



## The Preston Pilgrim

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

**November 2024**

**OFFICE CLOSED**

**MONDAY NOVEMBER 11 -  
VETERANS DAY**

**THURSDAY NOVEMBER 28 -  
THANKSGIVING**

**FRIDAY NOVEMBER 29 - DAY  
AFTER THANKSGIVING**

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](mailto:pastortompccc@gmail.com)

### Minister Emeritus

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

### 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

**Sunday Service** – 9:30A

**Sunday School** – 9:15A

**AA - Wednesday** – 7:30P

**Bible Study** – Tuesday – 7P

**Choir Practice Thursday** – 7:00P

**Bible Study** – Thursday – 10:30A

## FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR TOM:

"In that day the Branch of the Lord will be beautiful and glorious"  
Isaiah 4:2

With green summer days far behind us and almost all the leaves fallen on the ground, the trees have shaken to the branch. Here in New England, I have heard this time of year referred to as Stick Season. It's the time of year when all the leaves have fallen but before the snow has arrived. This is a time of transition as we pass through Daylight Saving Time with days getting shorter, the nights getting colder, and we start spending a bit more time indoors. With barren trees around us, it can be easy to ignore the beautiful and glorious creation that is all around us. It is easy during the spring to appreciate the flowers blooming after a long winter, but it's harder to celebrate in November as the light fades and gray skies brood.

During this time of transition, as the trees stand bare, it can actually be easy to see even more of God's creation if you can just look past the trees. The same is true in our own lives. When we experience the deep grief of a loved one or feel the pain of a difficult breakup, it can be so easy to focus on the loss itself and ignore everything beyond that pain. When our life stands bare in front of God, we are free to face the reality of our life. We are free to dwell on the branches that no longer bear fruit, or we can look past this barrenness to see the rest of God's creation. During the Stick Season of our lives, we have the opportunity to move past our grief and transition into a life that trusts in God to bring the spring flowers. No longer will you be so focused on the fall leaves and empty trees.

When we look past the pain in our lives, we are able to walk hand in hand with God, and on that day the branch of the Lord will be beautiful and glorious. The prophet Isaiah proclaimed that the fruit that will be produced by that empty branch will be called holy and will be the pride and joy of God. So as the days get colder and the nights get longer, we stand confident knowing that our savior, Jesus Christ, will come to bring light back into our lives so that we will bear good fruit when new life comes in spring. Beloved in Christ, during this Stick Season, look past the empty branches of the trees to catch a glimpse of the beauty and glorious kingdom of God.

## 325<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

### Our Anniversary year is rapidly coming to a close!

We hope you all will join us for our final two anniversary events.

The first being a special **Anniversary Service** on

**Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm.** You won't want to miss this! Plan to be a part of our church's history for future generations. There will be a special reception to follow. (The service will be live-streamed for our at-home members and friends.)

The following day, **Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm** the **U.S. Coast Guard Chorale** will be performing in the Sanctuary. This is bound to be a special treat, and what a great way to cap off this monumental year!



## FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

**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.

**The November Senior Luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday November 19th at noon.** If you are 62 or older and regularly attend church, we invite you to come. There is no charge. The menu will be meatloaf, mashed potatoes, Harvard beets, green beans, and dessert. Rick Alletto and Sandy Dudek are the coordinators of this lunch.

**The sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board.**

**NEW MEMBERS will be welcomed into the church on November 24th, Thanksgiving Sunday.** If you are interested in joining the church, please sign the sheet on the mid-level bulletin board. We'll mail you all the information. Please call the office if you have any questions.

### NOTE FROM THE CHURCH CLERK

The Bylaw Committee will be meeting soon to review our church bylaws. Church members are welcome to submit any proposed bylaw change, consideration, or amendment, **stated in writing, worded exactly**, to a committee member. You may also mail it to the church office (ATTN: Clerk), or email it to [Susan Brosnan, Clerk](mailto:Susan.Brosnan@church.org) by November 30th. Any changes agreed upon by the committee will be presented to the Standing Committee for preliminary review, comments, and suggestions, before presentation to the membership for final approval at the Annual Meeting in February 2025.

Susan Brosnan, Clerk

### Thoughts from a friend...

Let our lives be full of both thanks and giving.

### 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.**



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



THE FOOD PANTRY could use some Thanksgiving 'fixins' in addition to the basic monthly staples given to our patrons. Requested items include: stuffing mix, canned cranberry sauce and gravy. Distribution day for Thanksgiving is Wednesday November 20th and Sunday November 24th for our church family and friends.

Please consider picking up an extra item or two when you are grocery shopping. All donations are appreciated.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS & CELEBRATIONS



We expressed our condolences to the family of Dorothy Haskell on October 11th.

On October 27, 2024 we welcomed into the Household of Christian Faith through the sacrament of Baptism, Maxeen Claire LaPointe, the daughter of Jennifer & Jake LaPointe of Griswold.



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**A Church Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 3, 2024 at 10:45A to vote on the proposed budget for 2025.**



**SOLD OUT!**

**THE SUPPER COMMITTEE** is planning a **Turkey Dinner** for **November 2<sup>nd</sup>**, 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. Please specify which option when purchasing your tickets.

**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 2024**

**LESS THAN 3 WEEKS AWAY!!!**

I'm excited to say we are less than 3 weeks from our Christmas Bazaar!!!

We are in need of treasures and gifts to supply our Treasures and Gifts room! If you have any beautiful items you have been hanging onto but don't have a place for, please consider donating them to our gift room. If you wish to have them returned if they don't find a new home, please let me know and I will be happy to get them back to you. I want to thank everyone for their donations and help, because it made last year's bazaar the success it was! We couldn't do it without all of your help!

We are also looking for Christmas items and baked goods. **CALLING ALL BAKERS**, if you haven't signed up to bake, please do so on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board where announcements are posted. The goodies are a big hit at the bazaar.

Last, **but absolutely** not least, we need help with setting up on Thursday, Nov. 21st, from 5 to 7pm and cleaning up after the bazaar Saturday, Nov. 23rd at 2pm. Please sign up; there are lists for both days on the bulletin board. Thank you so much in advance!!! Please call Nancy Obreiter at 401-206-3881 if you have any questions!

**A WARM CLOTHING DRIVE -**

Hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves are needed. Donations of coats of all sizes are welcome for men, women and children.



Items may be left in or on the Elizabeth Allyn box located to the right of the table in the mid-level hallway. Let's help keep everyone warm this winter! Laurie Bowers is coordinating this mission. Thank you for your support.



**The Men's Group will meet Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10A.**

**MEN'S GROUP**

**POSTPONED!**  
**NEW DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED**



**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.

**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 who would like to help!

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





**The Preston Pilgrim has returned to a monthly newsletter.**

Please send in your submissions by November 15<sup>th</sup> , to be included in the December issue.

Information may be left with the church office or **emailed to** [susan.brosnan@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.

**THANKSGIVING RECIPES from Kindergarten Students**

**Jayden's Carrots**

10 carrots

18 minutes of flour

Cut the carrots with a knife and put them in a pan.

Cook them on the stove for 100 minutes.

Add the flour.

Mix it all up with a big spoon. Then it will be done!!

No one will eat them. Nobody likes carrots.

We want mac and cheese!

**Kayla – Turkey**

Buy it. Take it home. Then you cook it. Put it in the oven for 1 hour. Take it out of the oven. Put it on a plate. Then eat it.

**Jeremy - Turkey**

You buy the turkey and take the paper off. Then you put it in the refrigerator and take it back out and cut it with a knife and make sure all the wires are out and take out the neck and heart. Then you put it in a big pan and cook it for half an hour at 80 degrees. Then you invite people over and eat.

**Shelby - Applesauce**

Go to the store and buy some apples, and then you squish them up. Then you put them in a jar that says, "Applesauce." Then you eat it.

**Wai - Pumpkin Pie**

Get a pumpkin. Cook it. Eat it.



**November 11th**



**November 28th**

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**