



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

APRIL 2025

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



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

From the Desk of Pastor Tom,

April is here, and that means spring cleaning. I have taken advantage of the warmer weather and started pulling weeds and getting rid of all the vines that have overgrown my rock walls during the winter. Every single year, no matter how much I prepare or how much protective equipment I use, I always end up with poison ivy or poison oak all over my arms. Maybe I just have sensitive skin, but it seems like I just can't avoid it. I've had some friends give me good salves and lotions over the years, but nothing can protect me from the rash I will get whenever I do spring cleaning.

During this Lenten season, as we approach the cross and Easter, we are invited by God to repent and do some spring cleaning in our own souls. That is not always easy, and sometimes changing our bad habits is hard, and they become abrasive, poisonous weeds. Our temptations feel good when we scratch them, but we need to give our bodies and souls time to heal and renew our relationship with God. Repentance is hard; it means admitting that we are wrong, and that isn't always comfortable. We want the easy path to God, but sometimes we need to clear away the weeds and poison ivy before we can see him clearly.

This spring season, as you are clearing out the cobwebs in your attic or cutting down a few trees that aren't producing fruit, be encouraged that God is with you. The blisters and sores you get from hard work will heal in time, but the spring cleaning always pays off. The rash from my poison oak will be gone by the time it is warm enough to wear short sleeves, but my lawn will look a little cleaner. I will be able to enjoy the abundance of summer because I spent the time cleaning and repenting during this Lenten early spring season.

God bless.

The Ordination & Installation of Thomas Burke, Jr. is Sunday, March 30th at 3P.

This service will be streamed live for our shut-ins and those who cannot attend in person. Please use the Live Stream button on our website. The service will be stored in our archives for later viewing.

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

We were pleased to hear that our own Hayden Bustamante was recently promoted to Corporal.

Hayden is serving in the Army and we couldn't be prouder of this accomplishment! Way to go, Hayden! *Mrs. Dudek*

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, March 29th at 11A for Bonnie Raue.

New Members will be welcomed into our church during our Palm Sunday Service. A meeting for prospective new members will be held Sunday, April 6th following our service. Sign-up sheet posted.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY – April 13th - New Members -9:30A

MAUNDY THURSDAY – April 17th - Seder Meal – 6:30P

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE – April 18th - Noon

ECUMENICAL EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE – April 20th - 6:30A at Amos Lake, Hollowell Road, Preston. In case of inclement weather, it will be held in our Sanctuary.

EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE – April 20th - 9:30A

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.



TOUCAN FOOD PANTRY NEWS

Our Toucan Food Pantry assists many in our community and beyond with basic food items. Established in 2009, they are open on the third Wednesday of each month to the community from 10A- Noon, and the last Sunday of the month for our church family, following our service.

Patrons receive canned soup, macaroni and cheese, pasta, and spaghetti sauce. Canned vegetables, tuna, peanut butter and jelly, cereal and bread are some of the staples provided, as well as essentials such as toilet paper. There are extra items available such as canned meats and shampoo. The Boy Scout Food Drives help to fill our shelves. Thanks to donations from Ledyard C.H.A.I.N., we have pet food for our furry companions.

Do you know someone you could share a bag with? Thank you for your continuing support for this vital ministry.

And thank you to our dedicated volunteers, who make this outreach possible.

TRUSTEES

Spring Cleanup Saturday, March 29th from 8A-10A.

Join our Trustees to ready the church grounds for Easter. Please bring rakes to even out stones in the lower parking lot. There are also many sticks and branches to be picked up on the lawns as well.



CHOIR NEWS



Practice is on Sunday after our service.

New and returning voices are always welcome. Arrangements can be made for special music. Contact Organist/Choir Director Trish Maerke or call (860) 705-5391.



Saturday, April 12th at 7pm

Sponsored by our Men's Group

Doors open at 6:30pm

Admission is \$10

Top three teams awarded cash prizes

Snacks are welcome, no alcohol please

Coffee, bottled water and snacks will be provided

Teams can be any size

There will be 30 questions, in categories

including General Knowledge, Geography,

History, and more!

Thoughts from a friend...

May every sunrise bring you hope and
every sunset bring you peace.

DECORATING COMMITTEE

The Good News of Christ's Resurrection was discovered in a garden.

The *Garden of Hope* will be on display **EASTER Morning** with plants you have purchased in memory of, *or* in honor of, a loved one. **Orders will be taken Sunday March 30th and next week Sunday April 6th.** You may purchase: daffodils for \$12.50, tulips for \$10, lilies for \$13, hydrangeas for \$25, and possibly azaleas. Remember with Easter so late this year, your purchased plants can be placed in your garden right away!





St. James Episcopal Church

60th Annual Fish & Chips

When: Every Friday: 4:00 to 6:30 pm
March 7th through April 11th

Where: St. James Episcopal Church
95 Route 2A, Preston, CT

Menu: \$18.00 per dinner Cash or credit/debit cards accepted
Baked, Fried or Combo Fish available
All meals include french fries, coleslaw & a dessert.

*To place your order, start calling at 1:00 pm at 860-889-0150
Or you can drive up in person.*

This is a Drive-Thru / Take-Out Only Event
Dinner Pick-up time: 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm OR until sold out




TRAVELS 2025

Paris & London, November 12- 20, 2025

Please note... Due to health issues Rev. Stan will NOT be leading this wonderful trip in the fall.

COLLETTE and the church are still offering this trip to the congregation and community.

Travelers have until May 13th to register for this trip and receive a credit of \$600. **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.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your well wishes, cards, and especially your prayers since learning of my brain diagnosis. My 18-month (twice each month) treatment plan will hopefully slow down the progression of my memory issues. My first treatment is April 18th. As you can imagine, I was stunned to learn of my diagnosis from my Yale New Haven Neurologist, who told me that the treatments I will receive will not cure my condition but will slow down its progression.

Am I scared, nervous, anxious? You bet I am! I'm a man of Faith, but I'm also human.

I came across this quote about a year ago. I liked it and printed it out so I could see and read it every day:

"NEVER BE AFRAID to trust an unknown future to a KNOWN GOD."

Holocaust survivor Corrie Ten Boom spoke these words as she recalled her days in a Nazi concentration camp, unsure about her future.

I will trust my unknown future to a known God!

Take care,
Rev. Stan



"He is not here; He has risen, just as He said".

– Matthew 28:6