

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



**week of
March 24, 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.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Bible Study – Tuesday 7P
Choir Rehearsal – Thursday 7P
Sunrise Service – 3/31 - 6:30A
Sunday Service – 9:30A
NO Sunday School

COVID UPDATE 3/16/2022

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



Coffee Fellowship

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

FROM THE DESK OF REV. MARK...

EASTER HOPE

This is my favorite Easter Story.

In the 1940s, Flagstaff, Maine was a bustling town, heavily involved in the logging industry. But by 1950, everyone was forced to leave, and what became of the town makes it very hard for visitors to return there. Whatever is left of the abandoned village of Flagstaff now lies at the bottom of the lake of the same name—almost 50 feet down at its deepest.

Where you and I see Flagstaff Lake, a woman named June Parsons sees the town where she grew up. That's because beneath the surface of this man-made lake lies the drowned ghost town of Flagstaff village. June lived in Flagstaff until she was 13 years old. But in 1950, Central Maine Power Company flooded the village of Flagstaff and several surrounding towns to make way for a hydro-dam. "Because they were making a storage dam for water, a storage basin for water," June added.

Hundreds of families were forced to sell their homes and businesses to the power company, pack up, and leave.

However, what was most interesting was the people who chose to stay almost until the last day. In the months before Flagstaff was to be flooded, all improvements and repairs in the whole town were stopped. What was the use of painting a house if it were to be covered with water in six months? Why repair a window, a driveway, a broken windowpane? Why repair anything when the whole village was to be wiped out?

So, week by week, the whole town became more and more bedraggled, more gone to seed, more woebegone.

The mayor of the town, surveying the town's decline, said these words: "***Where there is no hope for the future, there is no power in the present.***"

Of course, the opposite is also true: ***Where there is hope for the future, there is power in the present.***

Easter is many things, my friends, but one of the most notable to me is how Easter Hope makes all our days, especially today, powerful.

Happy Easter, my friends. The resurrection is empowering.

1 Peter 1:3: "**Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.**"

Hallelujah. He is risen!
He is risen indeed!

Grace and Peace,

Mark

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

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

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

We welcomed Brittany Cook and Johnathan Sharp into our church on Palm Sunday, 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.



Update from the Pastoral Search Committee:

We are pleased to announce that we have a candidate! April 27th – 28th we will be hosting a Candidate Weekend where there will be meet and greet events as well as the opportunity to hear the candidate give the Sunday sermon. More information will be forthcoming. Save the date!



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 Maerke, Organist/Choir Director



Trivia Night: April 6th at 7pm

Sponsored by our Men's Group

Doors open at 6:30pm

Admission is \$10

Top three teams awarded cash prizes

Snacks are welcome, no alcohol please

Coffee and bottled water will be provided

Teams can be any size

There will be 30 questions, just one category:

In and Around the United States, Past and Present

Join us for a fun evening of trivia!

Thoughts from a friend...

"It is not what you do, it is how you do it
It's not what you see, it's how you look at it.
It's not how your life is, it's how you live it."



Today 40+ children and adults CELEBRATED. You heard that right, we celebrated our friend Jesus. We celebrated his never-ending love for us .We started by attending the Service upstairs, we then gathered for lunch in Halls' Hall where we prayed together and learned some of the symbols of the Lenten season. After lunch the children we released to 12 different Easter craft stations. They could decorate pots, plant seeds, dye eggs, braid palms, make bird nests, make suncatchers, design sand art necklaces, make cards, and there was a coloring table. This year we also had a storytelling room in Jesus's Tomb and a prayer station at the cross. If you or your children or any children you love have never attended this hands-on Faith experience consider doing it next year, or volunteering! Other ways you can help is every child is given a sand/Easter bucket we use 30+ at a time. If anyone sees these plastic buckets on sale, Sunday school could use them! Walmart, Dollar Tree are the best places to find them. Talk to Lisa Van Alst if you would like to help.

May 19, 2024 is Children's Day the Celebration of Preston City Congregational Church's Children & Families. We will start the day off @ the 9:30 service. Come worship Kid Style and then join us in the Field of Dreams for Hamburgers, Hotdogs, chips and cake. Potato sack races, egg toss, spoon races, and more plus the all-time favorite rolling down the hill. Sign - up sheets will be on the main bulletin board starting in April.

Save the Date Vacation Bible School is heading off to camp!!!
Camp Firelight starts July 8th - 12th more info soon.

I leave you with a page from " Notes From Jesus " by Mikal Keefer

I Want You To Know.....

YOU ARE WORTH MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, Do you know how much I think you're worth? I can tell you -exactly. You're worth my life. You're worth the pain of dying on a cross. I did that so we could be friends and you could be with me forever. The stars in the sky? I made them-but I didn't die for them. All the gold and diamonds hiding in the hills? I made them-but they weren't worth my dying for them.. Nothing I've made was worth the cross except for you. You and the rest of the people I love. So, don't let anyone tell you you're not special. You are. You're special to me. Don't let anyone tell you that you're unworthy- You are worthy, because you are worth everything to me.

Lisa Van Alst – DRE



The 2024 Scarecrow Festival is being planned for Saturday, September 28th and we need your assistance! Coordinators for the Silent Auction and Crow's Nest food service, two of our greatest sources of revenue, are needed. Former directors of these areas are available to share their knowledge to help make your leadership successful! Also needed is someone to head the Entertainment Committee. Please consider where you may be able to help.

Contact Shari Purcell at 860-917-9011 or sharilpurcell@gmail.com for further information.

Our next Scarecrow Festival meeting is Thursday, April 4th at 6:30P at the church.

We hope to see you there!

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 recreation 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!



DID YOU KNOW that a choral piece marking our 325th year is now "in the works?" Joseph Martin, who composed "House of Grace" for our church's 300th anniversary (1998) was commissioned to write another piece exclusively for our church. It will premiere at the anniversary worship service scheduled for November 2024. A special choir will be formed from the congregation to sing it for the first time. After November, the anthem will be available for purchase by choirs across the United States. There will be an inscription on the music stating that it was commissioned by our church on the occasion of the 325th anniversary!

To offset the cost of this commissioned piece exclusively for our church, we are seeking individuals or families, to donate \$100. All donors will be listed in the folder for our anniversary worship service scheduled for Saturday, November 16, 2024. **WE ONLY NEED ONE MORE DONOR TO REACH OUR GOAL!** If you'd like to be part of this exciting project, please let Pat Marino (325 Committee Chair) know. You can mail your check, made payable to **Preston City Congregational Church** (or PCCC), to Pat at **61 McClimon Road, Preston, CT 06365**. Be sure to include the name as it should appear in the program. Feel free to call Pat if you have any questions: 860.887.3359.

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!*



IRELAND TRIP

An opening has become available for two (double occupancy) travelers for the trip scheduled for October 12 – 21, 2024. Please call the church office for details.

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!