

THE PRESTON PILGRIM



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

(Serving God and Community for 320 years!)

SEPTEMBER 2019

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SUMMER WORSHIP

9:00 A.M.

(May 26 – September 1, 2019)

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News and information for the October newsletter must be received by **September 15th**. You may leave information in the holder located on the wall in the kitchen.

CAN'T MAKE IT TO CHURCH?

You can watch the service online, Sundays at 9 A.M., or later in the day. All services are archived so you can watch them any day, any time, from anywhere. However, for optimum viewing, join us in person!



BE GREAT!

The world often refers to certain athletes as “The Greatest.” They are given that title because they are the best at what they do. Muhammad Ali, Babe Ruth, Michael Phelps, Simone Biles are just a few that come to mind. They deserve the title; they’ve worked hard, and sacrificed a lot to be the best, the greatest in their sport.

Jesus talks about being great. But his measure for greatness isn’t how many fights you’ve fought and won, or homeruns you’ve hit in your career, or gold medals around your neck, or incredible back flips you can do. While these statistics are impressive to the fans (the world). Jesus says, “*You want to be great? BE A SERVANT!*”

How do we become great in the eyes of the One who matters most? Let me remind you of a few ways I mentioned in a recent sermon:

- ✓ Let Christ be your model. He put others first. He didn’t come to be served, he came to serve others (Mark 10:45).
- ✓ Put yourself last, and others first. Remember, life is *not* all about you! The world will know that you belong to Christ by loving others (John 13:35).
- ✓ Show your love for God by loving others. If you see a need, do what you can to help someone, even the stranger. You’ll feel great afterward. Christ *commands* us to love each other (John 15:12).
- ✓ Use your gifts and resources in order to serve. “Use them well *to serve* one another” (I Peter 4:10).

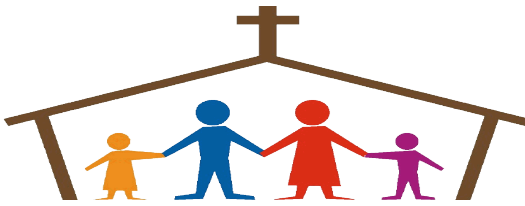
Each of us has the ability to serve others. Often times, it costs us nothing to do so, sometimes it does. Either way, it’s the right thing to do.

From time-to-time in the months ahead there will be opportunities to serve others in our church and communities. Some things will be easy while others will require a little more from

you. Please consider being the person Christ asks you to be, *a servant*.

When life is finished, it won't matter how many championship belts you've worn around your waist, or that you made it into the baseball Hall of Fame, or how many gold medals you won, or world records you set or broke. In the end, what will matter most is what you did for others. The words we should all hope to hear one day are these: "*Well done, good and FAITHFUL SERVANT!*" (Matthew 25:23).

Stay close to God,
Rev. Stan



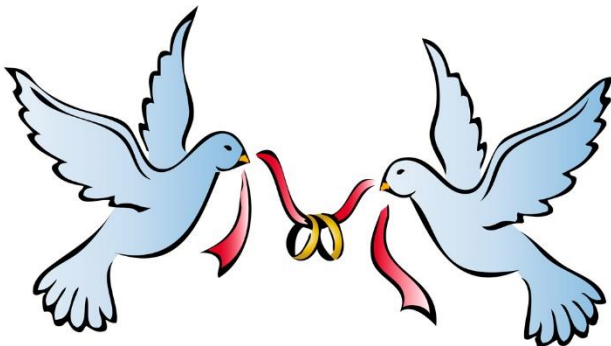
DON'T FORGET

We return to two services of worship on September 8th; 9 & 10:30 A.M. This is a great day to bring someone new to church or to Sunday School. Got new neighbors and families where you live? Why not tell them about your church? Better yet, why not invite them to join you? Our church is a great, family-friendly, children & youth-friendly place to be on Sunday mornings. *You are the best advertisement for your church!*

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DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST

We congratulate *Rebecca Exley* and *Kevin Zaylor* who will be united in marriage at The First Congregational Church in Canterbury on August 31st. We wish them much joy and happiness!



SUMMER GIVING

Thank you for faithfully and regularly giving to your church this summer. This is the first summer in recent memory where we did not fall behind in meeting our budget. We appreciate what you do for the church!

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SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

Plan to join us at the meeting on September 15th, starting at noon in Dudek Hall. A sandwich lunch including chips, beverage, and dessert will be available before the meeting in Halls' Hall (\$5). Come and hear about what's happening in your church. All are welcome!

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TO KEEP YOU INFORMED

All meeting minutes and financial reports from the monthly Standing Committee meeting which is held on the 3rd Wednesday at 7 P.M. in Halls' Hall are now posted on the hallway bulletin board opposite the Information Center table. Want to know what's happening in your church? Check out the bulletin board. Please know that anyone is welcome to attend this meeting.



LOCK THE DOORS

Any groups or meetings being held at the church are encouraged to lock the doors once their meeting or event begins.

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SAVE THE DATE

The fall yard sale will be held on Saturday, October 12th (rain date: October 19th), from 8 – 2 P.M. in the lower church parking lot. A lot of help will be needed for set-up at 6 A.M. and clean-up at 1:30 P.M. A couple of pick-up trucks will also be needed to take items to the transfer station at the end of the day. Please sign the sheet posted on the mid-level bulletin board if you're able to lend a hand, or speak with Stella Dawley who will serve as coordinator for this fundraising event.

HEALTH NEWS

New **FIRST AID KITS** have been purchased for the church. They are located in the kitchen, in the back hallway just off the Sanctuary, and the lower level hallway where the majority of classrooms are located; please take note of their locations. If any items need to be re-stocked, please let the office know.

-- *The Safety Committee*

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THANK YOU

to Mark Greczkowski for instructing about 15-20 people who stayed after church on August 25th, to learn how to use the AED (Automated External Defibrillator). This life saving equipment was given to the church in memory of Jack Smiley, by his family and friends. Is there an interest in the congregation to have a CPR/First Aid course? Mark is willing to instruct a 2-hour class for those who may be interested. Let the office know if you'd like to be part of the class.

Have you looked at the sign on the front lawn lately? Rich Thiffeault spent many hours cleaning it, removing the mold and grime that had built up on it over the years. It looks almost new!

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WHEN DOES IT START?

Adult Choir rehearsal, Thursday, September 5th, at 7 P.M. in Halls' Hall. If your schedule allows, come early (6:30) for a time of food and fellowship prior to practicing. The choir will sing on September 8th at the 10:30 service.

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" on September 12th, from 7-8 P.M. in Halls' Hall (Coffee Hour room). There will be extra chairs set up for visitors to sit in and see the fun, fellowship and hard work that go on during our Thursday night practices. All are welcome.

Soloists... There is a new sign-up sheet on the hallway bulletin board for the fall. Please consider signing up to share your talents and provide music for the offertory some Sunday.

Handbell choir rehearsal will begin after the Scarecrow Festival. The group will meet on Tuesday evenings on the lower level beginning October 1st, at 6 P.M. Contact Robin Lyon if you have any questions.

Monday morning Bible study, September 16th, at 10 A.M. in Halls' Hall. We'll be studying Paul's letter to the Ephesians. The class runs 1 hour and is led by Rev. White. The coffee pot is always on!



Tuesday evening Bible study, led by Scott Van Alst begins September 17th at 6:30 P.M. in Halls' Hall.

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FIRST COMMUNION REHEARSAL

Students in grade 3 will receive their First Communion on Sunday, October 6th during the 9 A.M. service. Children will meet with Rev. White and members of the Diaconate on Friday evening, October 4th, at 6 P.M. to prepare for this meaningful day. Parents will soon receive a letter about First Communion, and are encouraged to have their children attend the class (approximately 40 minutes). Please contact the office and let us know if your child(ren) will be present.

SOMETHING NEW



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GAME NIGHT

Saturday, October 5th, 5:30 P.M.

(Game night cont.)

Come for the meal, or for the games, or come for both! The game portion of the evening will begin by 7 P.M. and conclude by 8:30. Watch for all the details in the worship folder. A sign-up sheet will soon be posted on the mid-level bulletin board.

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PENNSYLVANIA TRIP

Less than 5 seats remain available for the Amish Land trip November 18 – 20. If you're interested in going, contact the church office ASAP. All the details regarding the trip are posted on the hallway bulletin board. The trip is open to the community.

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READING MATERIALS

Copies of *The Upper Room* and *Our Daily Bread* are available on the Information Center table. These are great daily devotional booklets, written to encourage you in your faith journey. Please pick up a copy, they're "FREE."

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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 sign the sheet posted on the mid-level bulletin board, or call meal coordinator Lois Woodmansee at 860.889.2128. *Thank you.*

FROM THE D.R.E.:

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)

New this year – Challenge Bible Verses – for ALL ages:

September: 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

THE STUDENT who recites each verse during the month to their teacher or Mrs. Dudek will qualify for an award on Children's Day. The greatest reward will be in carrying these verses in their hearts which will serve them well as they go through life.

YOUTH MISSION TRIP: Under the leadership of Lisa & Scott Van Alst, eight of our young people participated in this summer's mission trip to the Adirondacks, NY. These young people served: Lindsay Bernier, Jacob Bernier, Jessica Lavoie, Elizabeth Bartoshevich, Emily Bartoshevich, Trinity Shaw, Julia Rider, and Jeremy Rider. On August 18th, they gave a most inspiring account of their experience on this trip. They thanked the congregation for all the support they have received.

CONGRATULATIONS *Emma Price* for being on the Dean's List at Springfield College. She is in the Health Science/Pre-physician Assistant program there. Your church family applauds you, Emma and wishes you well as you continue your studies.

The Preston Junior Pilgrim



A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

THANK YOU, GOD!

*For those who care about leading
students to your "LIGHT"!*

for those who lovingly watch the babies.

What would we do without these volunteers?

WE'LL BE GLAD TO SEE families who will be returning to church soon and children to the Sunday School. So far I have enrolled 80 of them with plenty of room for more! I am so thankful for those who have answered the call to serve their church.

SUNDAY SCHOOL reopens Sunday, September 8th and with gratitude I can say we have a full teaching staff. I am proud to be on a team with the following volunteers: Anne Klewin, Lauren Jurczyk, Haley Price, Kiana Burdick and Kristin Rider (Toddler 3's & 4's); Linda Bruckner, Angelika Larkin (Kindergarten); Cathy Rider, Julia Rider (Grades 1 & 2); Susan Mattern, Jennifer Gileau, Madison Gileau (Grades 3 & 4); Wendy Abrahamson, Sarah Noiseux (Grades 5 & 6); Susan Brosnan, Lois Woodmansee (Grades 7 & 8); Liz Stammel, Lisa Van Alst, Chris Burden (High School); Lindsay Bernier, Mckenzie Gauthier (Mrs. Dudek's Aides).

BABY NURSERY: Melissa Blondet, Maggie Tourangeau (Coordinators); Katy Harrelle, Christian Swanson, Katie Gates, Amy Rowe, Lisa Fessenden.



PLEASE PRAY for our Sunday School, teachers and children. May our children come to see Christ as their Lord and Savior. May our adults find their faith deepening from making this Sunday morning commitment.

COMMITMENT is seldom easy for anyone, but the church does depend on volunteers.

May the **SON**shine through me, *Sandy Dudek*



CHOIR DIRECTOR NEEDED: We are seeking a new director for our Kidz Praise Choir. We are in need of someone to rehearse our young singers for 20-30 minutes each Sunday. Please contact Robin Lyon at lyon.family@comcast.net or (860) 705-5943 if you would like to lead our youngest singers. This is a volunteer position.

September 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Worship 9a Two can Sunday	2 Labor Day Office closed Yoga 6:30p	3 SS teachers/ aides Mtg. 6:30p	4 AA 7:30p	5 Adult choir 7p	6	7 Women's Fellowship Meeting 8-9"30a
8 Worship 9,10:30a Sunday School begins 8:45a Scarecrow Build Event 5-7p Preston Ridge	9 Yoga 6:30p	10 Board of Religious Ed. 6p Scarecrow Festival mtg. 6:30p	11 St. Jude Worship 11a AA 7:30p	12 Adult choir 7p	13	14 Build A Scarecrow Event 1-4p Hart's Greenhouse
15 Worship 9,10:30a Adult choir 9a Baptism 10:30a Semi-annual Meeting noon	16 Bible study 10a Confirmation Information Meeting 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	17 Bible study 6:30p Employee Relations Comm. 7p	18 AA 7:30p	19 Adult choir 7p	20	21
22 Worship 9, 10:30a Baptisms 9a, 10:30a	23 Bible study 10a Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p	24 Bible study 6:30p	25 Creamery Brook worship 3p AA 7:30p	26 Adult choir 7p	27 Vendors set-up 4:30- 6:30p Scarecrows Registration 5-7p	28 SCARECROW FESTIVAL 10a-4p Chicken Barbecue 3-5:30p
29 Worship 9, 10:30a Food distribution Sunday	30 Bible study 10a Confirmation 6:30p Yoga 6:30p					

August 2019

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

Note: TO PLACE flowers in church during September, sign the Flower Chart, fill out the Reservation form, (place in envelope next to chart) and call Carolyn Shea (860.887.8592).

LOST or **FOUND** something at church? There is a basket in the Information Center next to the table.

October 2019

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		

PLEASE NOTE: Active church members who wish to borrow church property, (table, chairs, etc.) call the church office. **PLEASE CHECK** with Rev. Stan or Sandy **before** using our names as references. This courtesy would be appreciated.