



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

**FEBRUARY 2025**

**OFFICE CLOSED**

**MONDAY FEBRUARY 17 –  
PRESIDENTS 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](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 – Thursday** – 10:30A

**Choir Practice Thursday** – 7:00P



Join us for fellowship, coffee and punch following our service.

**From the Desk of Pastor Tom,**

I hope that you all have found some ways to stay warm through this cold winter. While I enjoy playing in the snow with my family, things can get a little dark and sad this time of the year. With no leaves on the trees and wind that bites your ears, this time of the year can be boring and mundane. It is no wonder then why this time of the year in the church calendar is called "ordinary time." This is one of the seasons on our liturgical calendar in between high holy days like Advent and Lent. The color to represent ordinary time is green to signify the new life that is to come through Jesus. When we hear ordinary or see trees without leaves, we usually think it is boring and drab, but ordinary just means ordered. It gives us the opportunity to see how God orders the world into seasons so that we can witness new life every year.

What can seem like ordinary to us is really the extraordinary way in which God organizes the world so perfectly. During this time of the year when our hemisphere strays a little further from the sun, it can be easy to stray further from God. It can be easy to be grumpy and tired when it is always cold and dark. This is why we revolve our own lives around God, so as we ebb and flow, we can feel the radiance of God's love warm our bodies and souls. Placing God in the center of our lives allows us to orbit around a stationary being that we can count on and rely on. Consistency and dependability can seem boring in a world full of screens and change, but it is within these ordinary qualities that we meet God.

While January and February can drag and March and April seem ages away, if we set our sights in God, we can trust that the warmth of spring will be here soon. We can trust the God who uses ordinary time to order the universe in the exact precise way. When we get so busy in our lives that we stop to realize how God is moving the heavens and stars above us in perfect revolutions, it is no wonder we miss the extraordinary for the ordinary. During this time of the year, focus on the people in your lives that are consistent and dependable, those people who may seem a little ordinary or boring. Those are the people that you can count on through tough and testing times, those are the people you will find gravity pulling yourself back towards. Through God, the ordinary becomes extraordinary.

**The Annual Meeting is scheduled for  
Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 11A.**

## FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

**Our next Senior Luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at noon.** We thank the Migliaccio family for hosting this event. If you are 62 or older and regularly attend church, we invite you to come. Please sign the posted sheet. In case of inclement weather the luncheon will be held Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at noon.

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**HUNTER BUSTAMANTE** will be doing the worship folders while Mrs. Dudek is out. Please direct any announcements you need put in the folder to Hunter at [interim.DRE.pccc@gmail.com](mailto:interim.DRE.pccc@gmail.com).

Prayer list requests could also be sent to Hunter if for a family member.

Several people have offered to help out during this time. The office has a list of names and phone numbers.

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**Please join us for A Celebration of Life to honor Heather Gerl** on Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 11A here at the church. A reception will follow.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER CANCELLATIONS** Tune in to Television Channel 3 (WFSB), local radio stations or you may check Facebook, our website [prestoncitycongregational.org](http://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 Supper Committee** is planning soup dinners! Homemade soup will be sold by the quart and is take-home only. Soup must be ordered ahead so we know how much to make! Dates to order and purchase will be announced.



More information is coming soon! Look for it in the Sunday bulletin.



The Men's Group will meet Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at 10A.

The PCCC Men's Group meets on the first Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. in the Meeting Room. Our primary purpose is fellowship, and meetings provide an opportunity to deepen our faith through a devotional and discussion. It is also a place to discuss life challenges, receive encouragement, and support our church and community in various ways. Meetings typically last an hour or so. Please consider joining us this Saturday, February 1st or at our next meeting on Saturday, March 1st.

## TOUCAN FOOD PANTRY NEWS



**Thank you to all for your generosity for our January canned tuna drive!**

**In February we are accepting donations of cereal, including oatmeal.**

Breakfast food is one of the least donated items to food banks, which means families who depend on food banks for hunger relief often receive no breakfast for their homes. We focus on cereal because it's non-perishable, easy to prepare, and can provide whole grains and essential vitamins & minerals lacking in many at-risk households. It is also a great snack!

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



## SCHOLARSHIP MONTH IS HERE!



In 1992, February was established as Scholarship month, in order to give church-goers the opportunity to contribute to the Helen Benjamin Scholarship Fund. Helen worked in the Preston School system for many years

and was dedicated to the education of our youth. Upon her passing, the family established the fund in her memory, in order to provide assistance for young people seeking to further their education. When her husband died in 2015, the fund was renamed as the Winthrop C. and Helen Benjamin Scholarship Fund. Through the years, many of our young people have benefited from this fund, thanks in part to your giving.

We are offering the opportunity to members and friends of the church to consider giving a monetary gift to the scholarship fund. You may give your gift in memory of or in honor of someone. A listing of donors (no amounts) will be printed in the worship folder on Scholarship Sunday, which is usually in June. You may place your donation in an envelope marked *Scholarship Fund* and place it in the offering plate, or mail it to the church. Checks should be made out to PCCC with *Scholarship Fund* on the memo line. Donations are accepted through the end of May.

Please give as you are able and help our young people reach their goals.

## ESCAPE ROOM BUILD

The BRE is developing a new escape experience based on Daniel 2-4. They are looking for mechanically-minded individuals and those who love solving puzzles to help create this project. A meeting will be held Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 6P if you would like to learn more; there is a sign-up sheet posted.



## 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

<https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/13080>

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

### Thoughts from a friend...

*"Use what talents you possess; the woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except the best."*

Henry Van Dyke



## SCARECROW FESTIVAL 2025

We are holding a meeting on **Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 6P in the Meeting Room**. We hope all can attend as we need to start getting applications and information out, and activities organized.



Thanks to Ondrej Paska (See Matthew 14:24-33)  
**PETER FINDS HIS FAITH TO BE MUCH STRONGER IN THE WINTER**

**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.**

**The Preston Pilgrim is a monthly newsletter.**

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

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