



The Preston Pilgrim

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

January 2025

OFFICE CLOSED

**WEDNESDAY JANUARY 1 –
NEW YEARS DAY**

**MONDAY JANUARY 20 –
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
BIRTHDAY**

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 – Thursday – 10:30A

Choir Practice Thursday – 7:00P

**"In the Beginning was the Word, and the Word was with
God, and the Word was God"
– John 1:1**

From the Desk of Pastor Tom,

Happy New Year, my beloved. What a 2024 we have had together, with anniversaries, concerts, and picnics. I hope that you all had some time before the year ended to unwind, relax, and reflect on your life in the past year. I always enjoy taking the time to see where God was working in my life throughout the year.

I certainly know God was working when he brought me to Preston City Congregational Church to become your 31st minister. The Holy Spirit is working in the world and throughout our community. I remember when I first started back in June, one of Rev. Mark's pieces of advice for me was to make sure reading scripture was foundational in my ministry. Now I admit when he said those words, I truly took them to heart, but with so much activity in our church and time spent visiting you all, it has been harder for me to return to the spiritual discipline of devotional scripture time every day.

I once had a spiritual director who told me not to be discouraged if I didn't find time for the Bible every day, but I admit that it is a spiritual practice that is deeply fulfilling. We encounter God every day as we walk His good creation, but when we take the time to sit with scripture, we encounter God on shared ground. God became the word so that we could know Him and be closer to Him. We have a God that loves us so much we have His holy word to help us discern how the Holy Spirit is working in our own lives.

My New Year resolution is to get back to the spiritual discipline of reading the Bible every day. A year after I graduated seminary, I was feeling the same malaise and neglect of scripture, so I purchased a "Read the Bible in a Year" book that directed me to read through the entire Bible in 365 days. It was incredibly rewarding to make God's word the foundation of my life and the lens through which I saw everything. When you begin the year with God, it will be hard to miss the blessings in your life.

I hope you join me in my resolution to make God the foundation of life.

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Our next Senior Luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11th at noon. We thank the Migliacchio family for hosting this event. If you are 62 or older and regularly attend church, we invite you to come. There is no charge. The sign-up sheet will be posted in mid-January.

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN...

Time to start working on those annual reports for 2024! Reports are due in the office by January 16, 2025.

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.



The Toucan Food Pantry has received grants from the Preston Community Fund and the Stop & Shop 'Bloomin' for Good' flower bouquet promotion. We thank them for their support.

And speaking of the Pantry, along with regular monthly supplies, your donations helped provide holiday meals for our guests; turkeys for Thanksgiving and ham or turkey for Christmas with all the 'fixins'. Thank you for your generosity.

In January we are accepting donations of canned tuna. Tuna is a great source of protein, has no carbs and is low in fat. Let's help our guests start their new year on a healthy note!



SUNDAY SCHOOL resumes on January 5th at 9:15A.

Thoughts from a friend...

"Be a light for those who have lost their will to burn"

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 Supper Committee is planning soup dinners! Soup will be sold by the quart and is take-home only.

More information is coming soon!



MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group will meet Saturday, January 4th at 10A.

OUR WARM CLOTHING DRIVE is ongoing. Hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves are needed. Donations of coats of all sizes are welcome for men, women and children.



Warm sweaters and sweatshirts are also needed. Items may be left in or on the Elizabeth Allyn box located to the right of the table in the mid-level hallway. Laurie Bowers is coordinating this mission. The need is always there. Thank you for your support.



Tuesday Evening Bible Study is on a break until spring!

Friday Night is Family Game Night

January 31, from 6-8.



Bring your favorite board or card game and let's have some fun.

Everyone is welcome, even families of one! Coffee, juice, and treats available.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

A sign-up sheet will be posted, so we know how many to expect.

Contact Chris Burden with any questions.



TRAVELS 2025

JOIN US as we travel to Paris & London, November 12- 20, 2025. All the details are posted on the mid-level bulletin board and brochures are available on the mid-level information table, as well as from the church office.

Here are some things you should know:

If you'd like to join Rev. Stan on this amazing excursion, **you must make your reservation** directly with COLLETTE (the travel company we will use). Beginning January 2025, all reservations will be paperless. Call the Collette "Team Line" (800.581.8942) and speak with an agent who will book your reservation and answer any questions you may have.

Our group reservation number is **1308080**. You can speak with Madison (our "Group Specialist"), or any available agent. Just refer to the reservation number above.

At the time you make your reservation, a deposit of \$698 is needed per person, as well as \$549 payment, per person, for travel insurance (This is NOT required, but *highly recommended*. *Speak with an agent for details.*). If you'd rather register online, go to

gateway.gocollette.com/link/1308080

Your final payment is due August 14, 2025. Collette will send you the balance owed. If you have any questions, call Collette directly, not the church office.

There will be an informational meeting with our Collette travel specialist (Aiden Ardine) who will explain the details of this wonderful trip and answer any questions you may have. The date of this meeting will be Tuesday, February 25, at 6 PM in Dudek Hall. Remember, this trip is open to the community. Tell your family and friends!

Until then, contact me directly (860.303.9622) if you have any general questions. I hope you can join us.
Rev. Stan

EPIPHANY JANUARY 6TH



**THREE KINGS DAY
OLD CHRISTMAS
THE TWELFTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS**



The Preston Pilgrim is a monthly newsletter.

Please send in your submissions by January 15th, to be included in the February issue.

Information may be left with the church office or emailed to susan.brosnan@gmail.com.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**"Therefore, if anyone is
in Christ,
he is a new creation;
old things have passed
away;
behold, all things have
become new."**



2 Corinthians 5:17