



The Preston Pilgrim
the monthly newsletter of the
Preston City Congregational Church
"Gathering in Faith Since 1698"

September 2024

**OFFICE CLOSED MONDAY
SEPTEMBER 2, LABOR DAY**

Church Office Hours: Mon– Fri,
9AM – Noon

Minister Office Hours: Mon – Thu
10A - 2P

Minister

Pastor Thomas, Burke, Jr.
203-297-0254

pastortompccc@gmail.com

Minister Emeritus

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

**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

Sunday Service – 9:30A

Sunday School – 9:15A – Starts 9/8

AA - Wednesday – 7:30P

Bible Study – Thursday – 10:30A

Choir Practice Thursday -7:00P

COVID UPDATE 3/16/2022

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



Join us for fellowship and a cold drink following our service at our final **Lemonade on the Lawn** of 2024.

FROM THE DESK OF THE MINISTER...

As we move from August into September, the leaves are already starting to fall on my lawn. As I have been researching for sermons this coming month, the thing I kept getting stuck on was the month of September. I like finding out why things get the names they have because it helps me learn more about them. So I keep getting stuck on why the ninth month of the year is called September. And then why is the tenth month called October? Sept means seven and Oct means eight. Then November and December both mean nine and ten. How is the calendar organized in such an odd way?

Well, the good news is that our calendar, like our lives, changed because of Jesus. Originally, Julius Caesar set the Roman calendar to have ten months in one year. In 46 BC, Caesar created a calendar using his namesake that would be used as the predominant calendar in the western world for over 1500 years. It wasn't until 1582 that Pope Gregory XIII added two months and a leap year to our current Gregorian calendar. There were astrological reasons to perfect the calendar, but the Church also wanted to make sure their lives revolved around Christ.

Even with leaves falling and seasons changing, some work and projects may take a little more time. We can get frustrated if the event we planned doesn't work out the first time or if no one shows up to that new bible study, but some things just take a little time. It wasn't until 1600 years after Jesus was born for the calendar to reflect the life of Christ, but now the 12-month calendar and Jesus are central to our lives. When we keep Christ at the center of our lives, he can make all things possible; it may just take a little time.

Pastor Tom



325th ANNIVERSARY

All Church Sing-Along & Dinner Saturday, September 7th

UPCOMING EVENTS

Preston City Cemetery Walk Saturday, October 5th

Anniversary Service & Reception Saturday, November 16th

Coast Guard Chorale Sunday, November 17th



Thursday September 5th at 10:30A, Bible Study with Pastor Tom.

Discussion will be based on the Revised Common Lectionary.

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Thank you to the families who have volunteered to make the coffee on Sunday mornings.

Check with the office before posting notices on the church bulletin board.

Active members who wish to borrow items from the church (chairs, tables, etc. that are reserved for this purpose), please check with the office. They may have been requested by someone else!

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

NEWS FROM THE DEACONS



PHOTO RESCHEDULED TO AVOID HOLIDAY WEEKEND -

The Deacon's Photo with all former and present deacons will take place on Sunday Sept. 8th. If you do not have a silver Deacon pin, please see Kim Lang

who will provide you with one. Spread the word and hope you are able to be part of this historic photo!

NEW MEMBERS will be welcomed into the church on September 29th. Please sign the sheet on the mid-level bulletin board if you are interested. You will be sent all of the information. Call the church office with any questions.

Thoughts from a friend...

Do the right thing,
even when no one is looking.
It's called integrity.

BINGO at Strawberry Park

PCCC is one of the non-profit organizations that assists at the games selling cards. Funds received are used to offset our budget. We have weekend games through October; please check the calendar for times available.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO HELP!



THE FALL YARD SALE is planned for Saturday September 28th (rain date – Oct. 5th) from 9A – 2P.

Donations are now being accepted. Please contact Stella Dawley to make arrangements for donation drop-off.



THE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR is planned for November 23rd. New this year will be a Treasures and Gifts room for unused or like-new items that would make a perfect gift.



THE NEXT WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP MEETING will be on Sat. Sept. 14th, at 10am. We will be assembling Birthday

Bundles for the Food Pantry. We only do this once a year, so a lot of bundles will be needed to last an entire year. We would like to ask for the congregation's help, to donate the items needed. – Bridget Park

Donated items may be left in the Elizabeth Allyn Box to the right of the table in the main hallway.

-Cake Mix

-Frosting

-Aluminum disposable cake pan-square

-Candles

-Balloons

MEN'S RETREAT

October 24-October 26 at Camp Berea in Hebron, New Hampshire. Contact Chris Burden at 401-465-8900.

TREASURER POSITION STARTING 2025

Shirley Hodkinson will be completing her term as treasurer at the Annual Meeting in February 2025, so we will be in need of a new treasurer. The treasurer is responsible for keeping records of monies spent, balancing to money received by the Financial Secretary, and attending Standing Committee, Finance and Employee Relations meetings. If you have any questions, please contact Shirley, Pat Marino (Finance Chair) or the office.

HELP NEEDED

The Decorating Committee is dividing into 2 areas. They are Fall/Winter and Spring. Wendy and Sharon will be continuing to decorate for Fall/Winter. There is a need for someone to take over the spring duties, which consists of Easter Lilies and Mother's Day Geraniums.

Those duties would include, but are not limited to:

- Calling the greenhouse (Jewett City Greenhouse) for pricing

- Putting a notice in the Sunday Bulletin and Little Pilgrim about order dates

- Taking orders for the flowers for 2 weeks after church (at least 2 weeks before each Holiday)

- Typing up the list of flowers and names and sending to Sandy by Tuesday of the week before the holiday

- Coordinating a delivery date with the greenhouse, receiving the flowers and setting up the altar

If you would like more information, or have questions, please see Wendy Zajac 860-705-8176 or Sharon Breen 860-303-1184

If you are interested, please call the church office.



CHOIR BEGINS with our first practice
Thursday, September 5th.
We will sing in church starting September 8th.
New and returning voices are welcome.

The September All-Church Meeting
of the Preston City Congregational Church
will be held in the sanctuary on
Sunday, September 15, 2024 at 10:45A
or the following actions:

1. To hear the reports of Officers, Boards, Committees, and other church organizations
2. To vote on the proposed Online Membership Bylaw
3. To transact any other business that may be brought before the congregation

Susan P. Brosnan
Clerk

All are welcome to attend, however, only church members may vote.

FALL FESTIVAL '25

A meeting is planned for **Wednesday, September 11th at 6:00P in the Meeting Room**, to discuss bringing back some form of the Scarecrow Festival. Some people have expressed an interest and Shari Purcell (860-917-0911) is willing to chair this new committee. We welcome your ideas!

THE CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL PAGEANT

has been scheduled for December 15th at 2:00 p.m. "Journey to Bethlehem, Follow the Star" will be directed by Wendy Abrahamson with the assistance of Hunter Bustamante leading the music. Hope you will mark your calendar to attend.



SUNDAY SCHOOL begins September 8th at 9:15A.



COMMUNION SUNDAY IS TWO-CAN SUNDAY:

Time to replenish the Toucan Food Pantry on September 1st! (Although any day can be a donation day!)

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.



The famous question is asked for the first time.

The Preston Pilgrim has returned to a monthly newsletter.

Please send in your submissions by noon on September 15, to be included in the October issue. Putting the newsletter together is like a puzzle, where the number and size of the pieces are unknown until they are received and pieced together. As we transition to fall and the return to regular activities, please plan ahead for your submissions to be included. Information may be left with the church office or emailed to susan.brosnan@gmail.com.