

THE PRESTON PILGRIM

The newsletter of
The Preston City
Congregational Church
Gathered 1698

**NOVEMBER
2015**

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

8:45 A.M.

EMAIL: PCCC@SNET.NET

WEBSITE: prestoncitycongregational.org

Visit us on **FACEBOOK**



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

+++

ARE YOU A THANKFUL PERSON?

I sure hope so! Every year around Thanksgiving, articles are written, stories appear in the news, and researchers and their polls report that more and more we American are becoming a "less thankful people."

Times are difficult for many people and families. Thousands are still looking for work, even after months of searching. The percentage of families who are homeless this year is staggering. And you don't have to look far to see homes in your neighborhood that are empty and in foreclosure. Add to this the decline of the family, illness, and problems in our society and world. Is it any wonder why people are not thankful? They are discouraged, angry, losing hope. They don't know what to do next, or where to turn.

God's Word tells us that we must help those who are hurting and suffering; those who have little or nothing. For when we help others, we are helping Him.

"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me..." Matthew 25:35-36.

If you've been in church during October, you've heard the words *serve, servant, greatness, being last*. These words are especially fitting for the times in which we live, as well as for Thanksgiving. If you are thankful; if your life has been blessed, *show it by helping someone who needs your help whenever you are able.*

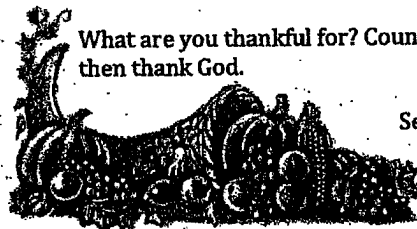
Imagine if everyone who did just a little for someone in need... we could do a lot! Mother Teresa said, *"Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love."*

If you ARE a thankful person, I challenge you to do something that will help someone in need. Give to a charity. Bring food or blankets to a shelter. Consider helping someone in your neighborhood. Show that you are a thankful person. It will mean so much to the one who receives your kindness, and your meal will taste so much better as you sit at your Thanksgiving table this year. Even better... get the family involved. Being thankful is a wonderful lesson to teach the kids.

I hope next year's reports indicate that thankfulness is on the rise again in America. Let's all work at helping to improve the lives of others.

What are you thankful for? Count your blessings, then thank God.

See you in church!
Rev. Stan
Rev. Stan



DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

We welcomed into the Household of Christian faith through the Sacrament of Baptism:

10.11 *Olivia Leigh Lowe and Preston Cullen Lowe*, daughter and son of Beverly & Edward Lowe of East Lyme, CT

10.25 *Dawson Alina Luft*, daughter of Nikki & Nicholas Luft of Southington, CT

We ask God's blessing upon these little ones.

We congratulated the following couples who were united in marriage:

10.17 *Elizabeth Del Core to Ian Stammel*

10.17 *Shannon Bowers to Jared Yeary* at Allen Tree Farm in Brooklyn, CT

We expressed our sympathy to the family of *Winthrop Benjamin* who passed away on October 4th. "Winnie" was long-time, devoted, and faithful member of the church. As a young boy, Winnie would come to the church on Saturday evenings and fill the coal stove so the church would be warm on Sunday morning. Through the years, Winnie (and Wayne) of the W.W. Benjamin Co. have done several projects to improve our buildings and grounds. Winnie created the lower parking lot, as well as the "Field of Dreams" (named in his honor) which so many people enjoy today; especially the children who love to roll down the hill! His company played a key role when the addition to the church was constructed back in 1991. Winthrop will be missed, but his imprint on the church has been left for generations to enjoy!

+++

Congratulations to the Park family (Soon-Young & Hwi-Ja, their daughters and son). On Sunday, October 25th, they celebrated their 40th anniversary of being in the United States! We're glad you came to the U.S. and we're glad that you are with us.

+++

NEW MEMBERS

We're happy to see that several people have already signed up to join the church on Thanksgiving Sunday! If you'd like to unite with church on this day, please sign the sheet on the Information Center bulletin board. We'll send you all the information about the church and membership. New members must meet with the Deacons on November 15th before being received into membership on the 22nd. If you wish to have "dual membership" (membership in this church while retaining membership in another Protestant Church) please speak with the minister. The last Sunday to sign up is November 8th. Contact the office if you have any questions.



DOOR MONITORS

Volunteers are needed for November and December, especially during the 10:30 service. Please consider signing up at the Information Center. All the details about being a monitor are posted there. Contact Lowell Calkins if you have further questions (860. 887.5939).

+++

CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH!

Phase one of our Stewardship program (the Sanctuary renovation mortgage) ended on October 11th. Our goal was to receive pledges totaling \$13,000. Once again, you went "over the top" in your giving - and you're still giving!! As of October 18th, we have received a total of \$13,480. At this rate of giving, we could possibly pay off this ten year mortgage within the next few years; way ahead of schedule! You ARE an amazing and very generous congregation. Thank you for your support.

+++

SCARECROW FESTIVAL NEWS

If you have not already heard, the results are in for the Scarecrow Festival. A total of \$11,800 was received from this year's event; WOW! Hats off to the committee for another successful festival. The money raised will go toward the 2015 budget. Well done, church family.

We are still hoping that someone will come forward to head up next year's festival. Please contact the church office if you're interested or want to learn more, or speak to the retiring chairs; Shirley Hodkinson and Carolyn Shea. It is hoped that a new coordinator(s) will be in place by January.

+++

PHASE TWO (The church budget)

Letters will be mailed to the congregation the week of November 2nd, seeking financial support for the proposed budget of \$240,151. Be on the lookout for this important letter which seeks your help in maintaining all the various aspects of our church in the year ahead. Your giving is needed, and very much appreciated. Thank you!

+++

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

In the coming year or so, the local Habitat organization will be building a house in Griswold and has reached out to our church to see if we are interested in participating. The Habitat representative will meet with any of us who might be interested to explain the program. The timing of this request is interesting as it came to us one day after Rev. Stan preached on how Jesus calls us to be servants - so here's a local opportunity to do that! Please let me know if you'd like to learn more. I can be reached at lorihall255@gmail.com or 860.887.9558.

Lori Hall, Adult Missions Coordinator



COAT DRIVE UNDERWAY

Laurie Bowers, from the Adult Missions group is collecting coats – new, or gently used, wearable coats for winter. If you have a coat you no longer wear or need, consider donating it to someone else. You can drop off your donation(s), now through November 22nd. in the church library, located at the back of the Sunday School hall. The goal is to collect 50 coats. Can we do it? Of course! We'll keep you posted.

+++

FALL YARD SALE

We're pleased to tell you that the sale raised \$1,232.18. Thanks for your contributions and your help on the day of the sale. And special thanks to Stella Dawley, Coordinator, and Kaye Schlough. Great job!

+++

HOLIDAY/CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Circle the date, November 21st. Mark in the time, 9 – 2 P.M. The annual church bazaar, a community favorite, will take place in the Sunday School hall and other rooms throughout the mid-level. Crafts, baked goods, a basket and quilt raffle, as well as a luncheon are just some of the things you will see on this day. Some area vendors will also be present. Plan to get here early for the best buys. Please consider baking something for the bake table, or donating items for the re-gifting table (those gifts you received that you never opened, or you'll never use... shhhh!). You can leave your donation(s) in the "Elizabeth Allyn Box" located in the Information Center. Contact the office if you'd like to help out on the day of this popular event. We'll find a spot for you!

+++

THE NUTS HAVE ARRIVED!

All kinds of nuts and candies are available for purchase again this year. You can purchase your favorites on Sunday mornings during the coffee hour or at the bazaar. You can also place an order and it will be waiting for you. Fill out a form available at the Information Center table. Here's what's available

Nuts 2015

\$10.00

Pecans

Walnuts

Mixed Nuts

Cashews

Pistachios

Harvest Medley

NEW Heart Healthy Nut Mix

NEW Praline Pecans

\$7.00

Fruit & Nut Mix

Trail Mix

Dark Choc. Sea Salt Caramels (8 oz)

Chocolate Pecan Clusters (8 oz)

NEW Dark Choc. Mint Patties (8 oz)

NEW Dark Choc. Peanut Butter

Melts w/Sea Salt (8 oz)

\$6.00

Malted Milk Balls

Chocolate Covered Raisins

Chocolate Covered Peanuts

Gummi Bears

Honey Roasted Peanuts

BIBLE STUDY

We finally finished studying the book Hosea! This study group loves to talk and share, it's what makes our time together so enjoyable. Our next book is JOEL, a short book with a lot to say. The study is for anyone wanting to learn more about God and His people. No prior knowledge of the Bible is required. Join us on Monday mornings at 10, beginning November 16th. Come and learn, and meet some wonderful people at the same time. As always, the coffee pot will be on!

+++

COLLETTE (Travel)

Alaska will be our destination for August 2016, It will be a land and cruise package and will leave August 2nd. Brochures for this wonderful trip should arrive very soon. Once they do, Jason Garrepy from Collette will come to the church and tell us all the details and answer any questions you have. This trip, like all our trips, is open to the community. In fact, Collette can arrange this trip for anyone in the United States. Stop by the Information Center table (mid-level) and pick up a brochure – get one for a friend, too!

+++

LOOKING AHEAD...

12. 6 CAROLING through the neighborhoods.

We'll meet at the church at 2 P.M. and divide up into teams and travel to homes in Preston and surrounding communities. We'll return to the church for soup and sandwiches around 4 P.M. This is always a meaningful event, especially for those on the receiving end. Consider joining us and bring the kids! For planning purposes, please sign up; let us know how many will be joining you.



12.13 THE ANNUAL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT. Showtime is 4 P.M. in the Sanctuary. Read all about it in the Jr. Pilgrim.

12.24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES at 4 and 11 P.M. Sandy will lead the earlier service, and Rev. White will lead the 11. Both services are meaningful and very well attended. Arrive early!

12.27 There will be one service of worship after Christmas; 9 A.M. It will be a family Sunday as the Sunday School will NOT be in session. We will return to two worship services on January 3rd, and the Sunday School WILL BE in session.

+++

PRESTON PILGRIM ONLINE

Did you know that you can now read the monthly newsletter online? Our website is: Prestoncitycongregational.org. If you prefer to read it online, saving the church the cost of mailing one to you, please sign the sheet on the Information Center bulletin board, or call the church office.

The Preston Junior Pilgrim



Preston City Congregational Church Sunday School Newsletter

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:



"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."
Matthew 18:20

AS WE APPROACH another time in the church when church membership is offered to those who have been attending church, I am thinking about what a giant step it is to be part of a faith community. If you made a list of your valuables, would being part of a faith community be at the top of your list? Moments that matter often happen at church!

BELONGING TO A FAITH COMMUNITY has so much to offer as we work together, play together, and pray together! In the Sunday School we sing a song that says: "I count if I am ninety, or nine, or just a baby," and it's so true. This is one place where all generations are incorporated, we all belong. We celebrate joyous occasions together; certainly the baptism of a baby is a day for rejoicing for all gathered. We mourn together in tough times.

THE LIST COULD BE LENGTHY, but here are some of the offerings in a healthy, strong, faith community:

- A sense of belonging, of being family.
- Being accepted and understood.
- Strong friendships and relationships can form.
- Working toward common goals and the deep satisfaction this brings.
- Being valued at church because people care about me.
- There are many opportunities for selflessness and giving to others who could use our help.
- Provides role models for children and youth.
- Fosters leadership regardless of age or stature.

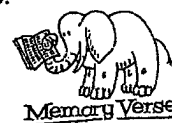
MOST OF ALL, it is hoped that all who participate, whatever age, will come to know a living and active God! Whether you are a member of many years or someone giving consideration to becoming a member of the church, may we all work together to make this a great place to be in the name of the Lord!

WHATEVER TRIALS OR CHALLENGES you face, I hope that you look for the good in each day despite your circumstances and that you will be on the lookout to help whoever you can with an encouraging word or deed.

May the SONshine through me, *Sandy Dudek.*

p.s. Never have I felt the depth of caring in our congregation since my cancer diagnosis. Your encouraging words have truly helped me understand the undeniable value of being in a faith community.
Sincerely, Sandy

NOVEMBER BIBLE VERSES



Memory Verse

Jesus said, "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Mark 12:31) Grades Nursery 3- Grade 2)

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son, and the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19 The Great Commission (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 2016... Letters have been sent out to all eligible youth participants. Spots will be reserved on a first come, first serve basis. Each must be registered in and active members of (in attendance at least two Sundays per month) of the current Sunday School year. Students who are presently in 8th grade as well as students who will complete 12th grade this year are eligible to go. Call the Giulianos (860.376.8901), the Van Alsts (860.230.9947) or the church office (860.887.4647) if you have questions.

WEB STREAMING... Within a few weeks, equipment for web streaming our worship services will arrive at the church. That means we will be looking for volunteers to learn how to operate the equipment and produce a worship service for viewing over the internet. Training sessions are required, and will be available for those who are interested in getting involved with this exciting new ministry of our church. Those with an audio visual background are especially encouraged to get involved; our high school and college-age students as well. A sign-up sheet is posted on the Information Center bulletin board. We hope to start web streaming by mid December, if not sooner. Contact Jim Wright (860.535.1710) with any questions you may have.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PAGEANT REHEARSALS for Toddlers 3 years old, 4 years old, and Kindergarten will begin Tuesday, November 24th at 6:00 p.m. under Co-Directors Cathy Rider (860.334.5268) and Tammy Sabados (860.949.8919). They will meet downstairs in the Sunday School Hall. They will re-create *The Nativity* and it will be presented on December 13th at 4:00 p.m. along with *A Tree Lot Christmas* by our Grade 1 and up students. I hope you will mark your calendar and plan to attend.



THE BOARD OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION will have basket drawings at the Holiday Bazaar on November 21st. Can you help us by providing one of the "theme baskets" for our table? Theme basket examples might be: "All Chocolate", "A Children's Basket", "A Night at the Movies", etc. Your completed basket needs to be received by November 15th. It can be left with Sandy Dudek in the Sunday School Hall. Please attach a note marked "Sunday School" and the "theme" as well as your name. If you have never put a basket together before, but would like to provide one, you may sign up at the Information Center or call Lisa Fessenden (860.376.0473). The proceeds from the sale will benefit Sunday School programs.

JUNIOR PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP??... Is there interest in seeing this group of 6th, 7th, and 8th graders meet for some social activities and to serve their church occasionally. If your students in this age bracket would like to participate, please call Linda Kent-Farinha (860.892.5215) or the church office (860.887.4647).

THE SENIOR PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP recently participated in the Corn Maze at Preston Farms, Route 2. They brought canned goods to this activity which were later given to our Food Pantry. The SPF is open to all high school students in our Sunday School. If you have not participated and would like to, please speak to the Van Alsts or Giulianos.

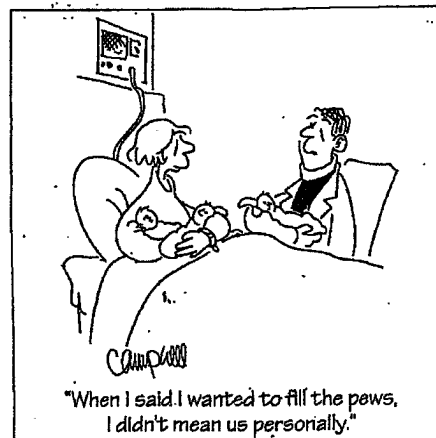
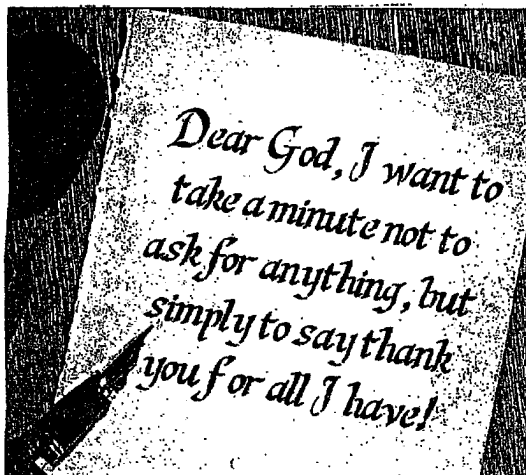
THANKSGIVING BASKETS will be assembled by the Sunday School children again this year. Papers will be sent home with the students requesting a segment of the dinner. If you would like to provide a turkey or a cash donation for pies, please talk to Sandy.

SECRET SANTA... If you attend this church and are in need this Christmas season of a gift or two for yourself or your child(ren), please contact the church office. We will match a "Secret Santa" up to help. Be assured of confidentiality.

THE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS will be visiting the Veterans Home on South Main Street in Jewett City this Sunday. They will be bringing breakfast to them consisting of bagels, muffins, donuts, coffee, and juice. During their time there they will be building a bench similar to the one they built last year. They also will be doing a shortened version of "Bring It" with the veterans. They hope to spread some joy there with their monthly mission project.

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



OCTOBER
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

NOVEMBER 2015

DECEMBER
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

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:

prestoncitycongregational.org

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 question: call coordinators Jerry & Cheryl Giuliano (860-376-8901).

INCLEMENT WEATHER

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a SS communion 9:05a Adult choir sings 9a Two-can Sunday Turn clock back!	2 NO Bible study Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	3 Friends & Family Cafe 9-11:30a SS pageant rehearsal Handbell rehearsal 6:15p Fin. Peace Univ. 7p Supper Comm. mtg 7p	4 AA 6:30-9p	5 Adult choir 7p	6	7
8 Worship 9, 10:30a "Teen Challenge" Sunday School 8:45a "Bring It" 10:30a	9 NO Bible study Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	10 Friends & Family Cafe 9-11:30a Senior lunch Noon SS pageant rehear. 6p Board of Rel. Ed. 8p Handbell rehear. 6:15p Fin. Peace Univ. 7p	11 Veterans Day Office closed AA 6:30-9p	12 Adult choir 7p	13	14
15 Worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a Adult choir sings 9a New members meeting with deacons following worship Baptism 10:30a	16 Bible study 10a Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	17 Friends & Family Cafe 9-11:30a SS pageant rehear. 6p Handbell rehearsal 6:15p	18 St. Jude worship 11a Creamery Brook 3p Trustees' meeting 6:00p Standing Comm. meeting 7:00p AA 6:30-9p	19 Adult choir 7p	20	21 Holiday Bazaar 9a-2p
22 New members Sun. Worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a "Bring It" 10:30a Food distribution Sun. (following each service)	23 Bible study 10a Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	24 Friends & Family Cafe 9-11:30a SS pageant rehear. 6p N3, N4, & K pageant rehearsal 6p Handbell rehearsal 6:15p	25 Adult choir rehearsal 7p AA 7:30p	26 THANKSGIVING "Let us have thankful hearts for our many blessings!"	27	28
	LOST OR FOUND Something at church? There is a basket in the Information Center.	To place flowers in church during November, call Sue Tomis (860.859.2876)	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.	 HONOR OUR VETERANS	PLEASE NOTE: Active church members who wish to borrow church property (tables, chairs), call the church office.