

# THE PRESTON PILGRIM

The newsletter of  
The Preston City  
Congregational Church  
Gathered 1698



**OCTOBER  
2015**

**CHURCH ADDRESS**  
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**WORSHIP**  
9:00 & 10:30 A.M.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
8:45 A.M.

**EMAIL:** [PCCC@SNET.NET](mailto:PCCC@SNET.NET)  
**WEBSITE:** [prestoncitycongregational.org](http://prestoncitycongregational.org)  
Visit us on **FACEBOOK**

News and information for the November newsletter is due in the church office by **October 18th**. You may leave information in the holder located on the wall in the kitchen.



## GO INTO ALL THE WORLD

Before Jesus ascended into heaven following his resurrection, he gave one last bit of instruction to his disciples, *...go and make disciples of all nations...* (Matt. 28:19). In John's gospel Jesus says, *... anyone who has faith in me will do what I've been doing. He will do even greater things than these...* (John 14:12)

On September 20<sup>th</sup>, the members of our church unanimously voted to proceed to purchase the necessary equipment needed to begin web streaming our Sunday morning services!

What does this mean? It means that anyone, anywhere in the world can access our Sunday morning services via the internet, on an Ipad/ tablet, or an iPhone. That's amazing! The committee overseeing this project has been meeting since April, and they have researched the idea thoroughly and are ready to move forward. The cost associated with this venture is approximately \$12,000, and thanks to a \$10,000 gift from Lynne & Paul Vachon, a \$2,000 gift from Sandra & James Wright, as well as the memorial fund of Bill Muttart (\$1,765) no additional church funds are needed to purchase the items

needed. We have a very generous congregation; I see it so often, in so many ways, and I thank God for their kindness.

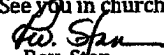
We hope to begin taping services later this fall. We'll have weeks of practice recordings before "going live." People have been asking about cameras in the Sanctuary, "Will they record the congregation?" The answer is no. Only what goes on at the front of the church will be filmed (*you can relax*).

What does web streaming mean for the future? In addition to Sunday services, we hope to, one day, record weddings – even funerals so those living out-of-state, or those who are elderly, or those who are ill, who cannot attend in person, can be present thanks to technology. The possibilities are endless.

We hope people will volunteer their time and talents to record the services after being trained to do so. Our young people, who are so technology oriented, will be of tremendous help in this area. The web streaming studio will be located downstairs; and cameras will be operated from the studio, not the Sanctuary.

It's an exciting time in the history of our church. Whoever could have imagined that we would be doing what we are about to do? Only Jesus! "You will do even greater things than these..."

May God be with us as we make His message available to the world! Pray for your church as we move forward with this great opportunity.

See you in church!  
  
Rev. Stan

## DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

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

9.27 *Lucas Todd Haney*, son of Elizabeth & Brandon Haney of Plainfield, CT

We congratulated *Nicole LaFayette* and *Joshua Serra* who were united in marriage at Wright's Mill Farm, Canterbury, CT on September 4.

We expressed our sympathy to the family of *David Krug* who passed away on September 23. Our thoughts are with his wife, "Bee-Bee" and family.



### SCARECROW FESTIVAL NEWS

September 26 was a picture-perfect day! Not too hot, not too cold. Not too breezy -- just right for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Scarecrow Festival. Crowds continued to flow into festival throughout the day, enjoying the variety of vendors, entertainers, and the food! Not much was left at 5 P.M. when this popular event started winding down. The chicken BBQ was a big hit and a great way to end the day; it was a sell-out, 250 meals were served! The clean-up crew is to be commended for getting the church and grounds cleaned up and back in shape in record time!

You've heard it said that the festival is an all-church effort. It takes a lot of people to make it a success, and it was a huge success this year. Thank you to everyone who had anything to do with making it such a wonderful day. The amount raised is not yet known; some bills still need to be paid. But when we know, so will you!

A big thank you goes to the festival committee who worked since January to plan for this one-day event. Special thanks go to the co-chairs; Shirley Hodkinson and Carolyn Shea. Their leadership inspired workers to make this year's Festival an enjoyable time for all. Well done!

We're still hoping that someone will come forward to organize next year's festival. If you're interested or want to know more details, speak with Shirley or Carolyn, or contact the church office.

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### AND THE WINNER IS...

We had more scarecrows than usual gracing the Field of Dreams this year. Winner of the "Pastor's Choice Award" was Joy & Rich Chalifoux. Congratulations! Other winners include:

#### Adults:

1<sup>st</sup> - Linda & Antonio Farinha, "Scot Hay-ney"  
2<sup>nd</sup> - Bethany Shaw, "Scared Crow"

#### Children:

1<sup>st</sup> - Courtney Davis and Anna Dutrumble,  
"Bob, Kevin, and Stewart"

2<sup>nd</sup> - J.P. Cook, Mission Scarecrow

#### Group/Non Profit Organization:

1<sup>st</sup> - Jarred Harris/Preston Vol. Fire Dept.,  
"Fireman"

2<sup>nd</sup> - Sue Brosnan, "Minions of reasons to read"

#### Vendors:

George Deep, 3 DX Studios

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### PHASE ONE STEWARDSHIP

It was stated last month that our church now has a two-phase stewardship program. Phase One (the Sanctuary renovation mortgage) is now underway and will conclude October 11. Letters were mailed to the congregation seeking financial support to pay down the \$60,000 mortgage. Please give as you are able, knowing that whatever amount is pledged will help us reduce the loan amount.

Pledges totaling \$5,730 have been received to date, and we thank those of you who submitted them. The current balance of the Sanctuary mortgage is just under \$49,246.06. We're getting there, but we need your help. Please consider offering your pledge this week. Copies of the stewardship letter, as well as pledge forms, are available on the Information Center table. Keep in mind that payment of your pledge begins in January 2016, and NOT this month as it says in the letter. If you have any questions about this appeal, please contact the church office. We thank you in advance for your continued support!

Phase Two, which is a financial appeal for the 2016 church budget, will begin the week of November 9 and run through the end of the year.

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### NEW ANNEX SIGN

A new sign will grace the lawn of the annex in just a few weeks. The old sign, hand crafted by the late "Bean Hill Whittler" of Norwich more than 20 years ago has seen better days! It will be replaced with a new sign much like that of the one on the church lawn. The new sign will include the street number (321), as well as the logo of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (Mayflower). It will also notify visitors that the church offices are in the white house and not the church. The new sign is made possible through a generous gift given by Stella Dawley (*Thank you!*). It is given in memory of: Donald & Georgie Barnes, and Arthur Dawley. Watch for the new and very attractive sign -- coming soon!

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### ADULT MISSION TRIP NEWS

Our fall mission trip is scheduled for October 11-16, to Staten Island, New York. This year we're working with Project Hospitality who provides services to the food insecure and homeless. We'll be working in a food pantry and soup kitchen and there may also be some construction work

available related to Super Storm Sandy damage. Keep the missions team in your prayers as they help to improve the lives of others!

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### 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](mailto:lorihall255@gmail.com) or 860.887.9558.

Lori Hall, Adult Missions Coordinator

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### HOLIDAY/CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Circle the date, November 21<sup>st</sup>. 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 raffle, food, and a quilt raffle are just some of the things you will see on this day. Area vendors will also be present. We have a few tables available for holiday related items you'd like to sell. The cost of an 8' table is \$25. Please contact the church office by October 15<sup>th</sup> if you're interested in being part of the bazaar. The committee will review each request and notify you.

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### THE NUTS ARE COMING!

All kinds of nuts and candies will be available for purchase again this year. Watch the worship folder for the arrival date. Get yours fast, they're very popular – especially as Christmas gifts!

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### BIBLE STUDY

The Monday morning study group continues to meet from 10 to 11 in the coffee hour room. We're currently exploring some of the writings of the "minor prophets" and what they had to say to the people on God's behalf (it's fascinating and eye-opening!). The study is for anyone wanting to learn more about God and His people. No prior knowledge of the Bible is required. Come and learn, and meet some wonderful people at the same time. As always, the coffee pot will be on!

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### COLLETTE (Travel)

We had a good turnout for the Collette travel presentation on September 21<sup>st</sup>. While there was interest in all four travel "possibilities" for 2016, the Alaskan Cruise was the trip that most attendees wanted to know more about. Watch for brochures at the Information Center stating all the details of this wonderful trip which will take place in the summer of 2016.

 **collette**  
guided by travel

## THIS MONTH

**October 18**, Our church will host the "Fall Gathering" of the Northeast Fellowship of Congregational Christian Churches beginning at 3 P.M. and concluding with a dinner at 6 P.M. You are invited to attend but you **MUST** register with the church office for planning purposes. Please do so by October 11.

**October 24**, Our very popular "Turkey Supper" (with all the fixins!) will be held. This supper is usually a "sell-out." You can purchase tickets on Sunday mornings, or reserve them by calling the church office. Dinner will be served from 4 – 6:30 P.M. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children (12 and under). Don't wait until the day of the supper to purchase or reserve your tickets; they're on sale now!

**October 25**, A "Free Concert" will be held in the Sanctuary starting at 4 P.M. We will welcome a group of young people from surrounding cities and towns known as "LUNCH" (Local United Network to Combat Hunger). Hannah, Peter, and Nathaniel Crary participate in this popular group that has been raising awareness of hunger in CT and the U.S. since 1989. The group will sing the songs of Harry Chapin. Those planning to attend the concert are asked to bring a non-perishable food item for our food pantry shelves. A "free-will" offering will also be received to support local food pantries, including ours. We look forward to LUNCH being with us, and we ask you to tell others about the concert; it's open to the public!

**October 31**, All men of the church are welcome to attend a get-together in the coffee hour room for coffee, donuts, and conversation. It's an opportunity to meet others and hear what's happening in the church. Tim Bowles and Rev. Stan are organizing the event that will run from 8 – 9:30 A.M. Please sign the sheet on the Information center bulletin board if you plan to attend. We hope to see you there!

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### PRESTON PILGRIM ONLINE

Did you know that you can now read the monthly newsletter online? Our website is: [Prestoncitycongregational.org](http://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.

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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. Many people have generously volunteered to take on this act of compassion in years past, and now we are in need of more volunteers when the need arises. If you would be willing to be a part of this important ministry, please call meal coordinator Lois Woodmansee at 860.889.2128.

# The Preston Junior Pilgrim



## Preston City Congregational Church Sunday School Newsletter

### Prayer Works



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

WHAT CAN BE FINER than watching a cartoon with your grandchildren or some preschool friends! This week I had the opportunity to watch "PAW PATROL" who are dogs dressed as a fireman, policeman, construction worker, etc. If you run into a problem and call the Paw Patrol, they'll be there right away to deliver you from the dilemma you face. It's Paw Patrol to the rescue. "No job is TOO BIG;" Chase, the police officer is on the case!

AS I was sitting there caught up in the action of those speedy pups, I couldn't help thinking about God and how no job is TOO BIG! Do we have the ultimate trust as these little children do watching this cartoon that the PAW PATROL will save the day or do we think our lives get too tangled up at times for God to be "on the case."

WE MUST NEVER FORGET to call upon the Lord. In the book that has every answer we seek, there are numerous scripture passages that speak to this:

"(and) call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me." Psalm 50:15

So I say to you: "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." Luke 11:9

Sometimes it feels like God is not listening, but rest assured God hears every word and will answer you in His time. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5,6

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. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the ways you have graced my life since learning of my breast cancer. Treatments are not fun, but bearable. The cards, the books, the meals, have meant so much to me. If ever I feel low, I check out those cards sent weeks ago and re-read them and am so lifted by your caring. Your encouraging words are God-sent.  
Sincerely, Sandy*

### OCTOBER BIBLE VERSES

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." (Mark 10:14b) Grades Nursery 3- Grade 2)



Memory Verse

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like I Love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37-39 (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 missed September, there will be an opportunity to make up one missed verse.

YOUTH MISSION TRIP 2016 has been reserved for 18 participants; 15 students, 3 leaders, to Washington, D.C. from July 24<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup>. Letters will go out this coming week to the families of all eligible students. Ten spaces remain available as students who served last year receive the first opportunity to enroll as per our Youth Mission Trip guidelines. Students who are presently in 8<sup>th</sup> grade will receive letters for this trip as well as students who will complete 12<sup>th</sup> grade this year. Call the Giulianos (860.376.8901), the Van Alsts (860.230.9947) or the church office (860.887.4647) if you have questions.

**YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE...** I'm preparing a new church list soon and know many people have given up their land lines to cell phones, addresses have changed, and sometimes names. Please email the church office at [pccc@snet.net](mailto:pccc@snet.net) or call 860.887.4647 to update your information if anything has changed. Please indicate to me if you want your cell number to remain confidential and I'll make a note of that. Church lists are used for church purposes only and are not given out to anyone.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL PAGEANT REHEARSALS** for grades 1 & up begin Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Naomi Bushnell (860. 984.8188) will be directing them. *A Tree Lot Christmas* will be presented on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. for the whole church community. Children can be signed up on the Information Center bulletin board or by calling Naomi.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** opened September 13<sup>th</sup> with 125 students registered. There is always room for more! The following volunteers have answered the call to teach: Anne Klewin, Emma Price, aide; Karleen Zachem, Sarah McLaughlin, aide; Lisa Fessenden, Madison Gileau, aide; Susan Mattern, Jamie Webster, aide; Linda Bruckner, Angelika Larkin, aide; Kimberly Tucker, McKenzie Gauthier, aide; Amanda Turner, Kayla Wisniewski, aide; Megan Maynard, Cathy Rider, Leigh Melia, Hal and Carole West, Rick Alletto, Jerry & Cheryl Giuliano, Sue Brosnan, Lois Woodmansee, Elizabeth Del Core, Scott & Lisa Van Alst. Our Storyteller is Shari Purcell and Enrichment Coordinator Naomi Bushnell. Baby Nursery Coordinators are Melissa Blondet and Denise Luft. Aides to the D.R.E. are CJ Deroy, Zachary Houghton, Tabasia Shaw, and Alayna Vantine. I am grateful for these volunteers...without them our Sunday School wouldn't exist!

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month. The October dates are the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 25<sup>th</sup>. Please come and join us, invite someone to come with you, or tell someone about it.

**THE HIGH CLASS** has been busy already working on their Class Goal of Missions. On September 27<sup>th</sup>, they visited all the Sunday School classes on behalf of our mission child, Kalid who lives in Africa. They sent flyers home with all the students as to how they could help:

- Spread the Word! Tell your family and friends that our church has a sponsor child in Africa that needs our help, his name is Kalid.
- Make a donation, we could use school supplies such as notebooks, pencils, pens or some notecards to send to Kalid. (Note: unfortunately we only have a small package to send to him, so no big items please!)
- Donate to the money jar that is located in the Sunday School Hall; all the money collected goes to Kalid to help pay for his education.
- Pray for Kalid and his community.

In October, they will be building a bench for the Homeless Veterans Home in Jewett City as well as writing messages in special cards designed by Tracy Rosiene that will be brought to the veterans in Rocky Hill.

Missions, as a Class Goal, was a pilot program in 2014 and was highly successful. Our teachers, Elizabeth Del Core and Scott & Lisa Van Alst are very committed to helping their students make this happen again in 2015. Godspeed!

**THE SENIOR PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP** and Youth Missions participants served a lunch at the semi-annual meeting that was delicious. They made \$70 which they will split between the Senior P.F. and Youth Missions. Though they did not make a lot of money, they were happy to serve their church.

**THE JUNIOR PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP** (Grades 6, 7, 8) has not at the present time made any arrangements to meet. A small number of families (5) returned the surveys. If there is sufficient interest to continue and a co-leader is obtained, Linda Kent-Farinha (860.892.5215) is open to continuing as a co-leader.



SEPTEMBER  
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# OCTOBER 2015

NOVEMBER  
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**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](http://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 questions, 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](http://prestoncitycongregational.org) When Sunday School is cancelled, church is **NOT CANCELLED** unless specifically announced.

To place flowers in church during October, call Sallie Quinn (860.646.2021)	Please note: Active church members who wish to borrow church property (tables, chairs) call the church office.	Please check with Rev. Stan or Sandy before using our names as references. This courtesy would be appreciated.		1 Hand bell rehearsal 6p Adult choir 7p	2 Third grade First Communion meeting 6p	3 Yard sale 8a-2p
4 World Communion Sun. worship 9,10:30a Sunday School 8:45a SS communion 9:05a Adult choir sings 8a Youth choir 10-10:25a	5 Bible study 10a Confirmation 8:30p Scarecrow wrap-up Meeting 8:30p Yoga 8:30p	6 Friends & Family Café 9-11:30 Financial Peace University 7p	7 AA 6:30-9:00 p.m.	8 Hand bell rehearsal 6:15p Adult choir 7p	9	10 Yard sale rain date
11 Worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a "Bring It" 10:30a	12 Columbus Day Office closed NO Bible study NO Confirmation Yoga 6:30p	13 Friends & Family Café 9-11:30 Staff meeting 10a Board of Rel. Ed. 6p SS pageant rehearsal 6p (Gr. 1 & up) Fin. Peace Univ. 7p	14 St. Jude's worship 11a Finance Committee meeting 7p AA 8:30-9:00 p.m.	15 Hand bell rehearsal 8:15p Adult choir 7p	16 Wedding rehearsal 3:30p	17 Wedding 3p
18 Worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a Adult choir sings 8a Northeast Fellowship of Congregational Christian Churches 3p	18 Bible study 10a Confirmation 8:30p Yoga 8:30p	20 Friends & Family Café 9-11:30 SS pageant rehearsal 6p Financial Peace University 7p	21 Trustees' meeting 6:00p Standing Committee meeting 7p AA 6:30-9:00p	22 Hand bell rehearsal 6:15p Adult choir 7p	23	24 Turkey supper 4-6:30p
25 Worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a "Bring It" 10:30a Food distribution Sunday LUNCH concert 4p	26 Bible study 10a Confirmation 8:30p Yoga 8:30p	27 Friends & Family Café 9-11:30 SS pageant rehearsal 6p Financial Peace University 7p	28 Creamery Brook 3p AA 6:30-9:00p	29 Hand bell rehearsal 6:15p Adult choir 7p	30	31 Men's get together 8-8:30a



Don't forget...  
**Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>**  
Daylight savings time  
Ends, move clocks back.

