

**The
Preston
Pilgrim**
the monthly
newsletter of the
Preston City
Congregational
Church

"Gathering in Faith Since 1698"

AUGUST 2025

Church Office Hours:
Mon– Fri 9AM – Noon

Minister Office Hours:
Mon Tu 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

**OFFICE CLOSED MONDAY
SEPTEMBER 1, LABOR DAY**

**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
AA - Wednesday – 7:30P
Bible Study – Thursday –
10:30A



**LEMONADE ON THE
LAWN**

**Join us for fellowship and
a cold drink following our
service.**

From the Desk of Reverend Tom,

August is a month for road trips, vacations, and heat waves. Earlier this summer the kids of Preston City Congregational Church had a spiritual road trip at Vacation Bible School, found God, and made friends along the way. As we hold on tight to the last month of summer there is still time for travel and recreation. In Psalm 23, the psalmist tells us that surely goodness and love will follow us all the days of our lives, and we shall dwell in the House of the Lord forever. While some of us are homebodies that would gladly dwell in their air-conditioned houses all the days of their lives, we are called by God to travel on the road of life. There are many travelers that we will meet on the road and Jesus gives us the parable of the Good Samaritan to show us the rules of the road.

We love to dwell in the House of the Lord forever because like our own home it is safe and comfortable there. The protection that God offers us is undeniable and his blessings improve our lives daily. But we are not meant to stay in our houses forever. We are called by Christ to become travelers on the road like the Good Samaritan. Jesus ends the parable by saying go and do likewise; we are meant to leave the safety and comfort of our homes in order to provide sanctuary for others who are suffering on the road of life. Home is where we are meant to lay down our guard and rest, where we are protected from harm and danger.

On the road of life, we come into contact with people who ignore us and cut us off. Instead of retreating to the safety and comfort of home every time we run into an obstacle, Paul writes we need to gain endurance by focusing on God's grace and love for us. On the road, Paul faced many trials and tribulations, but his faith kept him moving towards his goal of building the church. We can gain perseverance and strength by following the path that God has for us towards the home that Jesus built for us. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who guides us towards safety and prosperity. So, when you are on the road this summer, when someone cuts you off and makes you want to turn around and go home, follow Christ to your destination and you will find yourself at home.

God Bless.

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The first day of the new Sunday School year is Sunday, September 7th at 9:15A.

Our Sunday morning fellowship moves indoors starting on September 7th as well. Coffee and punch will be served following our service.

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Congratulations to Allison Shea! Allison recently received the "care and respect" award presented to a sixth grader at her school.

We congratulate her on being the recipient of an award like this! She is the daughter of Brian and Melissa Shea and granddaughter of Ed and Carolyn Shea. Much that is good is still happening in our world.

May Allison influence many others around her to do the same. Sandy Dudek



We expressed our sympathy to the family of Emma Abrahamson. A graveside service was held July 19, followed by a reception.

REMEMBER - INCLEMENT WEATHER CANCELLATIONS can refer to many situations. If you are unsure if the church is open, follow the instructions below.

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.

Active members who wish to borrow items from the church (chairs, tables), please check with the office. They may have been requested by someone else! **There is now a form to fill out to help keep track of borrowed items.**

TOUCAN FOOD PANTRY NEWS



"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in," Matthew 25:35

Our Food Pantry is open to the public on the third Wednesday of the month from 8:30A – noon. Do you know someone who may benefit from this assistance? Maybe you know someone, who knows someone, who might welcome a little extra help with groceries.

Share the good news of this mission! You never know who may hear and be blessed by this outreach!

Sunday August 3rd Communion Sunday, is Toucan (Two-Can) Sunday; donation boxes are near the doors. Our specialty item for this month is peanut butter.

On July 6th, 2025, we welcomed into the Household of Christian Faith through the sacrament of Baptism, Clara Ann Clabbers, the daughter of John and Kaitlyn Clabbers.



We ask God's blessing on this little one.

CHOIR NEWS

Summer Choir has only a few Sundays left! Voices are always welcomed, even if only for one Sunday! We will meet at 9A, before our morning service to practice well-loved hymns. Also, if anyone wants to sing in "Summer Choir" they can pick up a music packet in the choir office. See Organist/Choir Director Trish Maerkle or call (860) 705-5391 for information.



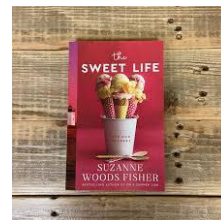
The Men's Group will not meet in August. They will return in September.



Thoughts from a friend...

"Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience."
Ralph Waldo Emerson

The Woman's Fellowship is doing a summer book club. We will be reading "The Sweet Life" by Suzanne Woods Fisher. It's available on Amazon, Christian Book, Walmart & Target. We will be meeting on Saturday, Sept. 6th to discuss the book. All women from the community are welcome to join us for the Summer Book Club.



Bridget Park

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Our **Scarecrow Festival** returns Saturday, September 20th from 10A -4P.



We are returning to our original idea of free, family-fun for our church family and friends.

There will be food, vendors, and fun and entertainment for all.

An expanded Car and Vehicle Show returns, as well as games and crafts for the children, and SCARECROWS!

AND the Chicken BBQ Dinner returns!

The Bake Sale and Silent Auction will be offered.

We are so happy the Scarecrow Festival is back, after our anniversary celebrations last year, and we hope to have the most spectacular scarecrows yet. To help us build the best, most creative, and accessorized scarecrows, we are asking for donations of the following:

- Old clothes
- Hats
- Costumes
- Gloves
- Tights
- Accessories
- Artificial flowers and vines
- Stuffing material

Anything else that you think may contribute to the prize-winning scarecrow.

All donations can be deposited in the TRUNK, which is next to the information table outside Halls' Hall.

If you have any question, please reach out to Debra LaBree at 203-988-8217 or email at debralabree59@gmail.com.

Scarecrow Building Workshops will be announced soon!



The Office will be **CLOSED**
for the holiday, Monday, September 1st.

TRAVELS 2025

Paris & London,

Rescheduled

November 5 -13, 2025



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

Your final payment is due August 14, 2025.

Collette will send you the balance owed. If you have any questions, call Collette directly, (Team Line" (800.581.8942) not the church office.

Lee Ann Fessenden is our church contact.

BINGO at Strawberry Park

PCCC is one of the non-profit organizations that assists at the games selling cards.



Funds received are used to offset our budget. We have games through October; please check the calendar for times available.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO HELP!

