

THE PRESTON PILGRIM

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



MAY 2016

CHURCH ADDRESS

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WORSHIP

9:00 A.M.

(May 22 – September 11)

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Visit us on **FACEBOOK**

News and information for the June newsletter is due in the church office by **May 15th**. You may leave information in the holder located on the wall in the kitchen.



IT'S ALMOST OVER!

It's *Primary Day* in Connecticut. I hope you got out to vote. It's an election year like none I've ever seen before. Maybe you feel the same?

Occasionally, someone will ask me, "What do you think about the Presidential race?" "Who ya votin' for?" "What do you think about so-and so?" Because of my position in the church I don't like being asked questions like these. Do I have an opinion? You bet! But I'd rather keep my thoughts to myself, even when those questioning me are determined to tell me where they stand on the issues and the candidates! I don't believe answering questions like these get me anywhere with people. My opinions and answers would bother some people, while for others, they would be so pleased that my thinking lines up with theirs. I confess... sometimes I slip, and my opinion comes out. Someone says something that I just have to respond to, but that is very rare.

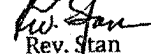
"How come you don't speak about politics in the pulpit?" someone will ask (*I answer this question a lot*). My short answer is *Because I like my job and want to keep it!* My long answer is *Because worship is about God and Christ, and not about a politician or a hot-button issue facing the country.* Again, I have opinions, but they don't belong in the pulpit, here, or in any church! It bothers me greatly when I see a Presidential candidate using a pulpit to state their positions to a Sunday morning audience. I've seen this numerous times

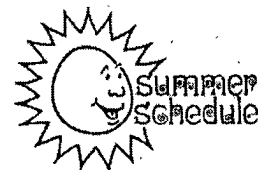
this year and shake my head in wonderment every time. Such a thing would never fly in a Congregational Church. Why? Because we believe that every person's voice, opinion, stand, position, is important. It is to be respected, even if you don't agree with it. This is what I *love* about the Congregational Way. We are "free thinkers." We vote our "*conscience*." We do not take a stand on who should be our next President. Imagine if we did! Hymnals would be flying about the Sanctuary, pews would be empty, and the service would no longer solely be about God and Jesus Christ.

The only political words you will hear me say on Sunday morning is, "*Get out and vote!*" -- which hopefully, you did today.

Now you know not only know where the candidates stand, but me as well.

See you in church (*for worship only!*),


Rev. Stan



SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE TO BEGIN

There will be one service of worship; 9 A.M., beginning May 22nd. We will return to two services on September 11th. Please mark your calendar and invite your friends!

DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL

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

April 2, *Rand Edward Shorb*, son of Traci & Daniel Shorb of Freemont, NH

April 24, *Elizabeth Inez Oddo* of Jewett City, CT (Adult Baptism)

April 24, *Xander James Murzyn*, son of Ashley & Nicholas Murzyn of Plainfield, CT

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DID YOU HEAR?

Derek Waldron announced at Sunday's service that he will enter the seminary (Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, MA) in June. Following his course of study, Derek hopes to become an ordained minister in the Congregational Church. He and his wife Sara live in NH with their two children. Derek attended Sunday School and youth group here at the church and completed the Confirmation program in the ninth grade. We wish him the very best as he pursues his Master of Divinity degree. Congratulations, Derek!

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ADULT MISSIONS

Two members of our adult mission team left for South Dakota yesterday (4/30) to work for a week on the Lakota Indian reservation. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers!

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WEB STREAMING NEWS

The web streaming committee has been working faithfully to get the new system up and running. Now that some electrical issues have been resolved, they hope to begin recording Sunday services sometime this month (but only "in house test runs"). They hope to begin streaming services on the web soon thereafter. We thank them for their hard work, and Ed Shea taking for care of the electrical matters. Stay tuned...

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THIS MONTH

~Yard Sale ~

Saturday, May 7th, 8 - 2 P.M.
(rain date: May 14th)

Can you help us out; 6 A.M. set-up OR 1:30 P.M. clean up? A sign-up sheet is posted on the hallway bulletin board. Please consider lending a hand. Trucks will be needed to take some items to the dump following the sale.

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NEXT SCARECROW MEETING

Monday, May 9th, at 6:30 P.M.

New people are always welcome to attend and get involved. We need you!

The Scarecrow Festival will be Saturday, September 24th, from 10 A.M. - 5 P.M. Put the date on your calendar, you don't want to miss it!

THANK YOU

Another successful supper was held at the church on April 23rd; homemade chicken pot pie! We thank the supper committee, along with the many volunteers who helped serve the meal and clean up. We appreciate all the various pies that were made for the supper as well. *Well done!*

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SAVE THE DATE

A "Ham & Bean Supper" is planned for Saturday, June 25th, from 4 - 6 P.M. Tickets will be going on sale this month.

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ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the *Northeast Fellowship of Congregational Christian Churches* will take place on May 15th, at 3 P.M. in Colebrook, CT. Information about the meeting is posted on mid-level bulletin board.

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CALLING ALL "CHURCH" BIKERS

We know there are many in our congregation who ride motorcycles. Would you be interested in getting together and planning a group ride? If so, there will be a meeting on Saturday morning, May 21st at 8:30 (1 hr.) to meet fellow church bikers and set a date for the first ride! Please sign the sheet on the Information center bulletin board if you're interested. Coffee & donuts will be available.

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MEN'S GROUP NEWS

Join Rev. Stan for one last get-together until the fall. The date is Saturday morning, June 4, from 8:30 - 10 A.M. We hope for another great turnout. Please contact Tim Bowles, coordinator, if you have any questions (860.889.9936). We hope to see you there!

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FOOD PANTRY NEWS

The number of individuals and families that continue to be helped at our pantry (thanks to your generosity and others in the community) continues to grow. However, funding for the "Toucan (*Two Can*) Food Pantry" has decreased considerably this year, affecting what we are able to do for those in need. So, we're trying something new. Donation envelopes for the pantry are now available at the Information Center Bulletin board. Please consider taking one and making a donation. You can designate what you would like your donation to purchase; see the cost, and enclose the amount. Or, you can simply donate and allow pantry personnel to determine the greatest need. If you have any questions, please contact Stella Dawley (860.887.6452) or Harriet Rosiene (860.889.0238). Your contribution/envelope may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church. Your help is needed and appreciated! *We thank you for the donations received in April via the new pantry envelopes available on the Information Center bulletin board.* **A total of 86 bags of food were given out in April thanks to your help!**

The Preston Junior Pilgrim



Preston City Congregational Church Sunday School Newsletter



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

REMEMBERING... in so many ways is such a big part of our lives. Just going through a calendar year, from observing Martin Luther King, Jr. day in January to remembering Christ's birth in December with many holidays and birthday observances in between. Christ instructed his disciples at the Last Supper, "This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." (Luke 22:19) So remembering is important! In the month of May, Mothers will be remembered and in June Fathers will be remembered. This month we will be remembering those who have sacrificed their lives that we might live in a free country.

HOW important it is to the widow or the forever grieving mother or father to know that we remember what happened to their loved one. It is a gift finer than gold. Remembering someone's name that you have met...always something we can work on and so meaningful to a person to be called by name. I once forgot a dear friend's 80th birthday party...thought it was the next night! It did not go over well. So, we're all a work in progress when it comes to remembering! Writing things down helps a lot. On Sunday mornings, people will ask me and tell me many things. I try hard to have a pad and pen at my disposal, but often ask them to email me just so something important does not become forgotten.

CHILDREN'S DAY is coming May 15th. Through you, who are parents/guardians, I suggest that you encourage your child(ren) to **remember** their teachers and aides with a note of thanks, for 3 and 4 years old it could be a drawing. It would be great if they could be given to me on May 8th, one week prior and I will see that their teachers get them.

REMEMBERING OUR SHUT-INS... Two of them have birthdays in May. How about flooding their mailboxes with cards. It will mean a lot to them to be remembered:

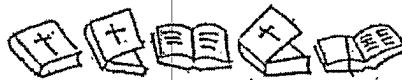
Doug Girard, 526 Route 164, Preston, CT 06365 (5/10)

Jack Putman, 70 George Palmer Road, Griswold 06351 (5/30)

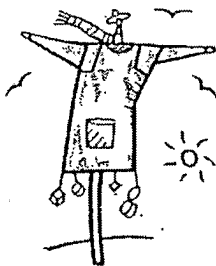
"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:20) You and I, in our humanness, may forget, but God never does. What a reassuring message to all of us... *God remembers!*

May the SONshine through me,

Sandy Oudek



THANK YOU to everyone who supported the Pampered Chef fundraiser. 30% of the total sales will go to the Senior Pilgrim Fellowship.



Can you help? We are still in need of one committee chairperson to oversee both the Football toss and the Golf putting contest, which will be next to each other on the "Field of Dreams." Responsibilities include overseeing the volunteers at these two events on Festival day. If you would like more information or may be interested in chairing this committee, please call Bob Vescovi (401.583.7840) or Joy Chalifoux (860.234.1011). We think these two additions to the Festival will be a lot of fun for all ages.

THE SCARECROW FESTIVAL COMMITTEE meets again on Monday, May 9, at 6:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room.

HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE STUDENTS:

- 1) **WE NEED** your imagination and help to turn some of our Sunday School rooms into caves for Vacation Bible School this summer. We will begin these creations after Sunday School finishes on May 15th. It could be a lot of fun and help us out a lot at the same time. Please call the church office if you are able to help. It should be an exciting adventure (860.887.4647)!
- 2) **"BRING IT"**, a contemporary worship service for high school and up to age 22 (maybe you're not in college - not everyone goes-this is for you, too! There will be some "Bring It" services this summer out under the pavilion most likely with a cookout included. Watch for news of the dates, call the office. Don't miss out on the fun while bringing praises to our God!

GRADUATES... We hope families will let us know at the church office if someone from the church family is graduating. We like to acknowledge them in the church newsletter and send them a congratulatory letter.

SUNDAY SCHOOL will soon be wrapping up until September. We hope you will be at summer worship and bring the family. There is always a Children's Message especially for them. What better way to start the week!



BRING THE FAMILY!

CHILDREN'S DAY SET-UP/TAKE DOWN volunteers are needed as we set up the stage area and set up chairs. This is planned for **Saturday, May 14th** at **9:00 A.M.** Help is also needed about **4:30 p.m.** on **Saturday** to move chairs over from the firehouse. When Children's Day is over, chairs will need to be returned to their proper area. If you can help out in any way, please sign the sheet on the Information Center bulletin board.

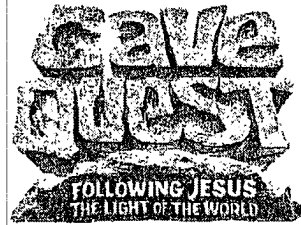
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PLEASE RETURN THIS REGISTRATION FORM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, WE MUST ORDER SUPPLIES FOR ALL REGISTRANTS.

CAVE QUEST

By Group

"Following Jesus the Light of the World"
July 11-15th, 9-11:30 a.m.



COME JOIN THE FUN this summer at Vacation Bible School directed by Sandy Dudek and Shari Purcell. **Volunteers are needed...**all materials will be provided and will be available to review at the meeting scheduled for **Monday, June 1st** at **6:30 p.m.** in Halls' Fellowship Hall. Many adults have enjoyed the week as much as the children so why not come and join the fun! A daily offering will be taken during the opening worship service.

Children in our church and community who have turned 4 by August 1, 2016, through those completing Grade 7 are invited to attend (**Exception: those who have attended our Nursery 3 Sunday School may also sign up to attend**). Those who have completed grades 8-12 could assist us in so many ways. The cost for this program is \$12.00 per child with a family maximum of \$30.00. Checks should be made payable to the Preston City Congregational Church. Scholarships are available; speak to Sandy Dudek for more information.

CHILDREN NEED TO BE REGISTERED BY JULY 1ST. The form below can be mailed to the church at 321 Route 164, Preston, CT 06365.

Please bring in a tee shirt, tank top or muscle undershirt for each of your children involved in VBS on MONDAY, JULY 11TH, the opening day of VBS.

If you would like to volunteer in any capacity or need any further information, please speak to Sandy or Shari (sharilpurcell@gmail.com) or by calling the church office at 860-887-4647.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION - 2015

Child's Name	Date of Birth	Grade Completed
_____	___/___/___	___
_____	___/___/___	___
_____	___/___/___	___

Are there any medical conditions of which we should be made aware? (Please explain on back of form)

Parent/Guardian _____ Email _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Emergency Phone: _____

In my absence, emergency medical treatment may be authorized by the directors of VBS if deemed necessary.

Signed: _____ Date: _____ Fee Paid _____



AN INVITATION

YOU are cordially invited to attend "CHILDREN'S DAY at "The Field of Dreams"
MAY 15, 2016
10:30 A.M.



Please note that in case of inclement weather, Children's Day will be held at The Preston Veterans Memorial School. A decision will be made by Friday, May 13th.

Sunday School students will do a variety of presentations. Bibles will be presented. This should last one hour.

About 11:30 A.M.; the ALL CHURCH picnic will begin.
(Thank you Jerry Giuliano for serving as Coordinator.)



PARKING will be in the church parking lot. Parking for seniors and handicapped will be an area set aside on "The Field of Dreams" (at the bottom of the hill parallel to Krug Road). Food will be served in the pavilion (sunshine) or the Sunday School Hall (rain). Hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, macaroni salad, beverages, and cake will be provided by The Board of Religious Education. There is no cost **but please sign the sheet on the Information Center bulletin board** so we might plan accordingly.

We look forward to seeing you!

DO YOU KNOW that Children's Day falls on Pentecost Sunday... Today is the day that we celebrate the birthday of the church. The day that the church really got its start...the day of Pentecost and it is when we remember the day God sent the Holy Spirit to his people just as Jesus promised that he would!

The Day of Pentecost

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Acts 2:4 (NIV)

Based on Acts 2:1-21

Y K J T N K H J G A M A Z E D
 T Q B F F P E N T E C O S T U
 L P I Q H C I D Q I E S T R G
 H R J C I W D F B E Q V C O G
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SPEAK	LANGUAGE	PENTECOST	HEAVEN	BLOWING
SOUND	OTHER	HOLY	SPIRIT	HEAR
FILLED	WIND	FIRE	TONGUES	AMAZED



MAY 2016

APRIL							MAY						
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:
SUNDAYS:
 Morning worship, 9, 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:
prestoncitycongregational.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a SS communion 8:05a Adult choir sings 8a Two-can Sunday Halls' Hall in use 1-6p	2 Preston City Cemetery Association mtg. 7p Yoga 6:30p	3 Friends & Family Cafe 9-11:30a Handbell rehearsal 6p	4 AA 7:30p	5 Adult choir 7p	6	7 Yard sale 8a-2p (raindate 5/14)
8 Mother's Day Worship 8, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a "Bring It" 10:30a Halls' Hall in use 1-4:30p	9 Scarecrow Committee Meeting 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	10 Friends & Family Cafe 9-11:30a Board of Rel. Ed. 6p Handbell rehearsal 6p	11 AA 7:30p	12 Adult choir 7p	13	14 Yard sale rain date
15 "Remembering Our Children" 9a Adult choir sings 9a Baptism 9a Children's Day 10:30a Northeast Fellowship Annual meeting	16 Yoga 6:30p	17 Friends & Family Cafe 9-11:30a	18 Trustees' meeting 6:00p Standing Comm. meet- ing 7:00p AA 7:30p	19 Adult choir 7p	20	21 8:30-9:30a Group bik- ers meeting Halls' Hall in use 12:00-6p
22 One service of worship 9a Baptism	23 Yoga 6:30p	24 Friends & Family Cafe 9-11:30a	25 Creamery Brook 3p AA 7:30p	26 Adult choir 7p	27 Wedding rehearsal 5:30p	28 Wedding 3:30p
29 Worship 9a Baptism 9a Food distribution Sun. (following the service)	30 Memorial Day Office closed "May we remember those who have lost their lives that we might be free."	31 Friends & Family Cafe 9-11:30a	Looking ahead... June 1st Vacation Bible School meeting 6:30p	To place flowers in church during May call Sallie Quinn (860.646.2021)	LOST OR FOUND Something at church? There is a basket in the Information Cen- ter.	PLEASE NOTE: Active church mem- bers who wish to bor- row church property (tables, chairs), call the church office.

THE SCRIP PROGRAM is an ongoing fundraiser that greatly benefits the youth missions trips program. Scrip (debit) cards are available to purchase for hundreds of stores, gas stations, donut shops, bookstores, grocery stores, etc. where you do business. You do not pay any extra amount to purchase these cards; however, the youth missions will receive a percentage back that varies according to the business. For example...if you purchase a Macy's card for \$100.00, youth missions will be rewarded 10% for the sale...no charge to you, but profit to the program; WalMart is 2%, Stop & Shop 4%, etc. Cards can be purchased for varying amounts. Sheets with participating businesses listed are always available in the Information Center. Checks to purchase these cards should be made out to "PCCC Youth Missions". If you have questions, call coordinators Jerry & Cheryl Giuliano (860-376-8901).

Please check with Rev. Stan or Sandy before using our names as references. This courtesy would be very much appreciated.

Did you know the newsletter is posted on our website? prestoncitycongregational.org