

# THE PRESTON PILGRIM

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



**SEPTEMBER  
2014**

## 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](mailto:PCCC@SNET.NET)

WEBSITE: [prestoncitycongregational.org](http://prestoncitycongregational.org)

Visit us on **FACEBOOK**

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



## WHAT A BUSY, BUT EXCITING SUMMER!

By the time you receive this newsletter, it will be "Opening Day" here at our church! September 7 is the day, and I hope you and your family will be present for another great year of Sunday School starting at 8:45 A.M. and worship at 9 & 10:30 A.M. Why not invite new families and neighbors to your church this fall? As I've said before, *YOU are our best advertisement!*

I look forward to seeing families, friends, children and youth who have been away this summer. You've been missed!

We spent summer Sundays in the Sunday School hall while the Sanctuary has been under renovation. I thank those who faithfully attended services during July and August.

As I write, the renovation work is nearing the end. Everything will be ready for worship on the 7<sup>th</sup>. The upper windows of the Sanctuary that have been covered over since the early 70's have been exposed, letting in the beautiful light once again. New, energy efficient storm windows have

been installed on all the Sanctuary windows. For the first time in over 100 years, the Sanctuary is **fully insulated!** The entire worship space has been repainted. New carpet has been installed, and the chancel area has been configured in such a way that the pulpit, half-walls, and baptismal font are now all removable! This will be wonderful for special programs during the year.

I'm not saying anything more! You've got to be present for the "**BIG REVEAL**" on the 7<sup>th</sup>. You will be impressed!

I thank the Building Committee for their hard work; for hours spent in meetings, and for coming up with paint and carpet selections that will enhance the Sanctuary.

I also thank you, the members and friends of this church who contributed monetary gifts to make the renovation work a reality.

Last of all, I thank God; He makes all things possible! It is for His glory (not ours) that the renovations were made. We are the "stewards" (the care takers) of His House - we're asked to watch over what belongs to Him. Future generations of believers will benefit from the faithfulness of today's congregation.

Join us *this* Sunday for the celebration and the Dedication. Join us as the light shines in and God smiles down!

See you in Church!  
*Rev. Stan*

## DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS

We welcomed into the Household of Christian Faith, through the Sacrament of Baptism:

6/1 *Hope Payton Tucker*, daughter of Kimberly & Ryan Tucker of Griswold

6/15 *Hannah Leeann Gates*, daughter of Katie & Jeffery Gates of Preston

7/13 *Trenton Tadeusz Krystofiak*, son of Kaylene & Tadeusz Krystofiak of Preston

We congratulated the following couples who were united in marriage:

5/30 *Danielle Fenton* to *Keith Aspinwall* at Norwich Inn & Spa

6/28 *Jennifer Currier* to *John Lamperelli* at Mystic Congregational Church

7/5 *Jessica Pappas* to *Mark Greczkowski*

7/27 *Nancy Musa* to *Joseph Savino*

8/2 *Beth Fitch* to *Sean O'Brien*

8/23 *Krystine Conde* to *Jonnathan Blanchard* at Alpine Country Club, Cranston, RI

We expressed our sympathy to the family of:

6/9 *James Sharp*

7/3 *Minerva "Minnie" Savage*. "Min" was a wonderful lady who loved her family and church very much; she *loved* life! Although she lived these last few years with Parkinson's disease, she never let this debilitating illness take away her love for others. She was a faithful member of this church and will be greatly missed.

8/16 *Anne Merriam*. For 66 years Anne was the wife of Floyd Merriam. Together they were committed to each other, to their church and God, as well as the many friends they made while attending the church. Anne was also grateful to the friends who would often come for a visit. She always had the best interest of the church in mind, and was a faithful member to the end. *Anne's memorial service will be held Saturday, September 13, at 11 A.M. in the Sanctuary.* Please join Floyd and son, Paul for this service of remembrance and celebration.

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## THE CHRISTIAN FLAG

waving proudly on the annex lawn, is given in memory of George Abrahamson by Shirley & Don Walsh.

*Did you know that we have recently begun lowering the Christian flag when a church member passes away? The flag is lowered on the day of passing, and is raised on Sunday. We thank Don Walsh for lowering and raising the flag.*

## FUNDRAISING RESULTS

We thank everyone who made these events possible and successful. The proceeds from our fundraisers help to underwrite our church budget:

Church yard sale (May 17) \$866.87  
Ham & Bean Supper (June 28) \$1,165.34

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## MISSING

While cleaning the church kitchen recently, it was discovered that all but one of the gray plastic bins are missing. These bins are used for church suppers. If you borrowed them, but forgot to return them, *please bring them back ASAP!* Remember... If you wish to borrow church property, you **MUST** speak with the church office first. Please do not "help yourself." Thanks!

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## SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, September 14, at Noon

Plan to attend this informative meeting and learn about the many things happening in our church. Everyone is invited to attend, however, only church members may vote on issues that may arise. Financial reports for the SAM are due in the office by September 8. *Standing Committee members are reminded that the SAM replaces the usual monthly meeting. There is NO meeting on September 17.*

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## FROM THE ORGANIST & CHOIR DIRECTOR

Adult choir rehearsal will resume September 4, at 7 P.M. in Halls' Hall. Rehearsal will be preceded by food and fellowship at 6:30 P.M. Feel free to join us.

The Youth Choir will resume their rehearsals on September 21 and the Children's Choir on September 28. Please note that there will be **NO youth choir rehearsal** on October 12.

On September 18, there will be an "open rehearsal." Have you ever wondered what the choir does at rehearsals? Well, now's your chance to find out. We are having an "open rehearsal" from 7-8 P.M. down in the coffee hour room. There will be extra chairs set up for visitors to sit in and see the fun, fellowship and hard work that goes on during Thursday night practices. Why not consider stopping by - Robin

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## ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Join us Monday mornings, from 10 to 11 A.M. in Halls' Hall (coffee hour room) starting September 15. We'll be studying the book of Romans this fall; Paul, the author has much to say to the church in Rome and to us as well. It's an informal hour, and no prior Bible knowledge or understanding is necessary to attend. Come and learn, and meet some wonderful people. As always, the coffee pot will be on! Rev. Stan leads the study group.

### LOOKING AHEAD...

**October 5... World Communion Sunday.** Third grade students will receive communion in the Sanctuary. There will be a brief class for Students planning to receive the cup & bread on Friday, October 3, at 6 P.M. in Halls' Hall. Parents will be receiving a letter in the mail regarding this meaningful day.

**October 10 - 12... it's back!** The very popular *dinner theater*; save the date! Director Mary Norris is presently rehearsing with her actors in the funny, melodrama "*The Face on the Barroom Floor*." Tickets will go on sale soon. A dinner will precede the Friday and Saturday evening performances. Dessert only will be offered at the Sunday afternoon performance. Get your tickets early, they sell fast!

**October 18, the annual Turkey Supper.** Save the date; it's a very popular dinner!

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### THE CHURCH MEMORIAL FUND

For many years, the church has had a memorial fund - a monetary fund established in memory of a loved one upon their death. The primary purpose of the memorial fund is to keep the church financially healthy, and to aid her in her many endeavors.

According to our current bylaws, upon the death of a loved one, the family may establish a memorial fund account for one year. After one year, if the family has not approached the church expressing a desire to use their loved one's memorial fund for a specific purpose (approved by the Diaconate), the account will be placed in the church's general memorial fund.

What better way to remember and honor the passing of a loved one than having contributions offered to the church following their death? So much good has been accomplished through the years because of the memorial fund.

If you have any questions about the memorial fund, please contact the church office.

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### REMEMBERING YOUR CHURCH

Several people have mentioned that they plan to remember their church in their will. Have you considered doing so?

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### DON'T FORGET...

There will be "Silent Auction" at this year's Scarecrow Festival; 9:30 - 1 P.M. If you would like to donate a gift certificate from your business, please contact Barbara Perry or Joan Racicot. --Thanks!



### YOUR COOPERATION IS NEEDED

Please remember if you are planning to use one of the church halls for an event on Sunday that **both halls and the kitchen are in use until 1 P.M.** Please DO NOT arrive early planning to set up for your event while church-related events are still in progress. Your understanding is appreciated.

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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.

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### MISSING

While taking inventory of church property recently, we discovered that many of the metal chairs we loan to members of the congregation have not been returned. Do you have some in your basement or garage that you have forgotten to return to the church? Please bring them back as soon as possible so others may borrow them. Still missing are two 8' tables with tan laminate tops. Please remember that you must contact the church office before tables and chairs leave the property. Thanks.

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### TRIPS AND TRAVELS

Is there an interest in traveling to New Orleans in October 2015? How about a River Cruise after Thanksgiving in 2015? Speak with the minister; if there's enough interest, we'll arrange for Collette Travel to come to the church and give us all the details.

### SCARECROW FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27<sup>th</sup>

Pancake Breakfast 7:30 - 10:30

Festival 9:30 - 4pm

Chicken BBQ 3:00-6:30pm (parking on site after 4:30)



### Scarecrows Wanted!

What would a SCARECROW FESTIVAL be without scarecrows?

Let's not find out!!!

Join in on the fun and enter the scarecrow contest

You are only limited by your imagination!!

Too busy? Encourage a family member or friend to enter. Our continued success depends on your involvement.

Guidelines & registration forms can be found on the church website  
[Prestoncitycongregational.org](http://Prestoncitycongregational.org)

If you would still like to be a volunteer for the festival, please contact  
Shirley Hodkinson 860-887-8760 or Carolyn Shea 860-887-8592

# The Preston Junior Pilgrim



## Preston City Congregational Church Sunday School Newsletter

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:



*"Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come."*

1 Timothy 4:7,8

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** begins again **September 7<sup>th</sup>** at 8:45 a.m. I'm convinced it is the place to be! In reading the Bible this week, these verses jumped out at me as I have one of my yearly struggles opening Sunday School and finding that sports are scheduled for Sunday mornings and sometimes I sigh and question what do we have to offer that competes with sports?? Well, the answer became clear to me as I read the scripture above. Sports, as great as they are, will come and go, often with aging and other responsibilities. But the *faith and our devotion to God will make all the difference from birth to death and beyond.* Today I want to leave my job, I want to campaign that Sunday mornings will be reserved for God, I want to change the world. Then I remember *my* devotion to God and my belief that *"thy will be done"* and I'm sure it will. God has other plans for me than to be out campaigning. The children and teens will arrive on September 7<sup>th</sup> and I'll be here welcoming them. It is important work and I'm humbled that God has chosen me to do it. Sometimes I run into former students who have gotten "off tract" with addictions that have brought them down some bad paths. They have not avoided talking to me because they know I will not judge them harshly only love them more and pray for them more. I am reminded again and again how important it is that the children develop faith and that it not be left to days when there's nothing else to do.

**DO NOT GET ME WRONG...**I will warmly welcome each little or big athlete when the games are done. I'll be so thrilled they're here. I'll always be praying for the children because I know, for sure, how important the faith factor is. Parents, as we start another Sunday School year, please make every effort to work with us in encouraging your children to be here as much as possible. It may not be instant gratification, but I have lived to see the wonderful results of years of exposure to the faith and a church that loves the children unconditionally. It is a blessing you won't want your children to miss. It is not to be found everywhere, I'm truly "not kidding!"

I'm so grateful to the following adults and teens who will be here with me in the 2014-2015 Sunday School year because they know the great importance that the children know how much God loves them, especially when the tough times come and they will: Anne Klewin, Tiffany Barry, Susan Mattern, Jamie Webster, Lisa Fessenden, Madison Gileau, Jessica Priest, Sarah McLaughlin, Linda Bruckner, Angelika Larkin, Kayla Wisniewski, Monique Maynard, Megan Maynard, Hal & Carole West, Lisa Houghton, Tienna Deroy, Jerry & Cheryl Giuliano, Karleen Zachem, Susan Brosnan, Lois Woodmansee, Shari Purcell, Naomi Bushnell, Zachary Houghton, Olivia Roark, and Heidi Willard.

May the SONshine through me,

*Pandy Dudek*

**RECIPIENTS OF THE HELEN BENJAMIN SCHOLARSHIP FUND** presented in church on June 8<sup>th</sup> were **Alexandra Kobelski** (University of New Hampshire), **Monique Maynard** (Three Rivers Community College), and **Kellen Strader** (University of Rhode Island). We wish these fine young people the BEST as they begin their college years. Our prayers and good thoughts go with them.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** was an awesome week this summer for both adults and children. All 50 spaces were taken as the children heard interactive stories from Moses (Rev. Stan), visited tents in the Sunday School Hall (the desert) where they participated in a variety of crafts as well as learning new skills, played games, did tie-dye shirts, had snacks (including fruit sticks provided by Ahepa on Route 165 as an outreach). *Wilderness Escape* was just great. Thank you to all the adults and teens who worked so hard to make it a fun week.

**THE YOUTH MISSION TRIP PARTICIPANTS**, 14 youth and 2 leaders served in the Rutland/Green Mountains area this year and had a memorable time serving others in the name of Christ and of our church. Fifteen spaces have been reserved for the 2015 summer mission trip to Niagara Falls, New York. The Board of Religious Education is revising the trip guidelines so young people will not be able to register until late September. An announcement will be given in Sunday School and church when registration forms are available.

**SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING... YOUTH MISSION PARTICIPANTS** will soon be taking orders for freshly sliced and prepared deli sandwiches with a side of potato chips or macaroni salad at a cost of \$5.00. Soft drinks will also be available. Any profit after expenses will benefit the 2015 youth mission trip.

**THE SENIOR PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP** (students grades 9-12) went on an end of the year retreat to Fishers Island and, though a small group, had a great time. In September they will meet for pizza and planning for the upcoming year. Watch the church bulletin for more information.

**THE JUNIOR PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP** had an end of the year outing to Adventureland in Narragansett, RI. It proved to be a lot of fun with 16 Jr. Pilgrims attending. Our youth enjoyed bumper boats, mini golf, go-carts, merry-go-rounds, Subway for lunch and ice cream! Tentatively a meeting has been planned for September 14<sup>th</sup> to plan for the coming year. Watch the bulletin for further information. Co-leaders Linda Farinha (860.608.6641) or Andy McCaslin (860.917.6572) may be contacted for further information.

## **Preston City Congregational Church**

**321 Route 164, Preston, CT**

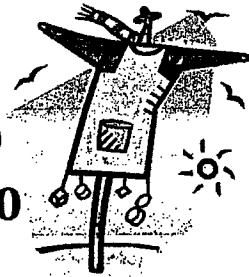


# **Scarecrow Festival 2014**

**September 27th, 9:30 - 4:00**

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST 7:30 - 10:30**

**CHICKEN BARBEQUE 3:00 - 6:30**



**Family Fun**

**Silent Auction - lots of great items!**

- Dozens of Vendors & Crafters
- Pumpkin Patch Children's Area
- Crow's Nest & Chowder Shack Refreshments
- Mason's CHIP Program
- Live Entertainment
- Bake Shop & Coffee Café

## **Scarecrow Contest**

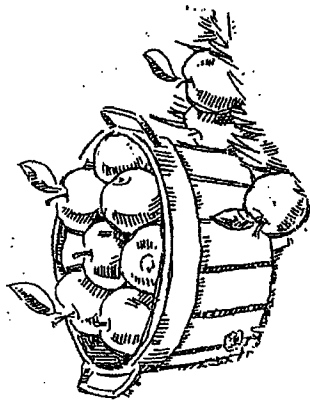
**Individuals, Kids(12 & Under) and Groups/Business**

**Win Cash Prizes!!!!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION & CONTEST REGISTRATION FORMS VISIT

[WWW.PRESTONCITYCONGREGATIONAL.ORG](http://WWW.PRESTONCITYCONGREGATIONAL.ORG)

OR CALL 860-887-4647



AUGUST  
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# September 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Labor Day Office closed NO Yoga	2 Friends & Family Café 9-11:30a ARC 10:30a Sunday School Teachers/Aides meeting 6:30p	3 ARC 10:30a AA 7:30p	4 Adult choir 7p	5	6	
7 Worship 9, 10:30a "Two-Can Sunday" Sunday School Begins 8:45a Adult choir sings 9a	8 Friends & Family Café 9-11:30a Staff meeting 9a ARC 10:30a Board of Religious Education meeting 6p	9 Friends & Family Café 9-11:30a Staff meeting 9a ARC 10:30a Board of Religious Education meeting 6p	10 ARC 10:30a St. Jude's worship 11a AA 7:30p	11 Adult choir 7p	12 Anne Merriam Memorial service 11a	13
14 Communion wor ship 9, 10:30a Sunday School 8:45a Sunday School commu- nion 9:05a "Bring It" 10:30a Semi-annual meeting Noon	15 Bible study 10a Confirmation informa- tional meeting 6:30p	16 Friends & Family Café 9-11:30a ARC 10:30a	17 ARC 10:30p Creamery Brook 3p AA 7:30p	18 Adult choir 7p	19	20
21 Worship 9, 10:30a Adult choir sings 9a Youth choir begins 10a	22 Bible study 10a Scarecrow Festival meeting 6:30p	23 Friends & Family Café 9-11:30a ARC 10:30a Autumn begins today!	24 ARC 10:30a Scarecrow Festival tent raising 4:30p AA 7:30p	25 Adult choir 7p	26 Scarecrow Festival registration and set-up 4-8p Tables, chairs set up 4-7p	27 Pancake breakfast: 7:30-10:30a Scarecrow Festival 9:30a-4p Chicken barbecue 3-6:30p
28 Food Distribution Sunday	29	30 Friends & Family Café 9-11:30a ARC 10:30a	To place flowers in church during Septem- ber	Please check with Rev. Stan or Sandy Beforg using our names as references. This cour- tesy 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 mem- bers who wish to bor- row church property, (tables, chairs, etc.) call the church office at 860.887.4847.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

### SUNDAYS:

Morning worship, 9 a.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)

Please note that the Sacrament of Holy Communion has been moved to **September 14<sup>th</sup>** at both services and for the Sunday School.

Please be sure to get your chicken barbecue tickets early as they sell out quickly. Call the church or see Lee Ann Fessenden. Adults: \$10.00 Children 12 and under: \$5.00 Reserved tickets must be picked up by 5:00 p.m. Parking on site will be available from 4:30 p.m.