

THE PRESTON PILGRIM

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



SUMMER REVIEW & SEPT.

CHURCH ADDRESS

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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: prestoncitycongregational.org

Visit us on **FACEBOOK**

News and information for the **October** newsletter is due in the church office by **September 17th**. You may leave information in the holder located on the wall in the kitchen.

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FROM THE MINISTER...

This article that was handed to me a while ago is definitely worth sharing with you and your family; especially as we get back into the rhythm and routine of daily living.

Sue Shellenbarger wrote an article in the *Wall Street Journal* (January 29, 1995) entitled "Too many gadgets turn working parents into virtual parents." Speaking about the tendency for high-tech parents to reach out to their families through cell phones, emails, and texting, she stated that high-tech gear fails families when they try to use it:

- ✓ As a substitute for warm human contact.

This summer a parent told me that he texted from his basement at 12:01 A.M., "Happy Birthday" to his teenager in his bedroom. I also learned that some parents text their kids when supper is ready, even when they're in the house!

- ✓ As a band-aid for too much absence.
- ✓ As a stand-in for adults.

She closed the article with these words, "The trick of working parents is to find the middle ground

where technology enriches our ties with family members, rather than underscores our separations.

The *QUALITY* time that parents spend with the family (dinner, vacations, special occasions, etc.) are more valuable than material things. So, take five minutes from your busy schedule (I suggest more), the rewards will be far more memorable than the material things you provide. (Beverly Barrett)

In closing, I strongly encourage those who are glued to their tech gadgets to disconnect a while, and re-connect with family. Don't worry if, at first, they don't recognize your voice, they will. I can still hear my mother's voice!

Stay close to God,
Rev. Stan
Rev. Stan

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DURING THE SUMMER

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

June 4, *Paige Elizabeth Trotter*, daughter of Elizabeth & Erik Trotter of Griswold.

July 16, *Addison Olivia Serra*, daughter of Nicole & Joshua Serra of Preston.

July 23, *Matthew Veloce* and *Abigail Veloce*, children of Sandra Veloce (and the late Matthew Veloce) of Canterbury.

(Cont.)

July 30, *Emilia Jurczyk*, daughter of Laura & Christopher Jurczyk of Norwich.

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WE CONGRATULATED the following couples who were united in marriage:

June 6, *Koren Moran* and *Joel Jopson* at Pawcatuck, CT

June 24, *Alexis Giroux* and *Timothy Shea*

June 24, *Hillary Malin* and *Eric Gileau* at The Mansion at Bald Hill, Woodstock, CT

July 29, *Colleen Cournoyer* and *Anthony Sokolowski, III*

July 29, (Renewal of wedding vows) *Elizabeth* and *Nicholas Viens* at the VFW in Jewett City, CT (25 years!)

August 19, *Mariah Leclair* and *Justin Whitworth*

August 26, *Laura Marsh* and *Clifford Jackson*

WE EXPRESSED OUR SYMPATHY to the family of:

June 10, *Eugene McAllister*
June 21, *Lee Gillam*

Funerals

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THE CHRISTIAN FLAG flying proudly on the Annex lawn is given in memory of *Robin Faulise* by Shirley & Don Walsh.

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THANK YOU

To Robby Roark, the members of Boy Scout Troop #75, and their leaders, for the construction of an 8'x10' shed located behind the church. This was Robby's Eagle Scout project which was completed over the summer. There never seems to be enough storage space around the church. This new shed will help alleviate some of that problem. Thank you, Robby, for what you have done. The shed is dedicated to his sister, Olivia. Take a look at it when passing by.

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AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILATOR "AED"

During the morning worship service on August 6th, we dedicated an AED, purchased in memory of Jack Smiley, by his wife, family, and friends.

An AED is a portable device that checks the heart rhythm and can send an electric shock to the heart to try to restore a normal rhythm. As was stated during the dedication, an AED in the church building brings comfort and peace of mind to us all; knowing that just steps away is a device that may save a person's life. We thank the Smiley family, and those who contributed to Jack's memorial fund for this most important memorial gift.

SUMMER FINANCIAL REPORT

June: Monies received \$16,301.77

Expenses \$21,075.60 (\$-4773.83)

July: Monies received \$17,344.91

Expenses \$20,629.61 (\$-3284.70)

As you can see, we came up short for both months. Please help us keep our church financially strong. Is your pledge up-to-date? Please contact Sue Creamer (Financial Secretary) if you have any questions: 860.376.2731. Thanks for your continued support!

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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 any convenient time, from anywhere in the U.S 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.

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ONLINE GIVING UPDATE

There are 4 ways to sign up for online giving, and you can use your checking account, your savings account, or a debit/credit card:

- 1) Visit the church website and click on "Donate Now" in the upper right-hand corner of the home page; or:
- 2) Load a free app on your iPhone, Android phone or tablet. Simply go to the App Store or to the Google Play Store and load the app "Give Plus" by Vanco. After loading the app, it will prompt you to type in the church name, so type/select Preston City Congregational; or:
- 3) Load a free Bar Code on your iPhone, Android or tablet, and then scan the image in the next column.



4. If you don't have access to a computer or Smartphone, or you just want to sign up at the church, stop by the church office to fill out an authorization form, and we will set you up with an online giving account.

If you think you may miss church services due to travel or other commitments, consider setting up an automatic giving schedule. Your consistent support is vital to our church.

If you have any questions on this process, please call Bob Vescovi at (401) 583-7840 or email him at RVesco2010@comcast.net.

As always, we thank you for your faithful and continued support of the church!

TRUSTEES NEWS

People often think that things slow down around the church during the summer. Not our church; this is a church "in motion!" Always! The Trustees, who oversee the building and grounds, and the general upkeep of the church have been very busy this summer. Here is just "some" of what they accomplished:

- Professionally power washed the church, annex, and pavilion
- Scraped and repainted brick work
- Refurbished the front lawn sign board
- Remodeled the annex bathroom.

We thank the members of the Trustees who gave of their time and expertise to accomplish these projects. We're fortunate to have people in our congregation who care so deeply about their church. Well done!

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BIBLE STUDY

The first get-together will be on Monday, September, 18th, beginning at 10 A.M. in Halls' Hall. We will be studying the book of Proverbs and will use Charles Swindoll's new book on this subject as our guide. Join with others this fall as we learn and discuss important life lessons from the wisest man who ever lived. As always, the coffee pot will be on! No prior Bible knowledge is needed. NIV Bibles (New International Version) are available for those who would like one. Please speak with Rev. Stan who leads the Monday morning study.

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FLOWER COMMITTEE NEWS (FC)

To place flowers upon the altar for worship, the congregation is asked to put their name on the flower chart (mid-level bulletin board) for the Sunday they wish to donate flowers. Then, fill out a form located in the envelope beside the chart. Place your completed form in the offering plate, or bring it to the church office, or give it to the person whose name appears beside the month on the chart. You may offer flowers in memory of a loved one, a special anniversary or birthday, or another appropriate occasion. We ask that people refrain from bringing flowers to the church without first signing the chart. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the committee:

Doris MacLachlan	860.564.2609
Doreen Mainville	860. 639.4500
Melanie Scheuermann	860.334.0643
Carolyn Shea	860.887.8592

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BUS TRIP PLANNED

Join Rev. Stan on a bus trip to NYC, November 30th - December 1st. We'll leave the church parking lot at 8 A.M. and travel to the "Big Apple" where we'll have time for lunch (on our own) and some shopping before going to see the Christmas Show at Radio City Music Hall. After the show we'll head to our motel in NJ. After breakfast (included) the next day, we'll do some sightseeing via our motor coach before having

some free time to explore on our own. We'll head back to Preston in the afternoon, arriving back to the church around 8 P.M. The cost for the trip is \$325 per person, based on 40 travelers (\$418 single supplement) which includes: transportation, overnight accommodation, a ticket to the Christmas show, breakfast, sightseeing and gratuity for the driver. A deposit of \$25 is due NOW. Final payment is due October 16th. Please make your check payable to: *Preston City Congregational Church*. Brochures for this trip are available on the Information Center table. Friends and neighbors are welcome to join you! Speak with Rev. Stan if you have any questions. A sign-up sheet is posted on the mid-level bulletin board, and 28 people have already signed up.

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FROM THE ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR

Adult choir rehearsals will be held in Hall's Hall beginning September 7th at 7 P.M.

We are looking for a new Youth Choir director. If you would like to work with our teens each Sunday to prepare a monthly song/anthem, please see Robin Lyon. lyon.family@comcast.net or call 860.705.5943. This is a volunteer position.

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NEWS FROM THE PCCC BIKERS

In nearly 80% of accidents involving motorcycles that result in death, a head-on collision was to blame. Approximately 42% of all the accidents that involve motorcycles and other vehicles happen when cars are making left-hand turns. In a lot of cases, accidents occur when people don't see the motorcycle in in the car's blind spot. Remember, "Motorcycles are everywhere."

The next ride for the PCCC Riders is scheduled for Saturday, September 16th, with a rain-date of Sunday, the 17th. We'll meet in the lower church parking lot at 9:30 A.M. This ride will take us around coastal Rhode Island with a stop for lunch at the Ocean Mist at Point Judith. New riders and friends are welcome to join us.

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FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY (FPU)

What if you knew where all your money was going next month? What if you were debt-free, investing and making wise spending decisions? With FPU, you CAN take control of your money and start planning for your future. Our next FPU program begins October 10th. It's a nine-week program held each Tuesday evening from 6:30-8:30 here at the church, in Halls' Hall. If you're interested, there's a sign-up sheet on the mid-level bulletin board. If you have any questions about FPU, please email or call Bob Vescovi at RVesco2010@comcast.net or 401.583.7840.

save
the date!

MEN'S GROUP NEWS

The first meeting of the Men's Group will be Saturday morning, October 7th, from 8-9:30 in Hall's Hall. Come and join other men from the church for fellowship and conversation. Contact Ken Sebastian 860.887.4323 or Tim Bowles 860.889.9936 if you have any questions. Coffee and donuts will be available.

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COMING IN OCTOBER

Mark your calendar!



Mark Your
Calendar!

YARD SALE

October 7th
8 - 2 P.M.

(Rain date: October 14th)

TURKEY SUPPER

October 21st
4 - 6:30 P.M.

Adults \$11

\$6 Children 12 and under

TEEN CHALLENGE

October 29th

During both services of worship!

Plan to be present at worship as these men will share their stories of how God is working in their lives to overcome various addictions. You'll enjoy their music as well.

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PHOTO DIRECTORY

It's been a while since the last church photo directory was created. *Lifetouch* will be the company to organize and create the new directory. Each family/individual photographed will receive a free 8x10 color portrait, plus a free copy of the directory. The directory will be a great tool to help us learn the names and faces of those we worship with. Coordinators for the directory will be Debi Berube, Lee Ann Fessenden, and Lisa Fessenden. It is hoped that everyone associated with the church will participate in this project. You'll be hearing more very soon. Pictures will be taken in early November.

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THE YOUTH MISSION trip to Lynn/Boston was a life-changing trip for several of our youth that attended with their leaders Lisa & Scott Van Alst. We thank all of them for their service! Thank you to the congregation who supports their efforts.

TEN SPOTS have been reserved for the 2018 Youth Mission trip to **Benton Harbour, MI, July 15th-20th**. Registration forms will soon be available. Our present 8th graders will be eligible to go as well as those who graduate high school in 2018 and those who fall in between! Please address any questions about the trip to the Van Alsts.



WEBSTREAMING NEWS

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

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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.*

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MAKER FUN FACTORY, our Vacation Bible School theme this summer was so much fun (and work!) Forty-five kids were here as well as many of our teens and adults helping out. We are so grateful for the **generous response** of the congregation for the supplies and food items we needed. It made a big difference with this help.

What did the kids do there that was so much fun? They learned amazing songs with motions that not only were projected on the wall, but Lisa (Marino) Abel and her daughter, Marin, led us with the motions as well. The kids loved the skits everyday with Rev. Stan and Kaegan Willard. Each day they witnessed marvelous "inventions" with Mrs. Dudek and her aides. They attended KidVid with Debi Berube leading the discussion as they viewed video clips of real life kids who were positively dealing with life issues; i. e., a child with Type 1 diabetes. One of their favorite activities was "Imagination Station" with Rev. Stan, where "talk starter" questions were given to them. Depending on the answers they gave they could add a puzzle piece to Tower A or Tower B. Following this they participated in some amazing craft activities. Of course, they loved their snack time with Mrs. Dawley and her assistants. Shari Purcell continues her dedication here to VBS returning from New York to do recreation with our kids. She uses her talents to come up with some really fun things fun things for the kids to do. Rick Alletto assisted here. The kids made amazing tie dye shirts with Jean MacLauchlan and Lowell Calkins.

In December, plans will begin for next year's VBS. **The dates will be July 9th-13th**. Please mark your calendar.

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JUNIOR PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP for students grades 6, 7, and 8 is nonexistent right now. It is our hope that our young people will have an interest in forming a group. Please contact the D.R.E.

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The Preston Junior Pilgrim



Preston City Congregational Church Sunday School Newsletter

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION...



WELCOME FALL...READY OR NOT! The summer has flown by quickly and children have returned to school and most of our college young people have started or returned to classes. Our prayers are with them for a meaningful school year.

QUILTS OF VALOR...Months ago plans were made to have Quilts of Valor presented at our church during the November senior luncheon. QOV are stitched with love, prayers, and healing thoughts. Our troops who have been touched by war are awarded this tangible token of appreciation that unequivocally says, "Thank you for your service, sacrifice, and valor."

WE ARE LOOKING for ten (10) service people to recognize and if you have served in the military in any capacity, we invite you to call the office. Ten will be honored on a first come, first serve basis, but understanding that World War II and Korean vets will be given priority.

A QUILT OF VALOR is a generous lap-sized quilt, made by a quilt topper from quality fabrics and beautifully quilted by a longarmer. After it has been bound, washed, labeled and wrapped in a presentation case, it is ready to be awarded. One recipient said after receiving one of these quilts: "My quilt isn't another military medal to be placed in a box and sit on my shelf. I was moved to tears." (SSgt TC, US Army, Iraq '05)

YOU WILL NEED to write a paragraph or two and give it to me no later than October 10th. If you have served in the military in any capacity, I look forward to hearing from you.

ON ANOTHER NOTE, I am looking forward to the return of Sunday School. Please email or call me to register your children. Invite your friends and neighbors if they do not have a church home, we'd welcome having them at PCCC!

May the SONshine through me,

Sandy Oudek

AUGUST						
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		

OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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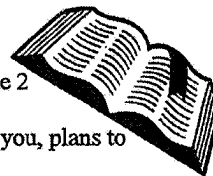
SEPTEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
To place flowers in church during Sept, sign the Flower Chart, fill out the Reservation form, and call Melanie	Scheuemann (860.334.0643)	LOST OR FOUND Something at church? There is a basket in the Information Center next to the table.	Please check with Rev. Stan or Sandy before using our names as references. This courtesy would be very much appreciated		1	2
3 Communion worship 9a Two can Sunday	4 LABOR DAY Office closed Yoga 6:30p	5 Sunday School teachers/aides meeting 6:30p	6 AA 7:30p	7 Adult choir 7p	8	9
10 Worship 9, 10:30a Sunday School begins 8:45a	11 Yoga 6:30p	12 Staff meeting 9a Board of Religious Education 8p	13 St. Jude worship 11a AA 7:30p	14 Adult choir 7p	15	16 PCCC Riders (motorcycle) (9:30a)
17 Worship 9, 10:30a Adult choir 9a Semi-annual mtg. Noon PCCC Riders rain date	18 Bible study 10a Confirmation informational meeting 6:30p Scarecrow Festival meeting 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	19	20 Scarecrow Festival set-up 4:30p Trustees' meeting 6p Standing Committee meeting 7p AA 7:30p	21 Adult choir 7p	22 Scarecrow Festival tables, chairs, set-up 4:30p Scarecrows registration 5-7p	23 8:30-9:30a Scarecrows registrat. SCARECROW FESTIVAL 10a-4p Chicken barbecue 3-5:30p
24 Worship 9, 10:30a Children's choir begins 10a Food Distribution Sunday	25 Bible study 10a Confirmation class 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	26 Employee Relations Committee 6:30p	27 Creamery Brook worship 3p AA 7:30p	28 Adult choir 7p	29 First communion Meeting 6p	30
				PLEASE NOTE: Active church members who wish to borrow church property, (tables, chairs, etc.) call the church office	Did you know...the newsletter is posted on our website: Prestoncitycongregational.org	

SEPTEMBER BIBLE VERSES

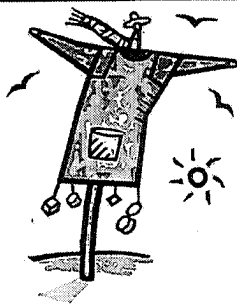
"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (Genesis 1:1) Grades Toddler 3-Grade 2

"For I know the plans I have for you", declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11 (Grades 3-12)



PLEASE ENCOURAGE students to earn 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 will be 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.

Preston City Congregational Church • 321 Route 164, Preston, CT



Scorecrow Festival 2017

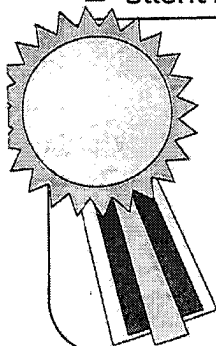
Saturday, September 23rd, 10:00 - 4:00

~ CHICKEN BARBEQUE 3:00 - 5:30 ~

FREE
admission

Something for Everyone...

- Over 65 Vendors & Crafters
- Live Broadcast **97.7WCTY** **100.9 KHITS**
BIG HITS - BIG FUN!
- Backus Health Van – Blood Pressure Screening
- Pumpkin Patch Children's Area – Crafts & Games
- Demonstrations – Bee Keeper, Gymnastics, Martial Arts
- Chicken BBQ, Crow's Nest, Chowder Shack & Bake Shop
- Petting Zoo – Circle K Farms & "Klyde E. Scope" the Clown
- Safety Center: Smokey the Bear, Smoke House, Ambulance
- Silent Auction – Restaurants, Spas, Golf, Artisan Gifts and More



SCARECROW CONTEST - ENTER SOON!

Categories for Children & Adults and...

"MAIN STREET" for Business & Organizations

Why not join in the fun, win cash prizes and promote
your business, all for FREE!!!!

FOR MORE INFORMATION & CONTEST REGISTRATION FORMS VISIT
WWW.PRESTONCITYCONGREGATIONAL.ORG/SCARECROW-FESTIVAL/
860-887-4647 OR EMAIL SCARECROWFESTIVAL2017@GMAIL.COM