

THE PRESTON PILGRIM

The newsletter of
The Preston City
Congregational Church
Gathered 1698



MAY
2017

CHURCH ADDRESS

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WORSHIP

9:00 A.M.

(May 28 - September 3)

EMAIL: PCCC@SNET.NET

WEBSITE: prestoncitycongregational.org

Visit us on **FACEBOOK**

News and information for the June newsletter is due in the church office by **May 21st**. You may leave information in the holder located on the wall in the kitchen.

SUMMER WORSHIP

We will begin our summer worship schedule on May 28th. There will be one service of worship; 9 A.M. and the Sunday School will not be in session. Our summer schedule will run through September 3rd. Join us for family worship, and bring a friend!



HE GIVES HIS ALL

It's May, and with its arrival comes warmer weather and longer days, vacations, and breaks from school and sadly, from church (for some). I've never understood the rationale behind not going to church in the summer. Many people, not just in our congregation but in many others, think it's what you do in the summer - take a break from the "routine" that has long-held them captive during the fall, winter, and spring.

Imagine if God said, *I'm taking the summer off, too! I'm taking a break from ALL the things you ask of me. See you in September!*

God gives His *all* to us, every moment of every day. He is present, especially when we need Him the most; when we are ill, facing surgery and recovering, when a loved one dies, or trouble comes to a family. He is *always* there for us!

He is faithful to us and He deserves our worship. Is one hour a week too much for us to give Him this summer? Think about the many things you will do that will consume more than an hour of your time.

I like summertime as much as you. I like the one service of worship at 9. I like knowing that on many summer Sundays I have much of the morning, and all of the afternoon and evening to do things I enjoy with family and friends. But I make worship a priority even when I'm on vacation. I know I will hear something in that 60 minute service that will remain with me during the week, to keep me connected to Him. I cannot imagine summer without God and worship, but many people can.

Many reading my words *will* take a break from church this summer; it's routine, it's a tradition. I get it. But maybe someone will read my words and begin to think differently about the importance of attending church in the summer.

Whatever you do this summer, remember that wherever you are, He is present. Consider giving Him your ALL.

See you in church?

Rev. Stan
Rev. Stan

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DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL

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

4-23 **Brinley Faith Costner**, daughter of Alexandra Gifford and Jared Costner of Amsterdam, NY.

4-30 **Alex Michael Haney**, son of Elizabeth & Brandon Haney of Plainfield, CT.

WE WELCOMED the following people into the membership of the church on Palm Sunday: Doreen Mainville, Phyllis Malone, and Melanie Scheuermann. Get to know these fine people. Welcome to the church!

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THE ASSOCIATE MINISTER'S MESSAGE

"Let's think of eggs, Ogden Nash implores, "they have no legs. Chickens come from eggs but they have legs. The plot thickens. Eggs come from chickens but have no legs under 'um. What a conundrum." In his humorous way Nash points to something very important about viewing our world and it is that our world is a confusing place: a chaotic morass where finding a firm footing is a difficult task to do.

However, people try to find security and meaning anyhow. Whether through scientific reasoning or through passions and emotions, people try to find purpose and hope and a firm foundation for their lives. Most times people don't even know they are searching. These are the recourses the world has to offer.

But Christ pointed to that firm footing when he spoke of two men who built foundations for their homes. One was on sand and one was on solid rock. Christ, of course, is that solid rock. The way of the world is sinking sand. Let us remember that when a storm comes our way to hold firm to the foundation of Jesus to keep from wobbling and tumbling down like an egg with no legs.

--- Rev. Tom

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SCARECROW NEWS

Check your calendar... do you have plans for Saturday, September 23rd? Do you know it takes over 220 volunteers to make the Scarecrow Festival a success? Whatever your interests, the festival is a great place to volunteer. Do you enjoy working with children and crafts? If so, consider the "Pumpkin Patch." Are sports and games more your flavor? If so, there's the "Dunk Tank" and "Football Throw." With all the day's events and activities, there are many volunteer opportunities. Our next festival planning meeting is Tuesday, May 23 at 6:30 p.m., please join us.

We're still looking for two people to assist with the "Crow's Nest" at this year's Festival. For anyone unfamiliar with the Crow's Nest, it's the food area under the lower level pavilion. One person will be responsible for the assignment and oversight of the Crow's Nest volunteers on festival day. This is a change from prior years, when one chairperson was responsible for all Crow's Nest areas.

If you are interested, please speak with Bob (401) 583.7840 or Joy (860) 234.1011. You can also send an email to: Scarecrowfestival2017@gmail.com. Thanks for all you do to support the festival!

BUS TRIP PLANNED

Join Rev. Stan on a bus trip to NYC, November 30th - December 1st. We'll leave the church parking lot at 8 A.M. and travel to the "Big Apple" where we'll have time for lunch (on our own) and some shopping before going to see the Christmas Show at Radio City Music Hall. After the show we'll head to our motel in NJ. After breakfast (included) the next day, we'll do some sightseeing via our motor coach before having some free time to explore on our own. We'll head back to Preston in the afternoon, arriving back to the church by 8 P.M. The cost for the trip is \$325 per person, based on 40 travelers (\$418 single supplement) which includes: transportation, overnight accommodation, a ticket to the Christmas show, breakfast, sightseeing and gratuity for the driver. A deposit of \$25 is due by September 1st. Final payment is due October 16th. Please make your check payable to: *Preston City Congregational Church*. Brochures for this trip are available on the Information Center table. Friends and neighbors are welcome to join you! Speak with Rev. Stan if you have any questions. A sign-up sheet is posted on the mid-level bulletin board.

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BINGO NEWS

Recreational Bingo at Strawberry Park (Preston) has begun, and we are looking for a few more volunteers to help oversee the games on Saturday afternoons (most of the time, May - October) for about 3 hours. We are also looking for volunteers to complete the financial paper work for the games from week-to-week. Anyone working with BINGO must be licensed with the state of Connecticut (no charge), and be a member of the church. Bingo is operated by Strawberry Park, and any monies that remain after prizes are awarded must be given to a non-profit organization (the church).

Thank you to those who have already completed the paperwork for the state. If you'd like to get involved, pick up an application form posted on the bulletin board and drop it off at the office. Please call Mary Lou Jensen if you have any questions (860) 889.6400.

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THANK YOU, SUPPER COMMITTEE

The Chicken Pot Pie Supper held in April was a sell-out! We thank the many people who gave their time to insure its success.

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CHURCH YARD SALE

Saturday, May 13th, 8-2 P.M.
(Rain date: May 20th)



WEBSTREAMING NEWS

Many people have been enjoying our worship services streamed on the internet week after week. People have tuned in from around the United States and the world: Australia, Malaysia, Puerto Rico, Singapore, and the United Kingdom to name a few!

Volunteers are needed to assist in webstreaming the services on Sunday mornings at 9 A.M. Please contact Jim Wright (860.535.2709) if you are interested in helping out. You can stop by on Sunday morning and watch them at work; it's fascinating! The present team of "streamers" does an excellent job, but they want and need more help. Consider getting involved!

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NEWS FROM THE "PCCC BIKERS"

Why are there so many car vs. motorcycle accidents? One reason has to do with a limitation within the human brain. The smaller and faster an object is traveling, the harder it is to determine the distance to that object. In other words, because a motorcycle is so small, a person in a car has trouble correctly judging its speed. So when you are on the road and you see a motorcycle, remember to slow down, be alert and keep a safe traveling distance from it. You may just save a life.

- Andy Kuvent

Join the *PCCC Riders* on their next adventure: Saturday, May 20th. They will meet at the church at 9:30 and leave by 10 A.M. Talk to Andy Kuvent about the details.

A sign-up sheet is posted on the Information Center bulletin board for those wishing to purchase a "PCCC Riders" T-shirt. The cost is around \$18 each, depending on how many shirts are ordered. Payment is due when the T-shirts arrive.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Northeast Fellowship of Congregational Christian Churches (formerly the CT Fellowship) will hold their Annual Meeting on Sunday afternoon, May 21st, at United Congregational Church, Norwich beginning with a 3 P.M. Tea & Refreshment hour. The actual meeting begins at 4 P.M. You are invited to attend. Come and hear what's going on in the Fellowship and in our churches!

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LOOKING AHEAD

Men's Group

We will meet on Saturday, June 3rd, from 8-9:30 A.M. in the Meeting Room (mid-level). Plan to attend this last meeting until the fall. Coffee & donuts will be served. We hope to see you then. Please speak with Ken Sebastian or Tim Bowles if you have questions.

Scholarship Sunday

June 11th

During the 9 A.M. service!

Choir Appreciation Sunday

June 11th

This will be the last Sunday the adult choir will sing until September. We have enjoyed their music all through the year and look forward to their return. A special coffee hour will be held after church to thank these fine men and women.

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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 call meal coordinator Lois Woodmansee at 860.889.2128. *Thank you.*

AN INVITATION

YOU are cordially invited to attend "CHILDREN'S DAY at "The Field of Dreams"
MAY 21, 2017
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 19th.*

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 or call the office to sign up** so we might plan accordingly.

We look forward to seeing you!

The Preston Junior Pilgrim



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Is today a perfect day...is there sunshine in your soul today? Are you thinking "if she knew everything going on in my life today, could she ever ask such a question." The only Way, my friends, that I know that someone...you, me, anyone, can lead a triumphant life, not one free of difficulties, but one that day by day we can feel a sense of well-being is from building a close and complete relationship with God. God is the only one who knows everything about us ("And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered." Matthew 10:30) and loved us enough to die for us. We each need a personal relationship with God/Jesus Christ. No one on earth can completely understand your thoughts, your feelings, your faults, your fears as God does. But we need to trust God. There are so many things that happen to each one of us that we don't understand, that we could be angry about.

DO YOU truly believe Romans 8:28: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." When you lose something or someone you love, can you ever imagine that God could bring good out of it. Do you take these things to God everyday trusting that God has you in his keeping. ("pray continually"... 1 Thessalonians 5:17)

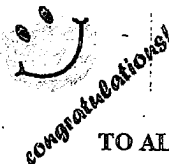
WITH THE ARRIVAL OF SUMMER, school recess, and Sunday School ending, I pray that parents, grandparents, all of us will not forget to stress to the children how important God is, to build our faith day by day and not be afraid to share it. The other day when I was gardening with my almost 5 year old grandson he was talking about dying when he said "we don't have to worry grandma, because even if we die, we'll come alive again like Jesus did." I admit this was in reference to our empty dog house because the dog had died. He told me not to worry about him because I would see him again. I decided not to go into the difference between dogs and people but relish in the fact that this young child grasped the truth that dying from earthly life is not death forever. Little children's faith can be caught and uplifting even to a cynic.

I WILL WORK hard this summer to prepare uplifting messages for your children on summer Sundays, simple concepts that they can carry with them not only as little children, but into adulthood. It is one of the loves of my life to influence children in the love of our Lord. I stand in awe when they really do "get it" as I've witnessed, not only in our little children, but in our teens as well.

May you have a wonderful, restful summer. I truly hope you will join us on the "Field of Dreams" (hopefully, or alternately Preston Veterans Memorial School) to wind up the Sunday School year and enjoy a picnic together (rain or shine).

May the SONshine through me,

Wendy Oudez



EMMA PRICE who recently was inducted into the National Honor Society at NFA! Your church family applauds and congratulates you, Emma, for this accomplishment. Emma serves as a Toddler 3 classroom aide in the Sunday School.

TO ALL THE PEOPLE who have supported us in these efforts, our teens wish to thank you:

WITH YOUR HELP, we had an \$887.00 profit on our lasagna dinner which was split between the Sr. Pilgrim Fellowship and the Youth Mission trip participants.

WITH YOUR HELP we raised \$330.00 on our bake sale for our mission child, Kalid, of Ethiopia.



This will carry us through the summer months when Sunday School is not held.

WITH YOUR HELP we collected 100 pairs of eye glasses. They are being sent to poor and developing countries. We're sure it will make a difference.

WHO ARE OUR GRADUATES THIS YEAR? Please call the church office to let us know so we may send them a congratulatory letter. This can be elementary school, high school and college.

IF YOU WOULD like to give a lasting gift in memory or honor of someone, Children's Bibles will be given out on Children's Day. The cost is \$20.00. Please call Sandy at the church office if you would like to provide one. You may also sign up on the Information Center bulletin board.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL... Have you ever considered directing the school? Yes, it does require time and effort, but the dividends are well worth it! Knowing that you have helped kids on their faith journey in such a meaningful way is no small thing. If you are interested, please speak to Sandy or Rev. Stan.

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



MAKER FUN FACTORY
By Group
"Created by GOD...Built for a Purpose"
July 10-14th, 9-11:30 a.m.



COME JOIN THE FUN this summer at Vacation Bible School directed by Sandy Dudek and Rev. Stan. **Volunteers are needed...** all materials will be provided and will be available to review at the meeting scheduled for **Monday, June 5th 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, 2017, through those completing Grade 7 are invited to attend (**Exception: those who have attended our Toddler 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 10TH, the opening day of VBS.

If you would like to volunteer in any capacity or need any further information, please speak to Sandy or Rev. Stan or call the church office at 860-887-4647.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION - 2017

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 _____





MAY 2017

MAY							JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
28	29	30					29	30					

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

To place flowers in church during May, Sign the Flower chart in the narthex and call Joyce Brewster (860.376.4167).	1 Staff meeting 9a Bible study 10a Yoga 6:30p Preston City Cemetery Assoc. meeting 7p	2 Financial Peace University 6:30p	3 AA 7:30p	4 NO Adult choir	5	6 CPR Class 8a-2p
7 Communion Worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a Adult choir sings 9a SS communion 9:05a "Two-Car Sunday"	8 Yoga 6:30p	9 Flower Committee meeting 10a Board of Rel. Ed. 8p Financial Peace University 6:30p	10 St. Jude worship 11a AA 7:30p	11 Adult choir 7p	12	13 Yard sale 8a-2p
14 Mother's Day Worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a	15 Yoga 6:30p	16 Supper Committee Meeting 7p	17 Trustees meeting 6p Standing Committee meeting 7p AA 7:30p	18 Adult choir 7p	19	20 PCCC riders 9:30a Yard sale rain date
21 "Remembering Our Children" 9a Adult choir sings 9a Children's Day 10:30a Northeast Fellowship annual meeting 3p	22 Yoga 6:30p	23 Scarecrow Festival Meeting 6:30p	24 Creamery Brook 3p AA 7:30p	25 Adult choir 7p	26	27
28 Worship 9 (One service of worship) Food distribution Sunday (following Service)	29 Memorial Day Office closed "May we never forget the great sacrifice of so many to keep our country free."	30	31 AA 7:30p	Please check with Rev. Stan or Sandy Before using our names as references. This courtesy would be very much appreciated	LOST OR FOUND. Something at church? There is a basket in the Information Center next to the table.	PLEASE NOTE: Active church members who wish to borrow church property (tables, chairs, etc.) call the church office at 860.887.4647.

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.
 Children's Choir: 10-10:25 a.m.
 Youth Choir: 10-10:25 a.m.
 Senior Pilgrim Fellowship
 Check church bulletin
 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: SandraL.MWright@gmail.com

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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. 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).