

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

October 2024

**OFFICE CLOSED MONDAY
OCTOBER 14 - COLUMBUS 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
AA - Wednesday – 7:30P
Bible Study - 7P
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, coffee and punch following our service.

Coffee Fellowship

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR THOMAS:

Last week our family was so blessed to receive so many condolences for the loss of Gretchen's father. On the way home from church, I stopped by a florist to get her flowers and watched as they expertly arranged a beautiful bouquet. All week our house smelled like a vibrant garden as blossoms surrounded us. We also watched as those flowers slowly drank up the water that fed them and faded and died. It made me so curious why we spend so much money, so much time, and so much energy caring for beautiful things that we know will die. During this fall season, as we watch the beauty fade from this earth and decline into winter, it's a good time to reflect on why we invest in beautiful things and why we care for God's abundance all around us.

While spring and summer always get the spotlight, autumn is the perfect season for Christians. God is using his good creation as a metaphor to show us the reality of the resurrection and that new life is not only possible, it is a reality. Every fall we harvest the seeds that have been planted and cultivated throughout the year. Our hard work of clearing away the brush and sin from our lives brings us into a season of harvesting and thanksgiving. This is why the fall climaxes with thanksgiving—to give thanks for the bountiful harvest that God has given us all year. And then we watch as God's creation withers away and dies. Through October into November and onto December, nature is silenced in preparation for new life in Christ. Life fades, but we await the new life that comes in spring.

Just as the flowers faded and died around our house to celebrate and mourn a life well lived, we can watch as nature around us fades. We can celebrate the year that we have had and the happiness we have harvested. Each fall we are reminded of God to wait for new life, to wait for the resurrection that we know is to come in spring. We spend money on beautiful things that we know will die because we know that there is new life and that beautiful things will return. God gives us such an abundant creation to inspire and motivate us throughout our lives. Paying attention to the world around us gives us the endurance and strength to get through the tough winters and forge ahead to spring lilies and blossoms. As the seasons change, I invite you to pay attention to how God is working in nature and prepare yourself for the new life that is to come.

325th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Saturday, October 5th

Walking Tour of the Preston City Cemetery 10A - 11:30A

History of William H. Doane - Famous Hymn Writer Noon

Preston City Congregational Church 325th Anniversary

Open House & Tour 1P – 2:30P



UPCOMING

Anniversary Service & Reception Saturday, November 16th 3P

Coast Guard Chorale Sunday, November 17th

"A Song of Thanks, A Call to Serve" is our new choral anthem, commissioned for our 325th Anniversary. It will be performed at our anniversary service on November 16th. Rehearsals will be at 11A – noon on Sundays. Please consider being part of this choir. The first rehearsal is on October 6th.

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Thank you to **Stella Dawley** for the new American Flag flying at the Annex in memory of Art Dawley.

A Memorial Service for Joyce Costner is planned for Friday, November 8th at 11A. Donations are being accepted for the Joyce G. Costner Organ Memorial Fund.

Thank you to **Kim Lang and Debi Berube** for stepping forward to assist the Decorating Committee with the Mother's Day and Easter flowers. We are happy these traditions will continue.

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

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY is October 6th. World Communion Sunday is a celebration observed by several Protestant denominations, taking place on the **first Sunday of every October**, that promotes Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation. Join us as we gather at His table.

Thoughts from a friend...

If nothing else, some people teach how not to be.



THANK YOU to everyone who helped make our fall yard sale a success! Over \$1300 was our profit!



BINGO at Strawberry Park

Our bingo season is coming to the end for 2024.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO HELP!

MEN'S RETREAT

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

THE SUPPER COMMITTEE is planning a **Turkey Dinner** for **November 2nd**, from 4:30P – 6P. Tickets are \$18 – Adults and \$9 – 12 years and younger. The menu includes: roasted turkey; mashed potatoes and gravy; stuffing/dressing; butternut squash; green beans; cranberry sauce; and dessert (apple crisp). Dine-in and take-out available.

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.

CHOIR practice continues Thursdays at 7P. New and returning voices are welcome. Arrangements can be made for special music. Contact Organist/Choir Director Trish Maerke or call (860) 705-5391.



THE CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL PAGEANT rehearsals will be held on **Wednesdays from 5:30P – 6:30P**

beginning on October 16th. There is a sign-up sheet posted on the mid-level bulletin board. All ages, from Pre-K through high school are welcome!

"Journey to Bethlehem, Follow the Star" will be directed by Wendy Abrahamson with the assistance of Hunter Bustamante leading the music. The pageant is scheduled for Sunday December 15th at 2:00 P.



TOUCAN FOOD PANTRY



We will be collecting canned soups throughout the month of October. We rely on donations to make this mission possible. All donations are appreciated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CELEBRATIONS

WELCOME to our newest member, Thomas Burke, Jr.

CONGRATULATIONS

Emma Price of Preston graduated from Springfield College with a master's degree in Physician Assistant studies. She will begin her career with a focus in pediatrics this fall.

Haley Price, also of Preston, graduated from King's College with a bachelor's in neuroscience and psychology, with plans to pursue graduate school.

Our church family shares in celebrating their accomplishments with Grandmother Janet Maciejny.



GET READY for a FUN FAMILY SCARECROW FESTIVAL 2025

We had our first 2025 festival meeting and have decided to move forward. We made some decisions due to the rising costs of everything and made some changes.

Our date is set for Saturday, September 20th, 2025. We will host from 10-4, invite our artisan vendors back, and enjoy homemade mac and cheese, chowder, and chicken BBQ. We will sell beverages. We want to continue with the car show, silent auction, and, of course, our amazing bake sale.

Everything on the Field of Dreams will be family and kid friendly, and FREE, including family games, face painting, crafts, entertainment, and a petting zoo. We are not renting a bouncy castle or dunk booth this year. We will be asking for financial donations to help offset costs of the petting zoo (Carly's Critters has said she is free on this date and she comes rain or shine), magician, or other entertainment act. If anyone knows of a reasonably priced family entertainer for an hour or so, let me know. We want families to come and enjoy a great day!

We will be projecting our own music throughout the festival and not paying for musicians or dance troops. If anyone from the church would like to sing, play an instrument, etc. under the pavilion, we would love it. We have a lot of talented people right here in our church family.

Of course we will have scarecrows; however, we will only be offering a minimal 1st place award and ribbons. Ballot boxes will be with each scarecrow, and counting will take place earlier in the day so winners can see their ribbons. We will not be offering radio advertising or doing mass mailings for sponsorships. We will be doing the mailing for community entries and have build-a-scarecrow events leading up to the festival. Our advertising will be local newspapers, Facebook pages, community Facebook pages, posters, and good ole word of mouth.

Our vendor fees will probably go up a bit to offset some of our expenses (port-a-johns, buses, and kid entertainment), and due to the new fire regulations, we may have to cut back on a few, as we have to stick to a new floor-plan. We will continue to encourage vendors to participate in the making of scarecrows, and we will offer a free spot for the winner.

If you are interested in helping in anyway, please contact me at sharilpurcell@gmail.com or call 860-917 9011.

I am very excited and look forward to an amazing festival Will keep you posted on upcoming meetings and info!

Yours in Christ,

Shari Purcell

In lieu of an October 5 Men's Group meeting,



we'll be assisting with the 325th anniversary Walktober events scheduled for that day.

Friday Night is Family Night!



When: November 15, 2024 at 5:30 to 7:30.

Snacks and coffee and Juice provided
Bring your favorite board or card game.
Lets have some Fun!!!!

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

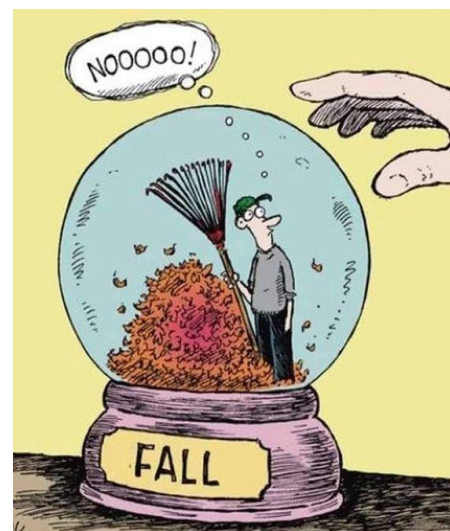
The Standing Committee will be appointing a member to the Nominating Committee at their October meeting. The Nominating Committee gathers names of those interested in serving open positions in our church. Please contact the office or Sue Brosnan, Standing Committee Chair, with questions or to add your name for consideration.



The Deacons' Photo was great!

We had 16 deacons out of 22. It is hoped that one of the following dates will work for those who were unable to be at church on Sept. 8th.

We'll try to get pictures of our missing deacons on each of the following Sundays after service on the steps in the Sanctuary; Oct. 6th and 20th and Nov.3rd.
Sr. Deacon Kim Lang





CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 2024

Hard to believe that a year has gone by so fast! Now we are planning for our next Christmas Bazaar. Last year was a great success because of all the help that was received from so many people who volunteered. I'm asking again for help with setting up on Thursday, November 21, at 5pm and cleaning up November 23, at 2pm. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hall. Last year everything worked like clockwork, and I'm so grateful!

Also, we need donations of Christmas decorations for our **Christmas Room** that are in like-new condition. If someone is downsizing their Christmas collection, please keep us in mind for your donations.

The other room is going to be our **Treasures and Gifts Room**. This room is for items in great condition that would be able to be gifted to others or a treasure for yourself. We are looking for items you have that are like new and you would like to give them a second home. We will also need gift bags in all different sizes and gift-wrapping tissue to go with the bags.

A big moneymaker is the **Bake Sale!** There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Please put your name along with your phone number. All donations are greatly appreciated.

There is room for just one more vendor. We are opening the nursery this year to add more vendors and more fun. Please call Nancy Obreiter at 401-206-3881 if you have any questions!

LOOKING AHEAD

NOVEMBER is the month the Nominating Committee will begin seeking candidates to fill the many positions in our church. Now is time to ask yourself "How can I help to keep my church moving forward?" "What talents do I have that can be shared with my church?" It takes many people to keep our church running smoothly throughout the year. Please consider serving in one of the open positions when they are announced. The current list of Boards and Committees can be found on our website. What they do can be found in our bylaws. You may find familiar names; ask them what they do! There are positions that our friends may fill as well, where church membership is not required. We welcome everyone!

The Preston Pilgrim has returned to a monthly newsletter.

Please send in your submissions by October 15, to be included in the November issue. Information may be left with the church office or **emailed to** susan.brosnan@gmail.com.

Would you like to receive an electronic version of the Pilgrim newsletter delivered to your email? Contact Sue Brosnan (susan.brosnan@gmail.com) or the church office with your name and email address. Your name will be added to our mailing list. For those without email, paper copies of the newsletter are available.

Has your mailing address changed or do you have a new phone number? Do we have your email address? Please let the office or church clerk, Sue Brosnan know, so records may be updated. We understand many people no longer have 'land lines' and use cell phones as their main contact. Please help us keep our information up-to-date.



Daylight Savings Time ends November 3rd!
Remember to set your clocks back one hour Saturday night.