



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

**"Gathering in Faith Since 1698"**

**SEPTEMBER 2025**

Church Office Hours:  
Mon– Fri 9AM – Noon

Minister Office Hours:  
Mon Tu Thu 10A – 2P

**Minister**

Reverend 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

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



Starting September  
7<sup>th</sup>, join us in Halls' Hall  
for fellowship, coffee  
and punch following  
our service.

**From the Desk of Reverend Tom,**

The leaves have already begun falling, and the sun is setting earlier and earlier. There is already a chill in the air on some mornings. Our bodies seem to know the seasons are changing even before we do. It just shows how resilient God made us when we were created in His image. Our bodies were made to live in harmony with creation and to work as stewards in God's kingdom. While our bodies may be primed for transitions, our minds aren't always as amenable. My wife is dreading the end of summer, and maybe it's the nutmegger in me, but I love fall. The house I grew up in was right behind a large commercial apple orchard. My father and I would wander around for hours exploring, and there is nothing I love more than a good apple cider donut. Change and transitions are difficult, but when we embrace the seasons like our bodies were made to, it becomes a little easier.

That is why we have Scarecrow Festivals and hayrides; it's why we go apple and pumpkin picking. Seasonal activities keep us living in harmony with God. As the world turns and we get closer and further from the sun, our relationship with God can ebb and flow in the same way. Just because we are feeling a little disconnected from God or from the church doesn't mean the next season won't change that. Paul tells us that our struggles in this season are not forever and they will not last. Over and over again Jesus calls us to repentance because he knows it is a constant process of turning back towards God after turning away from Him. Each season gives us a glimpse at the glory of God's kingdom that we are invited to participate in.

So, as we approach the back-to-school season and fall sets in, let us embrace the season like God made it just for us, because He did. Let our bodies experience the chill in the air and the crunch of the leaves beneath our feet. Let us appreciate that we are as much a part of nature as the birds flying south and the trees that lose their leaves. God made us to experience all His creation has to offer, to share it willingly, and to be grateful for this gift. We are invited to share our gratitude by responding to God's call to steward His good creation. The world around us can be cold and full of death, but as Christians we embrace new life and resurrection. Let this autumn season be a time for growth and gratitude.

God Bless.

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**CALL TO MEETING**

**The September Church Meeting** is scheduled for September 14, 2025 at 10:45A. All may attend, however, only church members may vote.

Sue Brosnan, Clerk

## FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

**A Chicken Barbecue Dinner** will be served from 3P – 4:30P at the end of the Scarecrow Festival. This is take-out only. Dinner will be chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, biscuit, cranberry sauce, and dessert. The cost is \$18.00. Tickets available after services or at the office.

There are Sunday School registration forms available in the office. The first day of Sunday School is September 7<sup>th</sup>.

**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](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.

**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.

Sandy Dudek

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## FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Ryleigh & Elena dressed as Mary Poppins stole the show on our First Movie Night. Though the weather did not cooperate with us, we shifted gears and held the movie (Mary Poppins) inside Halls' Hall. The popcorn machines were popping, our 20 movie goers shared candy and snacks. We sang along to the music and most of the kids even fell

asleep! Hope you can join us FRIDAY, AUGUST 29th for **LEO**. Bring your chairs, blankets, and pillows for outside. You can arrive around 7:00 pm and the movie starts promptly at 7:30. Popcorn, and a few outside games provided. If it rains, we will move inside!!!! Lisa Van Alst



## TOUCAN FOOD PANTRY NEWS

*"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat," Matthew 25:35*  
**Our item of the month is peanut butter and jelly.**



## CHOIR NEWS

**Summer Choir has only one Sunday left!** We will meet at 9A, before our morning service to practice. Thank you to those who shared their voices with us this summer! See Organist/Choir Director Trish Maerke or call (860) 705-5391 for information.



**The Men's Group** will meet Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 10A.



## Thoughts from a friend...

Life is like a camera:  
just focus on what's important,  
capture the good times,  
develop from the negatives,  
and if things don't work out,  
take another shot.



**MONTHLY MEETING on Sept. 4th @ 4pm** - at Bridget Park's house on Parks Rd.

**Women's Fellowship invites all the Ladies to an Ice Cream Social** on Sat. Sept. 6th at 10am at the church. While enjoying some ice cream we will be discussing the Summer Read "The Sweet Life". If you have not read the book yet, you still have time. If books aren't your thing, but ice cream is, please come and join us. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board down stairs.

**A WOMEN'S RETREAT** is planned for October 17-19th. The Women's Fellowship has posted a signup sheet if you have an interest in going to this retreat with others from our church. This is the link to find out all you want to know about this wonderful retreat:  
<https://www.monadnock.camp/womensretreats>

**On Tue, Oct. 28th, we will be hosting a Paint Party at the church.** It will be led by Kimberly Tucker. We will be painting an Autumn Themed picture. The cost is \$20 per person. The profits will go towards creating welcome bags for new faces at church.

Bridget Park

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



We are returning to our original idea of free and affordable, 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](mailto:debralabree59@gmail.com).

### **NEED HELP or IDEAS FOR SCARECROWS?** **We have building events!**

The first will be at Hart's Nursery in Preston (99 Rt. 2A) on Saturday September 6<sup>th</sup> from 10am-4pm.

The next event will be on Friday September 12<sup>th</sup> at Preston Ridge Winery (100 Miller Road) from 6-8pm.

And the last event will be at PCCC Pavilion on Saturday September 13<sup>th</sup> from 10am-2pm.

**A Chicken Barbecue Dinner** will be served from 3P – 4:30P at the end of the festival. This is take-out only. Dinner will be chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, biscuit, cranberry sauce, and dessert. The cost is \$18.00.

**A YARD SALE** has been scheduled for Saturday,



September 27<sup>th</sup> from 8a-2p (rain date is October 4<sup>th</sup>. As of August 27<sup>th</sup>, we will begin to accept items – no bulky items, air conditioners, clothing, or tires. No items

should be left outside the church or annex. See Stella Dawley to arrange to drop items off. All items should be clean before bringing them. Help is needed at 6:00 a.m. for set-up and at 1:30 p.m. to begin pickup. Pickup trucks are needed. Please sign up on the hallway bulletin board if you can help.



### **CHRISTMAS BAZAAR** **COMMITTEE MEMBERS** **NEEDED**

It may seem early, but it will be here before you know it. We need members for our Christmas Bazaar Committee. We meet about 2 or 3 times before the bazaar to go over ideas, details, and tasks. Attendance is important.

The members are needed for:

1. ideas to help make the bazaar successful
2. setting up the gift room tables and organize the donations for sale
3. helping to put up the Christmas tree and decorations the Thursday before
4. distributing tasks to the volunteers and helping with setup

If you are interested in being a committee member, please contact Nancy Obreiter at 401-206-3881. Your help is greatly appreciated. Thank you!



### **TRAVELS 2026** **OUR COLLETTE TRAVEL** **REPRESENTATIVE, Lee Ann**

Fessenden has announced that the brochures for **Explore Tuscany** are available on the table by the elevator on the third floor and on the table outside Dudek Hall. The trip dates are **September 30-October 8, 2026**. contact Lee Ann Fessenden if you have questions after looking at it.



**The Office will be CLOSED**  
**for the holiday, Monday, September 1<sup>st</sup>.**