

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



**week of  
April 21, 2024**

Church Office Hours:  
Monday – Friday, 9AM – Noon  
Interim Co-Ministers  
Rev. Mark Porizky – 860 705-1262  
[porizky@gmail.com](mailto:porizky@gmail.com)  
Rev. Stan White - 860 303-9622  
[sewhite3022@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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  
Sunday service.**

**From the desk of Rev. Mark**

I take a certain pride in having a green, lush lawn. I love the way it looks, the way it feels, and even the way it smells. I love the process of getting it to that point. I think it's because working with my hands and concentrating on something practical is a form of meditation for me.

Recently, though, my pride turned into frustration. Despite all my early efforts this year, my yard wasn't where I thought it should be at this time. Sure, it was a little greener than the rest of the yards in my neighborhood, but it wasn't that much greener. Sure, I had fewer weeds, but I didn't have that many fewer weeds.

As I sat looking at the backyard last week, I thought, "What am I doing wrong?" Then Monday rolled around. I walked out on my side porch and it was like something had happened overnight. The grass was taller, thicker, greener — much greener than the previous week. The weeds I couldn't pull by hand had started to shrivel up and die, making way for my sought-after grass. The bare spots from the dogs had even started filling in.

As I sat there and stared like Simba overlooking his kingdom, I felt a little foolish. Not because of what I was hoping for, but because I should have known this would happen. See, spring is a funny season. Half of it is cold and rainy, while the other half is warm and sunny. I know this. It happens every year. And yet, I lost sight of that. We often grow from a place that looks or feels dreary, cold, and dark.

When I was birding in a park in Phoenix in March, there was a sign offering this mental health tip: **"Sometimes when you are in a dark place, you tend to think you have been buried; what if you have been planted?"**

We have been planted, as Christians, to grow with God. So I ask you to trust. Trust that as we walk through this spring, God is building strong, deep roots that will allow us to withstand what is ahead. Trust that what's being cultivated and grown beneath the surface is the only way that we can produce anything of value above it.

Grace and Peace,

Mark

## 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 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Thank you** to everyone that helped with the recent funeral reception. For the first time in 34 years I double booked the church.

But what a good feeling it was for me to be in this church with other Christians that I knew would do everything to make it work... and they did. Deacons Bob Vescovi and Steve Orlomoski set up and broke down tables and chairs, and helped in any way they could. Pat Marino who first had booked the church showed understanding and lifted my burden. Several others unnamed, shopped and made the food, and helped serve. The firehouse across the street let us use their refrigeration.

It's such a blessing to be in a church like this one that looks out for each other. It's something to cherish! I am grateful,  
Sandy Dudek, Special events Coordinator

**A new Christian flag** is flying in memory of Art Dawley given by his wife, Stella. What a fitting memorial to such a Christian man as Art was.

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



**We express our condolences** to the family of Pearle Potter. A Memorial Service was held April 20, 2024 and our church hosted a reception.

## FRIDAY FAMILY NIGHT

Date: June 7, 2024

Time: 6pm till 8pm

**Bring** your favorite card or board games to play with other kids and families. Snacks and drinks provided.

Questions? Contact Chris Burden 401-465-8900 or Lisa Van Alst 860 710-1262.



## Update from the Pastoral Search Committee:

We are pleased to announce that we have a candidate! April 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting a Candidate Weekend where there will be meet and greet events on Saturday, and on Sunday, our candidate will share a sermon. A question-and-answer session with the Pastoral Search Committee will follow the service in the sanctuary, while our candidate attends coffee hour.

## PRESTON CITY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH SPECIAL MEETING CALL & AGENDA

**May 5, 2024  
11:00A**

A Special Meeting of the members of the Preston City Congregational Church will be held in the sanctuary following the service, on Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 11:00A for the following action:

**To consider and vote on the recommendation of the Pastoral Search Committee and the Standing Committee, to extend the call to serve as pastor to Thomas Burke Jr.**

*Susan P. Brosnan*  
Clerk

## YARD SALE

**Start clearing those basements and attics!**

Our **SPRING YARD SALE** is planned for **May 18<sup>th</sup>** with a rain date of June 8<sup>th</sup>, from **8A – 2P.**

Donations will be accepted starting April 18<sup>th</sup> by contacting Stella Dawley. Beginning April 21<sup>st</sup>, 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...

Be someone who makes someone else look forward to tomorrow.

**LITTLE PILGRIM COORDINATOR** The Little Pilgrim comes out twice a month. Please send information to be included in the week of May 5<sup>th</sup> newsletter no later than Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at noon to: [susan.brosnan@gmail.com](mailto:susan.brosnan@gmail.com) or leave information at the office.



### 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 28th. Geraniums are \$10.00 apiece. Any questions, see Sharon Breen (860-303-1184) or Wendy Zajac (860-886-1588).

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

### 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.



Visit their website [www.operationfreshstartinc.com](http://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.

### Dearest PCCC,



It is with a tear in my eye that I must announce the Scarecrow Committee's decision that the 2024 Scarecrow Festival will be put on hold. Our church is a very special and busy place this year with our 325th anniversary and the possible transition of a new pastor. (Hopefully a candidate for the dunking booth next year.) Thank you all for your support in bringing the festival back last year. God always has a plan, and we feel that He will show us how the festival will look in the future.

Yours in Christ,  
Shari Purcell



### SAVE THE DATE!!

SUNDAY MAY 19, 2024 IS CHILDREN'S DAY

Can you believe we only have 4 Sundays left for this year's Sunday School Session?!

During the 9:30 a.m. service in the sanctuary, we will be celebrating Preston City Super Sunday School Kids from Nursery to High School. We will be showing off (in a good way!) some of what we have learned about God our Father, Jesus his Son, and the Holy Spirit. We have some special songs. After the service, the whole congregation is invited to join us in the Field of Dreams for hamburgers, hotdogs, chips, watermelon, lemonade, water, and cake. We have a couple activities, some games, and. Fun, Fun, Fun. Sign-up sheet is on the main bulletin board outside Dudek Hall.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS GOING TO CAMP!

**Camp Firelight** begins Monday, July 8th- Friday, July 12th. Campers from ages 3 to entering 6th grade are welcome to attend. 7th graders - High Schools are welcome to come be camp leaders. We also could use some adults who feel the love of Jesus in their hearts and love spending time with children to help out. No prior experience is required! If you can smile and laugh at kid jokes, then we can use you!

Blessings, Lisa Van Alst

## Easter came a day early

This year, I was not into the typical Easter stuff. I had no desire to decorate the house or host Easter dinner for the family, as we always do. It was a bad week with my fibromyalgia. I just really didn't care if Sunday was Easter or not. I don't share these things to gain sympathy, but so you can see where my mindset was...bad.



A member of the Women's Fellowship asked me a couple weeks before Easter, "Are we going to make the baskets for the shut-ins this year?" It had totally slipped my mind. It took me another week before I asked Sandy for the current list of shut-ins. So it was the week of Easter, and I was just then asking the Women's Fellowship for help making the baskets and delivering them. Of course, most of them had previous commitments. Who doesn't the week of a holiday? Come Maundy Thursday, 5 of the 10 shut-ins on my list had been spoken for. On Good Friday, that went down to 2 baskets to be made and delivered. One person was extremely upset and had to back out for health reasons.

I was very tempted to throw in the towel on this whole idea of delivering baskets to the shut-ins. Something pushed me to move forward, I don't know, just maybe it was God. So Friday afterward, I went shopping and got supplies to make 8 Easter baskets. Saturday morning, I made the baskets and mapped out a route from Plainfield through Griswold, into Lisbon, and down to Norwich. After lunch, I loaded up the baskets and my trusty companion, Bella (my dog), and headed out. I was still not feeling very well; my stomach was upset, I had a headache, and I was tired, so putting on a smile was hard. Most days I would have just stayed home, but the baskets needed to be delivered, so I trusted God would see me through the day.

*2 Corinthians 9:6-8 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*

I was supposed to be delivering gift baskets to the shut-ins, but I was the one who received the best gift that day. It's hard to put into words, but their smiles, joy, and appreciation made me so very thankful. God pushed me to do this and blessed me that afternoon. With each stop, I felt like I was receiving just what I needed to truly feel the spirit of Easter, and I physically felt better. My headache was gone by the end of my deliveries. By the end of the day, I was glad the ladies had other commitments. I enjoyed every person with whom I got to spend time. Although I did feel a bit selfish, more people should experience the joy of giving to someone who didn't expect it, but they are very grateful for the thought and time you spend with them. Easter came a day early for me.

Bridget Park

### Women's Fellowship Upcoming Schedule

June 15<sup>th</sup>-10am-Assemble goodies to hand out after church on Father's Day. Please consider baking something for the goodie bags.

### Meeting Dates

May 16, 2pm-Thursday  
July 11, 2pm-Thursday  
Sept 12, 2pm-Thursday  
Nov. 14, 2pm-Thursday  
Dec. 12, 2pm-Thursday

## 325<sup>TH</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup>*

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

