING SUNDAY SCHOOL? Please know that we miss them so much and would love to have them here on Sunday mornings. The high school class remains a strong presence at Sunday School, a sign to me that besides the learning that takes place, much bonding has happened that is meaningful for teens. I know there are sports, sleeping in, and lots of other things, but please do not underestimate the importance of a faith life and being in fellowship with other Christians.

observe how things are done. If no volunteers step forward to lend a hand, we may only offer these online services a couple times each month; giving this group of people an opportunity to worship with the congregation. Please consider getting involved, speak with a member of the web team, or contact the church office. This is such an important outreach of our church, that it should be offered each Sunday.

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SENIOR LUNCH

The next luncheon for our seniors will be Tuesday, March 13th, beginning at noon in Dudek Hall. A sign-up sheet is posted on the Information Center bulletin board; please be sure to sign one name per line. The luncheon is limited to 60 people, and this will be the last luncheon until November. Many thanks to everyone who coordinated and assisted with this very popular outreach to our Seniors.

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

Please have your child return this form as soon as possible for planning purposes. Good Friday (March 30th) off from school takes on new meaning for the students participating in this meaningful event. I would welcome 8th graders and up as well as adults to help me. If you are free and would like to help, please call me.

Director of Religious Education

19th ANNUAL SPECIAL HOLY WEEK EVENT

When: Good Friday, March 30th 11:45 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Where: Preston City Congregational Church

Age Group: Kindergarten through Seventh Grade

Cost: \$5.00, Check can be made out to Preston City Congregational Church and given to Sandy Dudek. In case of hardship, this fee will be waived. Please speak to Mrs. Dudek.

Parents are encouraged to bring their children to the Good Friday service at noon, if possible. If not, please drop your child off to attend the service with the Director of Religious Education, Sandy Dudek. High School young people and other adults will be assisting me. If your children have not been to a Good Friday service before, this should be a very meaningful service to them and also help them to formulate what happened to Jesus on this day and find out why such a day could possibly be considered "good".

Following the service, we will go downstairs for lunch, which will consist of sandwiches, chips, drink and dessert.

The children will then participate in a variety of activities, some of which will be making things to reinforce the meaning of Lent and Easter for the Christian. Hopefully, this will deepen their understanding of our Christian faith that Christ died for us...our salvation!

Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions (860.887.4647)

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR PLANNING PURPOSES.

Child's Name _____ Grade _____

Child's Name _____ Grade _____

Child's Name _____ Grade _____

Please indicate below if a child is allergic to anything (food)

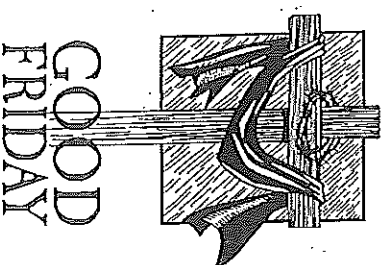
Parent or Guardian's Signature _____

If you would like to provide a food or drink item, please check here and I will call you. _____

Phone

Telephone No. in case of emergency _____ \$5.00 fee paid _____

In the event of an emergency, do we have your permission to take your child to a doctor if you cannot be reached?



LOOKING AHEAD...

April... Scholarship application forms are available on the Information Center table.

April 7, 8-9:30 A.M. Men's Group (Halls' Hall)
April 28, Meatloaf Supper (Dudek Hall) Tickets will go on sale soon.

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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 and able to help out with this important outreach, please call meal coordinator Lois Woodmansee at 860.889.2128. Thank you!

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THE YOUTH VOLUNTEERS APPRECIATION DINNER is scheduled for **Saturday, April 7th** at **6:00 p.m.** I will soon be posting a sheet for donations needed for that dinner. I will need help prior to the dinner and on that day as well. Please consider signing up if you are free to help. Our youth programs are strong because of the commitment volunteers have to **Kidz Praise** (Children's Choir), Sr. Pilgrim Fellowship and Sunday School teaching.

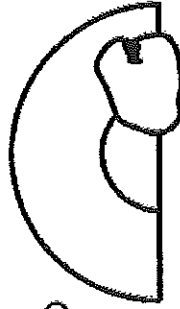
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is scheduled for July 9th-13th. Please mark your calendars so you don't miss this exciting program "*Shipwrecked*" produced by Group Publishing. Sandy Dudek and Shari Purcell will be directing it and have already met to get started early. Please let us know if you are interested in helping us...it's sure to be a highlight in your summer.

WHO'S HOOTING IN YOUR BACKYARD? Join the Friends of the Preston Library as we find out which of the eight species of owls that live in Connecticut you are most likely to see and hear near you. Meet live owls and learn more about their amazing adaptations during this exciting program! This program will be presented by a representative from the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center. The free program will be held at the Preston Public Library, 389 Route 2, Preston on Tuesday, March 20, 6:30 p.m. Reservations are required—call the library at 860-886-1010.

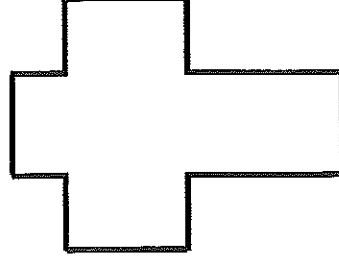
Easter Word Search

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FEBRUARY 2018
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MARCH 2018

APRIL 2018
 S M T W T F S
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 29 30

<i>To place flowers in church during March, sign the Flower chart on the mid-level bulletin board, fill out the form next to the chart, and give to the</i>	Flower Committee contact for February, Doris MacLachlan (860.564.2609)	Please check with Rev. Stan or Sandy <u>before</u> using our names as references. This courtesy would be appreciated.	LOST OR FOUND something at church? There is a basket in the Information Center	1 Adult choir 7p	2	3
4 Comm. worship 9a, 10:30a Adult choir sings 9a Sunday School 8:45a Sunday School Communion 9:05a Two-can Sunday	5 Bible study 10a Confirmation rehearsal 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	6 NO Handbells Lenten Bible study 6-7:30p	7 AA 7:30p	8 NO Adult choir	9	10 Wedding rehearsal 9a PCCC Riders 9a
11 Worship 9a, 10:30a Confirmation 10:30a Daylight Savings time begins, spring ahead 1 hour	12 Bible study 10a Yoga 6:30p	13 Senior lunch noon NO Handbells Board of Religious Education 6p Lenten Bible study 6-7:30p	14 Quilt Group 10a St. Jude worship 11a AA 7:30p	15 NO Adult choir	16	17
18 Worship 9a, 10:30a Adult choir sings 9a New members meeting with deacons Noon	19 Bible study 10a Yoga 6:30p	20 Spring begins! Handbells 6p Lenten Bible study 6-7:30p	21 Trustees' mtg. 6p Standing Committee meeting 7p AA 7:30p	22 Adult choir 7p	23 Paint Night 6-8:30p	24
25 PALM SUNDAY New Members Sunday Worship 9a, 10:30a Food distribution (following service) Halls' Hall in use 1-5p	26 Bible study 10a Yoga 6:30p	27 Handbells 6p Lenten Bible study 6-7:30p	28 Creamery Brook 3p AA 7:30p	29 Maundy Thursday Communion worship 7p	30 Good Friday worship Noon Holy week event for children 11:45a-2:30p	31 Sanctuary is use 10a Eagle Scout Court of Honor

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

DID YOU KNOW that our Faith Community Nurse, Sandra Wright is available on the First Sunday of each month, between services in Room 18. You can drop in for a quick blood pressure check or bring your "health & wellness" questions along, too. Her email address is:
SandraLMWright@gmail.com

INCLEMENT WEATHER CANCELLATIONS: Tune in to Television Channel 3 or you may 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.

Did you know we have a "Prayer Path" located on the Field of Dreams? Feel free to sit and meditate on the words posted near each bench.

CHECK IT OUT
 Did you know we have a church library, filled with lots of interesting books? It's located at the back of Dudek Hall.

MAY YOU HAVE A VERY BLESSED EASTER!