



## The Preston

### Pilgrim

the monthly  
newsletter of the  
Preston City  
Congregational  
Church

"Gathering in Faith  
Since 1698"

**MAY 2025**

Church Office Hours: Mon– Fri  
9AM – Noon

Office Closed Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>  
Memorial Day

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



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

Coffee Fellowship

## From the Desk of Reverend Tom,

Beloved in Christ, what a wonderful Easter season we have entered into together. With ordinations and shouts of hosanna on Palm Sunday, we certainly have much to celebrate. I couldn't be happier with how our relationship has grown and thrived in the past year. My ordination gave me plenty of opportunities to reflect on my path to ministry. I'm so glad that you were able to welcome so many guests to this church and show them the marks of Jesus Christ that we have created in this community.

By the beginning of May, the flowers are blooming, and we see signs of new life all around us. Nature is coming alive and vibrant greens envelop our view. Jesus loves to use this time of the year to show us what the kingdom of God looks like. One of the parables that Jesus uses is the story of the mustard seed, and it appears in all three synoptic gospels. In Matthew 13, Jesus describes the Kingdom of God like a mustard seed that grows into something bigger than we can ever imagine.

One of the things that brought me great joy during my ordination was having all the guests from smaller and larger churches that I have served in the past. Some of them have been struggling for years; I came to them as a seminarian, and they helped me grow as a pastor. Other churches were willing to help nurture my gifts and give me the support I needed to be the person I am today. Like a mustard seed, their faith in me helped me grow into the pastor I am today.

We all have people throughout our lives that support us, and water us, and give us the nutrients we need to grow and thrive. Sometimes we don't even recognize how we shape the people around us. If we start seeing ourselves as God's watering can, helping to grow the tiny mustard seeds of faith the people we love have, we can become participants in God's kingdom. This is how we can join in the Easter season of resurrection, by providing new life and letting others witness the signs of the resurrection. This spring, as you embrace the sun, take the time to appreciate the people who watered your seed and prepare yourself to work the soil for Christ, building the kingdom of God.

God bless.

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## SUNDAYS in MAY

May 4<sup>th</sup> Remembering Our Children

May 11<sup>th</sup> Mother's Day

May 18<sup>th</sup> Children's Day

May 25<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day

**FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE**

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Memorial Services were held on March 29<sup>th</sup> for Bonnie Raue and on April 12<sup>th</sup> for Orville Campbell. We express our condolences to their families and friends. We also remember Pope Francis and Frank Meyer, the brother of Trish Maerkle, in our prayers.

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**New Members** were welcomed into our church during our Palm Sunday Service. They include: Rrio Duron, Eleanor Grant, Jayde Seyler and Scott Wright.

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**A reminder for our seniors:** we have planned a Summer Picnic for Wednesday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at noon. **SAVE the DATE!**

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**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.

Our **SPRING YARD SALE** is planned for May 17<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of May 24<sup>th</sup>, from 8A – 2P.

Donations will be accepted by contacting Stella Dawley. Donations will also be accepted the day of the sale.



**Please do not leave anything outside at the church or annex when no one from the committee is able to meet with you.**

Just a reminder:

No clothing, paint, computers, outdated electronics, tires, air conditioners or other bulky items. We are unable to accept baby/infant products such as cribs or car seats.

**TOUCAN FOOD PANTRY NEWS**



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

**Cereal is non-perishable, easy to prepare, and also makes a great snack as well!**

**On April 27th 2025, we welcomed into the Household of Christian Faith through the sacrament of Baptism** Lucy Claire Shea, the daughter of Tim and Alexis Shea.

Proud grandparents are Ed and Carolyn Shea. We ask God’s blessing on this little one.

**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 Maerkle or call (860) 705-5391.

**Happy Mother’s Day** to all the selfless women who inspire, motivate and remind us to be a better person every single day.

**Please join the Men’s Group** for a light brunch at coffee hour following our service on May 11<sup>th</sup>, as they honor the women in our church.



**MEN’S GROUP**

The Men’s Group has organized an exciting day-trip on Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> to New Haven to visit Yale’s

Peabody Museum of Natural History, followed by lunch on our own at Modern Pizza in New Haven. The Peabody Museum recently completed a four-year renovation and the reviews of the dinosaur exhibit and other exhibits have been excellent. The cost of the motorcoach is \$45 per person and we’ll need at least 45 people to sign-up. The bus will board at PCCC at 8:30am and return by 5:00pm. The payment deadline to the church office is May 20<sup>th</sup>. A sign-up sheet can be found on the mid-level bulletin board. If you have any questions, please contact Bob Vescovi at 401.583.7840 or [RVesco2010@comcast.net](mailto:RVesco2010@comcast.net) For additional information on the Peabody Museum exhibits, visit: [peabody.yale.edu](http://peabody.yale.edu).

**Thoughts from a friend...**

Let your hands be so busy catching blessings, that there’s no room to hold grudges.



## EASTER BASKET NEWS

We are pleased to share with you that 17 baskets were made and distributed to the Shut-in's and another 25 baskets were assembled for the Food Pantry. Thank you very much to those who purchased items for the baskets.



Our next meeting is on Saturday, May 3rd @ 10am. Going forward the Women's Fellowship will take turns hosting the monthly meeting at our homes. Please check the weekly bulletin for an update on where we will be meeting.

## WEB-STREAM NEWS

Our Easter Service was viewed live by 107 connections all over the United States, the Bahamas, and in Haiti! Since August 21, 2016, our services have reached well beyond our community. What began as an outreach to our shut-ins or those who are medically-compromised and cannot attend Sunday services, has grown to include those at college or people on vacation, 'snowbirds', and new friends across the globe. When COVID-19 hit, our church was well-prepared to continue this outreach to keep our members and friends connected to their church. Our Sunday services continue to be available to all, live, or through the archives.

## 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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](https://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.



## NEWS FROM THE SUPPER COMMITTEE



### Chicken BBQ- Take-out Only

June 7th  
4pm - 5:30pm

\$22.00 Adults  
\$11.00 Children

Tickets will go on sale Sunday May 18th.

Menu: BBQ Chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, homemade biscuits, and dessert.



## MEMORIAL DAY – MONDAY, MAY 26<sup>th</sup>

**Remembering those who gave their lives  
for our freedom.**

**The greatest love you can have for your friends  
is to give your life for them.**

John 15:13 GNT