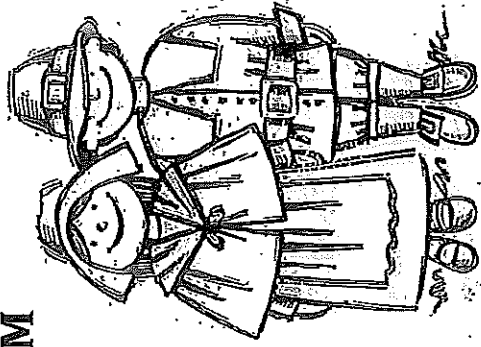


THE PRESTON PILGRIM

The newsletter of
The Preston City
Congregational Church
Gathered 1698



NOVEMBER 2017

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)

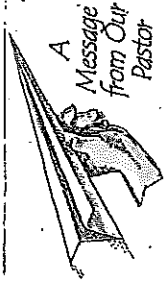
SUNDAY SCHOOL

8:45 A.M.
(Sept. 10 - May 20)

EMAIL: PCCC@SNET.NET

WEBSITE: prestonsitecongregational.org

Visit us on **FACEBOOK**



"In everything give thanks, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." -- 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Thanksgiving day will soon be here; family, friends, turkey, parades, football, and black Friday sales!

Hopefully, the holiday encourages you to think about your blessings – those people and things that bring meaning to your life. God wants you to be thankful every day. Even on the worst of days, there is something to be thankful for. Paul knew this, that's why he writes:

"In everything give thanks..."

When things are going well in your life, give God thanks! When things aren't so great, give God thanks, for He is with you in every moment of life. Wherever you're at in your heart and mind this Thanksgiving, remember to give God thanks. It's good for the soul, and the right thing to do!

Stay close to God,

Rev. Stan
Rev. Stan

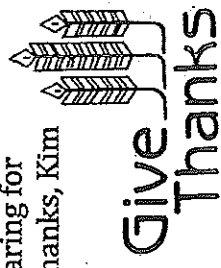


THANKSGIVING & STEWARDSHIP

By Kim Lang

For thousands of years the Native Americans felt that people were stewards of the earth. That the earth needed to be protected, cared for, and respected by all and for those who will come after. The Native American tribes of this continent have left a legacy that our leaders have seen fit to preserve as our National Parks. It was in one of those National Parks that I met the love of my life, Gordon. Gordon and I were caretakers at Upper Goose Neck Pond Cabin on the Appalachian Trail. We would volunteer our time and talents to preserve the cabin and area in hopes that it would always remain one of the most magical places along the 2,100-mile trail. We were stewards of the cabin together for just 8 years. I have continued that commitment with our daughters for the past 15 years. Each year when we climb the mountain and settle in for our time at the cabin; a serenity comes over me. I know that I am continuing the work to leave a legacy for my daughters and all who will climb the mountain. While my girls enjoy canoeing, fishing, swimming, and the area at large, they don't seem to realize the importance of the work they do for the current and future generations.

In everything Kim gives thanks... for nature, the outdoors, a loving family, and caring for something worth preserving. Thanks, Kim



THANK YOU

We are grateful for the special offering we received for the victims of hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico; a total of \$2,405 was collected. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated, and will be used to purchase *LifeStraw Family Water Filters*. One unit (\$50) will filter 18,000 liters of water (475 gallons). Thank you for thinking of others.

BUDGET NEWS

A mailing will go out to the members and friends of the church the week of November 6th, seeking financial support for the 2018 church budget. Please review the mailing and consider offering a pledge of support to the work of the church. Thank you in advance for your faithful giving!

DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

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

10.15 *Ryleigh Mae Stammel*, daughter of Elizabeth and Ian Stammel of Preston.

WE CONGRATULATED the following couples who were united in marriage:

9.30 *Laurie Bowers to Claude Flory* at Latitude Restaurant in Mystic, CT

10.15 *Emily Pistel to Eric Peterson* at St. Clements Castle, Portland, CT

10.29 *Nicole Russell to Jordan Fellows* at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum, Mashantucket, CT

WE EXPRESSED OUR SYMPATHY to the family of *Felicia Fenton* who passed away on October 14th. Her life was remembered and celebrated by her family and many friends. She will be missed!

GREAT JOB, CHURCH!

The 12th annual Scarecrow Festival is now a memory, but what memories we have of that extraordinary day! We're pleased to announce that a total of \$12,764.32 was earned from that wonderful day, and \$12,500.00 was given to the church budget! Thank you to everyone who worked day-and-night, for months-on-end, to produce such a wonderful event. Great job!

More great news... The fall yard sale realized a profit of \$1,265.91. Thank you to Stella Dawley and her hard-working crew of volunteers! And thank you, congregation for your many donations to the sale.

Still *more great news*... The turkey supper that was recently held made a net profit of \$1,852.66. Another impressive success! Many thanks to the supper committee who organize, coordinate, and prepare these wonderful meals for the church

and community to enjoy. Once again, without the many volunteers who helped to prepare and serve the meal, as well as those who helped with set-up and clean-up, a supper of this size would not be possible. Thanks for your help and support.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Our income for the month of September was \$17,381.03 while our expenses were \$20,987.82, a short-fall of \$3,606.79.

Please help us keep our church financially strong as we head into the end of the year. Contact Sue Creamer (Financial Secretary) if you have any questions: 860.376.2731. Thanks for your continued support!

PLEASE TAKE NOTE

In order to receive credit for your end-of-year giving (your pledge/contributions), your offering(s) MUST be received by Sunday, December 24th. The last Sunday of 2017, December 31st, will be deposited the first week of January 2018. Please keep this in mind as you plan your end-of-year giving.

TURN THOSE CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR

Enjoy an extra hour of sleep next Saturday (11/4) before attending church!

WATCH IT!

If you're not able to be present at worship, join us for worship on the web; from your computer, iPad, or Smartphone. You can watch the service live at 9 A.M. or later in the day, any day or night, at a convenient time, from anywhere in the US or around the world! Did you know you can now give to the church online? Several people have already done so, and we are grateful for their financial support. Tell a friend about our worship services on the web.

BIBLE STUDY

We are continuing with Philip Yancy's video series, *Vanishing Grace*. Yancy asks, "*Whatever happened to grace? God's grace is present, but our grace toward others is vanishing.*" We are now in week three of this informative five-week series. Join with others on Monday mornings at 10 A.M. in Halls' Hall. Rev. Stan leads the class, and as always... the coffee pot will be on!

THEY'RE BACK

The first Senior Lunch will be held on November 14th, at noon, in Dudek Hall. These "free" luncheons are held on the second Tuesday of the month, November through March. Seating is limited to 60 people. Watch for the sign-up sheet on the Information Center bulletin board from month-to-month.



HOLIDAY BAZAAR

The annual holiday bazaar is slated for November 18th, from 9 - 2 P.M. in Dudek Hall. Plan to attend this popular Christmas bazaar. There will vendors, baked goods, an assortment of delicious nuts and candies, as well as luncheon and a raffle for a beautiful quilt made by some of the women of the church. Tell your friends about this holiday tradition, and get here early for the best purchases!

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NEW YORK CITY TRAVELERS

We remind you that the bus for NYC will leave the church parking lot promptly at 8 A.M. on November 30th. You may leave your car in the lower lot behind the annex. We plan to return on December 1st by 8 P.M.

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PHOTO DIRECTORY

Due to low response to this project, it has been put "on hold" until the spring when we will try again. We thank Debi Berube, Lee Ann Fessenden, and Lisa Fessenden for giving it their best shot!

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COMING UP IN DECEMBER

(Save the date)

- 12.2 Men's group, 8 - 9:30 A.M. in Halls' Hall
- 12.10 Caroling through the neighborhoods (2P)
- 12.12 Senior Lunch, Noon in Dudek Hall
- 12.15 Sunday School Christmas pageants (6:30P)
- 12.24 CHRISTMAS SUNDAY & EVE

Services: 9 A.M., 4, and 11 P.M.
Note... there is NO 10:30 service, and the Sunday School is NOT in session.

Year-end giving needed by today!

12:31 NEW YEAR'S EVE SUNDAY

There will be one service of worship; 9 A.M.

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MEMORIAL ORNAMENTS

Again, this year, you're invited to hang an ornament on the *Christmas Memory Tree* in remembrance of a loved one. Be sure your name is on the ornament, and fill out a slip of paper beside the tree stating who the ornament is in memory of. Then, place the paper in the box nearby. We'll list all the memorials in the worship folder each week throughout Advent. You may place your ornament on the tree beginning November 26th.

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ADVENT GIVING

We had such a wonderful response to this idea last year that we're doing it again! Throughout the Advent season, which starts December 3rd, we're asking families/individuals to place canned goods in a box for each day of the season (22 cans, 12/3 - 12/24). Then, bring your box of canned goods to the church on Christmas Sunday and place them under the tree in the Fessenden Foyer. All food items collected will go to the "Two-Can Food Pantry" here at the church. What a great way to help someone in need this special time of year.

WEBSTREAMING NEWS

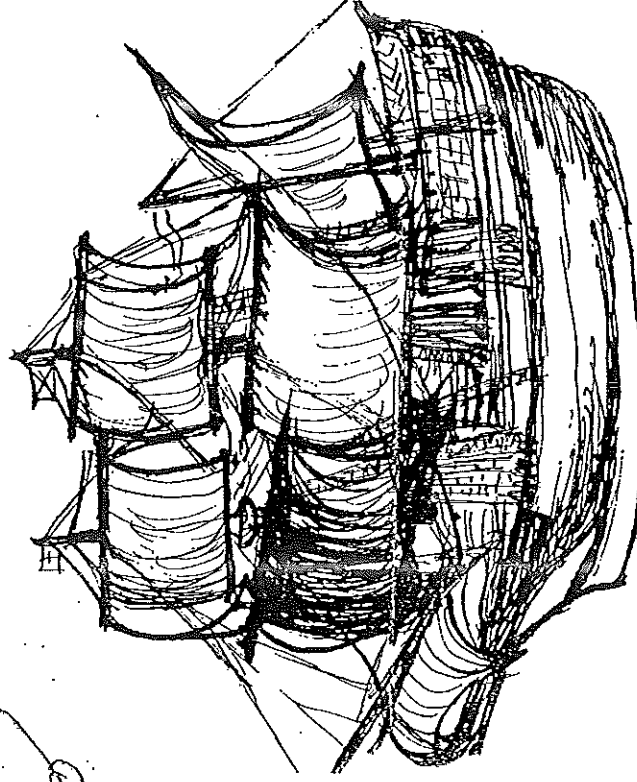
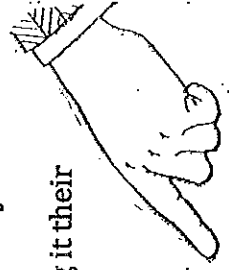
Volunteers are needed to assist in web streaming the services on Sunday mornings at 9 A.M. Please contact Jim Wright (860.535.2709) if you are interested in helping out. You can stop by on Sunday morning and watch them at work; it's fascinating! The present team of "streamers" does an excellent job,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

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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.

*Let us remember our
Congregational heritage
and roots.*



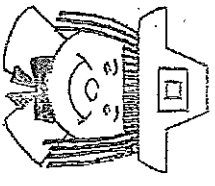
The Mayflower

For the teacher:

The Mayflower sailed from Plymouth, England on September 6, 1620, with 102 passengers on board. No one really knows what the Mayflower looked like, except that it was a typical sailing ship of the time, a square-rigged vessel, a barque of about 180 tons — scarcely the size of a harbor tug. The Mayflower must have been quite old because some of the main timbers cracked during a storm. The Speedwell, its sister ship, leaked so badly after leaving port, that she had to return to England, never to make the crossing.

After 67 days at sea, the Mayflower voyagers spotted land. By this time tension had grown among the sailors and passengers to an almost hostile state. The Pilgrim families, cramped in common quarters too small for even headroom, found the sharp-tongued, satirical crew increasingly hard to bear. Captain Christopher Jones greatly soothed the feelings of both parties, and the sight of land was a relief beyond description.

The Preston Senior Pilgrim



Preston City Congregational Church Sunday School Newsletter

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION...



Bad company corrupts good character.
1 Corinthians 15:33

IN OUR CHILDREN'S BIBLE, *The Adventure Bible*, there are many places where there are treasure boxes with "Words To Treasure." There is a treasure box in 1 Corinthians 15:33. It says "**Bad company corrupts good character.**"

SUNDAY, October 29th, a group of young men were here from "Teen Challenge." The children saw them gathered in the hall as they came into Sunday School. I wanted to share with the children who they were and why they were here.

I STARTED OFF by asking them if they knew what addictions were and there was not a loss for words. The first child that answered said "smoking." This was followed by several more answers from drugs to drinking to shopping to food to gambling. The kids in there this Sunday were kindergarten to 8th grade. I explained to them that *Teen Challenge* were men (could be women as well) who had addictions. These men might have been in jail or dead were it not for *Teen Challenge*. This program took them in just as they were, lost in a world of addiction to drugs or alcohol. Participating in *Teen Challenge* helps individuals of all ages overcome life-controlling problems and addictions. It is here that they will learn Christian values and to cultivate a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It helps them not to give up.

WE ALL CAN BE CHANGED when we meet Jesus Christ and build a relationship with Him. Even our Toddler threes and fours learn the story of Zaccheus who was a hated tax collector who was completely changed when He met Jesus. Our children are so precious to us and parents do one of the best things by being on top of their faith life by talking to them about God and Jesus Christ, by bringing them to Sunday School, but most of all, by example, show them the wonderful life we can have when we are clothed with Christ in our actions and our being.

HONESTLY I was amazed at what our children know about addictions. There were not blank stares when the question was asked. We were a little taken back when they mentioned shopping and food. But isn't it true, anything done in excess is to our detriment.

IT GAVE ME a chance, once again, to stress to our children to be very careful not to take anything from anybody that tells you, "take this; it will make you feel good." The Bible verse above is so true that bad company corrupts good character. We need to pray for our children to resist so many temptations the world offers. We need to pray for *Teen Challenge*. It's hard to overcome an addiction, but "With God, all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26)

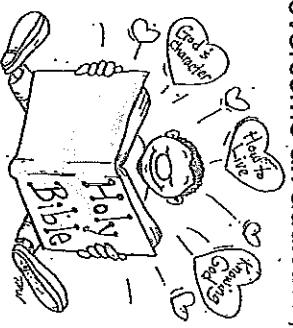
May the SONshine through me,

Randy Dudek



NOVEMBER BIBLE VERSES

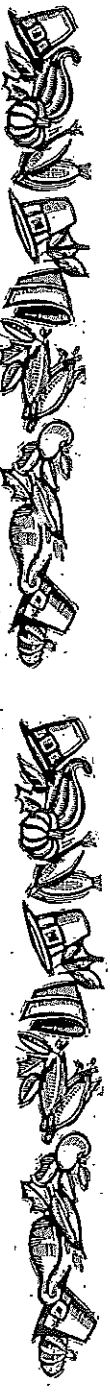
"Love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31) Grades Toddler 3-Grade 2



"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19 (Grades 3-12) Note: **The Great Commission**

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.

CONFIRMATION CLASS BAKE SALE is Sunday, November 5th following the worship services. The proceeds from the sale will be used for their Class Gift to be presented on Confirmation Sunday in March. There are six students in the 2018 Confirmation Class: Cory Converse, Delaney Farinha, Nathan Heinzelman, Ryleigh Pappas, Kristen Rider, and Jack Zachem,



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 2017

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, 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.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>12 Worship 9, 10:30a Baptism 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a New members Information mtg. noon</p>	<p>13 Bible study 10a Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p</p>	<p>14 Senior lunch Noon Handbells 6p Board of Rel. Ed. 6p</p>	<p>15 Trustees' meeting 6p Standing Comm. meeting 7p</p>	<p>16 Adult choir 7p</p>	<p>17 Christmas Bazaar 9a-2p</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>5 Communion worship Sunday School 8:45a Confirm. Class bake sale SS Communion 9:05a Adult choir sings 9a Halls' Hall in use 1-5p Turn clocks back 1 hr.</p>	<p>6 Bible study 10a Confirmation 6:30a Yoga 6:30p</p>	<p>7 Handbells 6p Visitation team 6:30p Financial Peace Uni- versity 6:30-8:30p</p>	<p>8 St. Jude worship 11a</p>	<p>9 Adult choir 7p</p>	<p>10 Office closed</p>	<p>11 Veterans Day Let us be thankful to those who have de- fended our country.</p>
<p>To place flowers in church during November, sign the Flower Chart, fill out the Reservation form and call Doris</p>	<p>LOST OR FOUND something at church? There is a basket in the Information Center next to the table.</p>	<p>1 AA 7:30p</p>	<p>2 Adult choir 7p</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Fall clean-up 8a</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>19 New Members Sunday Worship 9, 10:30a Baptism 9a Sunday School 8:45a Adult choir sings 9a Food Distribution Sun-</p>	<p>20 Bible study 10a Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p</p>	<p>21 Handbells 6p T3-K Nativity rehearsal 6p Financial Peace University 6:30p</p>	<p>22 Creamery Brook worship 3p AA 7:30p</p>	<p>23 THANKSGIVING! Let's have an attitude of gratitude for our many blessings! Halls' Hall in use 5-9p</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 Worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a</p>	<p>27 Bible study 10a Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p</p>	<p>28 Handbells 6p T3-K Nativity rehearsal 6p Financial Peace University 6:30p</p>	<p>29 AA 7:30p</p>	<p>30 Adult choir 7p Please check with Rev. Stan or Sandy Before using our names as references. This courtesy would be appreciated.</p>	<p>31 Please note: active church members who wish to borrow church property (tables, chairs), call the church office.</p>	<p>29</p>