

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



**week of
April 7, 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
Sunday Service – 9:30A
Sunday School – 9:15A

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**



Coffee Fellowship

Sunday service.

From the desk of Rev. Stan

We just finished observing and celebrating Easter—the resurrection of Jesus Christ from death to life! This is life-changing news for those who believe it. Let me remind you of the **promise** that Jesus made to his followers years ago and to us today:

"Because I live, you also will live." – John 14:19

We need not fear death IF we believe in the resurrection. We need not be afraid; He is with us always. Because He lives, we can walk confidently through life with the assurance of everlasting life to come. Believing this puts my mind and heart at ease. I hope it does the same for you.

On another note...

For the last so many years, I have attended a Congregational church in the town where I live here in Florida. It "was" a small congregation, mostly made up of elderly snow birds (jokingly referred to as "Old Crows!"). When I drove to church one Sunday morning last fall, a large sign alongside the church driveway read, "FOR SALE." It was a small, struggling church (in many ways) when I first started attending, but now it's an empty building. All that remains inside are memories of what once was. Sadly, it's rapidly becoming a sign of the times across the country.

Friends, I hope you realize ALL that you have here at Preston City Congregational Church. It's not just a beautiful old New England church (Meeting house) with well-maintained buildings and grounds. More importantly, there's *life* within the building! People of all ages—babies and little children, young people, high school and college students—make the church come alive, and people see it! Strangers are constantly finding their way to the church, and they keep coming back. Thank goodness for our adult congregation, which keeps the church on course in many ways! You must remain a positive witness in the community, reaching out to friends and neighbors, even the stranger, in whatever way(s) we can.

For 325 years, God's hand has been upon this church and congregation. He has enabled you to achieve some pretty impressive accomplishments through the years. May you never tire of sharing the good news of Easter and the importance of remaining a spiritually healthy congregation.

See you soon!

Rev. Stan

Thank you to all who helped with the spring clean-up of the church grounds.

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORMS are available to students pursuing their first college or university degree. Call the church office and leave your name and phone number and we'll be in touch to mail out the paperwork. Forms are also available in the mid-level hallway. Completed forms must be returned to the church office by April 30th.

The Membership Committee will meet at 6:30P on April 29th.

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.



We express our condolences to the family of Marion Miller. A Memorial Service was held April 6, 2024.

REMEMBERING OUR CHILDREN...

a special service where we remember children who are no longer with us will be held on **May 5th**. If you wish to have a child's name included in the worship service folder that morning, you must call the office by **April 30th**. If you would like to donate \$5 toward the purchase of Marigolds, please let the office know by the **22nd of April**.



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!

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



MEN'S GROUP



Mother's Day, May 12th

The decorating committee will be placing pink geraniums on the Altar on Mother's Day to honor and remember Mothers. We will be taking orders during coffee hour after

services on April 21st and April 28th. Geraniums are \$10.00 apiece. Any questions, see Sharon Breen (860-303-1184) or Wendy Zajac (860-886-1588).

YARD SALE

Start clearing those basements and attics!

Our **SPRING YARD SALE** is planned for **May 18th** with a rain date of June 8th.

Donations will be accepted starting April 18th by contacting Stella Dawley.

Beginning April 21st, donations will be accepted following church services.

Donations will also be accepted the day of the sale.



Please do not leave anything outside at the church or annex when no one from the committee is able to meet with you.

Just a reminder:

No clothing, paint, computers, outdated electronics, tires, air conditioners or other bulky items.

Thoughts from a friend...

Actions prove who someone is,
words just prove who they want to be.



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

DONATION DRIVE

During the month of April we will be collecting "unmentionables" and socks for **OPERATION FRESH START**. Their mission is to give a fresh start to children in the foster care system, young adults 18-26 who have aged out or found themselves homeless, and families with children in crisis. They assist many groups throughout New London county, including TVCCA, Safe Futures, and Thames River Family Program.

UNDERCOVER

Visit their website www.operationfreshstartinc.com for further information on this group and their many activities.

We will be accepting donations, sizes 3T – 2XL.

Monetary donation checks may be mailed directly to:

Operation Fresh Start
93 Sunrise Ave.
Pawcatuck, CT 06379

Koren Jopson has more details if you have questions.

Donations may be left in the Elizabeth Allyn box in the mid-level hallway.

Our Toucan Food Pantry assists many in our community and beyond with basic food items. Established in 2009, they are open on the third Wednesday of each month to the community from 10A- Noon, and the last Sunday of the month for our church family, following our service.



Always needed: cereal, peanut butter, jelly, canned vegetables, canned fruit, canned soup, macaroni and cheese, pasta, and spaghetti sauce. Donation boxes are located at both church entry doors. Monetary donations are always welcomed and we will do the shopping!

Thank you for your continuing support for this vital ministry which is more important than ever.

And thank you to our dedicated volunteers, who make this outreach possible every month.



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.**

**Our Church's
Anniversary**



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. Payment 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!*



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.