

**Preston City
Congregational Church**
"Gathering in Faith Since 1698"



**week of
March 10, 2024**

Church Office Hours:
Monday – Friday, 9AM – Noon
Interim Co-Ministers
Rev. Mark Porizky – 860 705-1262
porizky@gmail.com
Rev. Stan White - 860 303-9622
sewhite3022@gmail.com

**Have a question?
Need help?**

Please call: The Office
860 887-4647 or 860 886-7200
Rev. Mark will be available
Wednesday evenings. Please call
to make an appointment.

**WORSHIP AND WEB STREAM
INFORMATION**

Worship service is at 9:30A
For those who are unable to attend
in-person, the service is streamed
live. Go to
prestoncitycongregational.org and
click the stream button. Previous
services may be viewed using the
archive system on the site.
3/03 - Live viewings: 1 country; 13
states; 21 cities; 46 viewings

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday Service – 9:30A
Sunday School – 9:15A
Bible Study – Tuesday 7P
AA - Wed 7:30P Dudek Hall

COVID UPDATE 3/16/2022

The Standing Committee has
determined that wearing a mask is
optional.

**Join us for coffee, punch, and
fellowship following our Sunday
service.**



Coffee Fellowship

FROM THE DESK OF REV. STAN...

BE WHAT YOU IS!

One summer, when I was in Junior High School (that's what they called it back then!), I attended a church-sponsored camp for young people my age and older.

I remember a particular vesper service (evening service) held at the close of day. Counselors and campers, along with a minister, would gather in an open field to hear thoughts about something good that happened during the day.

On this night that I write about, "The Rev." (that's what we called him), spoke about a verse from Paul's letter to the Romans (12:2) "*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...*" The verse made an impression on my life. It continues to impress me even today.

One modern translation of Romans 12:2 reads, "*Don't let the world squeeze you into its mold.*" The Message version of the Bible says it this way, "*Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God.*"

Years later I came across the statement below. I think it goes along nicely with Paul's words. I like these words so much that I keep them on my desk where I see them each day, even here in Florida!

*"Always be what you is.
Don't be what you ain't.
'Cause if you ain't what you is
People will think you is what you ain't."*

I have never appreciated others telling me what I must believe, or how I must think. This is one of the many reasons why I enjoy being a Congregationalist. We don't rush to conform. We are free, independent thinkers. We consider our conscience. We reflect and explore what the Bible has to say, and of course, we pray. We try to figure out how best to serve God and to live peaceably with our neighbors.

Romans 12:2 guides my life and relationship with God and Christ more-and-more every day. It reminds me to focus my thoughts and actions on Him, and then consider what the world and everyone else is wanting me to hear, believe, and follow.

Enjoy the day!
Rev. Stan

I look forward to seeing you Easter morning at 9:30!

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Saturday April 6th a Memorial Service will be held for Marion Miller at 11A.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

March 24 – 31

PALM SUNDAY – Worship service at 9:30 A.M.

MAUNDY THURSDAY – 6:30 p.m. in Halls' Hall (coffee hour room) We will have a seder meal (Passover) meal with communion. Everyone is invited, but you must sign up on the mid hallway bulletin board. You may call the church office as well. Children are invited to attend.

GOOD FRIDAY – Service at noon. A Children's Message will be offered.

ECUMENICAL EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE –6:30 A.M. at Amos Lake, Hollowell Road, Preston. In case of inclement weather, it will be held in our Sanctuary.

EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE – 9:30 A.M. The choir will be singing and Memorial Easter lilies will adorn the church.

NEW MEMBERS

Palm Sunday is one of the two Sundays we traditionally welcome new members into our church. This year Palm Sunday is March 24, 2024.

As we begin our new church year and the Nominating Committee slate has been approved, all committees and boards are reminded to contact the church office to update the following information: Who is the chair/contact person & when do you meet. The information needs to be added to the church calendar to reserve your space and it is helpful to have contact information when people call the office. Thank you

INCLEMENT WEATHER CANCELLATIONS Tune in to Television Channel 3 (WFSB), local radio stations or you may check Facebook, 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.

Please remember, if you turn on lights, or adjust the heat or air conditioning, to turn them off or reset them when you are finished. If you remove the Sanctuary railing for an event, please be sure to make provisions for it to be put back afterwards. Others count on it being there. **Please remember to lock AND CHECK all doors.** Thank you.

Please remember to check with the office for space availability when scheduling meetings.

The next **MEN'S GROUP** meeting is Saturday, April 13th at 10A. Please note the change to the second Saturday this month.



Thoughts from a friend...

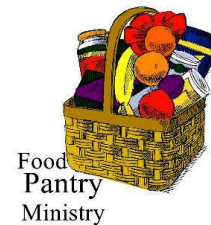
May every sunrise bring you hope and every sunset bring you peace.

MEMORIAL LILIES

The Decorating Committee will be adorning the Sanctuary with memorial lilies on Easter Sunday. We will be available to take orders on March 17th during coffee hour after our service.

Lilies are \$13.00 apiece.

Any questions, please see Sharon Breen (860-303-1184) or Wendy Zajac (860-886-1588).



THE TOUCAN FOOD PANTRY will be open Wednesday March 20 from 10A – Noon and Sunday March 24th for church families and friends following our service.



I am looking for instrumentalists to form a mixed ensemble. Beginners who are taking lessons are also welcome.

There is a sign-up sheet on the mid-level bulletin board.

Trish Maerkle, Organist/Choir Director

TRIVIA NIGHT WILL BE BACK ON APRIL 6, 2024.

The Men's Group has been busy planning the next matchup! Start getting your team together!



LITTLE PILGRIM COORDINATOR The Little Pilgrim comes out twice a month. Please send information to be included in the week of March 24th newsletter no later than Tuesday, March 26th at noon to: susan.brosnan@gmail.com or leave information at the office.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday March 17 & 24
Sunday School 9:15A
Service 9:30A
Maundy Thursday Seder Meal March 28 6:30P
Good Friday Service March 29 Noon
Tuesday Night Bible Study 7P
Wednesday AA 7:30P
Thursday Choir Rehearsal 7P
*****Wednesday March 27th at 7P**

WELCOME



MARCH 19

"The Wings of Spring"

I walked out into a glorious spring morning. The air was filled with a symphony of bird calls. Streams flowed with fulness and vigor. Renewal and rebirth resounded from the hills. Winter was over and life was new again. Although in my elder years, soaring on the wings of spring, I felt young once more.

Michael Barrett



325TH ANNIVERSARY NEWS

On behalf of the 325th Anniversary Committee, and organized by the PCCC Men's Group, we invite you to join us on Wednesday, June 26th for a day trip to Plymouth, MA.



Some highlights:

- A visit to the Mayflower II, a full-scale reproduction of the original tall ship that brought the Pilgrims to Plymouth in 1620.
- A visit to the 17th Century English Village, a re-creation of the small family and maritime community built by the Pilgrims along the shore of Plymouth Harbor.
- The Historic Patuxet Homesite, where you can learn about the home and family life of the Wampanoag culture of the 1600's.

The motorcoach will leave PCCC at 8:00 a.m. and arrive in Plymouth around 10:00 a.m. We'll depart Plymouth at 3:00 p.m. to return home. Lunch and snacks are available for purchase at the on-site café, which offers a wide variety of contemporary foods, as well as several Colonial and Native menu items. A sign-up sheet is located on the table across from the mid-level bulletin board. The cost of the trip is \$104 for adults and \$89 for children age 5-17. A deposit of \$50 per person is due to the church office by April 30th . If you have any questions, please see Bob Vescovi or call him at 401.583.7840. Please join us on this historical adventure!

All women of the church

are invited to a

Mother's Day Tea

and

Special Performance by Sheryl Faye as

Her Majesty: Queen Elizabeth II

Saturday, May 11th, 11:00 am

Dudek Hall, PCCC

*Tea sandwiches & pastries will be served
(a \$5.00 donation will be collected at the door)*

Please sign the sign-up sheet downstairs

No later than Friday, May 3rd

*Feel free to wear white gloves, pearls or
fancy hat!*

SUMMER TRAVELS SCHEDULED

Two bus trips have been arranged for this summer, and brochures for both trips are available on the Information Center table (mid-level). These trips are planned for 40 passengers, and friends outside the church are welcome to join us. Please sign the sheet posted on the bulletin board (mid-level) AND drop off your deposit at the office. Here are some of the highlights of this summer's travels:

MAINE (JUNE 3-6)

4 days – 3 nights

\$725.00 per person (double occupancy), DEPOSIT: \$250. **The last day for payment is Monday April 1st.**

3 breakfasts, 3 full-course dinners including a “Downeast” Lobsterbake Dinner

A tour of Portland, Perkins Cove, A harbor cruise of Casco Bay, Boothbay Harbor tour, Kennebunkport tour, and more!

Cost includes: Transportation, Lodging, Luggage handling, Taxes and meal gratuities, PLUS TIPS for the guide(s) and bus driver.

Cancellation Insurance is available and highly recommended. See details on the reverse side of the brochure.

SIGHTS & SOUNDS OF LANCASTER, PA (AUGUST 19-21), featuring “Daniel” at Sight & Sound theater.

3 days – 2 nights

\$525.00 per person (double occupancy), DEPOSIT: \$250.

2 breakfasts, 2 dinners (including a Smorgasbord dinner) Guided tour of the Amish Countryside, Kitchen Kettle Village and miniature Horse farm

Cost includes: Transportation, Lodging, Luggage handling, Taxes and meal gratuities, PLUS TIPS for the guide(s) and bus driver.

Cancellation Insurance is available and highly recommended. See details on the reverse side of the brochure.

We hope to see you “on board” this summer!