



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

OCTOBER 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

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
OCTOBER 13 – COLUMBUS 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 School – 9:15A
Sunday Service – 9:30A
AA - Wednesday – 7:30P
Bible Study – Thursday –
10:30A



Join us in Halls' Hall
for fellowship, coffee
and punch following
our service.

From the Desk of Reverend Tom,

October is here, and I hope you all take the time to appreciate a bit of God's beauty in the changing of seasons. This is the time of harvests and festivals. Last week my family and I went with friends to the Durham Fair. We both have sons the same age, and they all love tractors. We had so much fun having fried food and petting all the farm animals. As we were walking, my other friend, who recently became a father, commented on how hard it has been to find time to gather with friends.

"Why can't we just find a time every week where we can get together and hang out?"

I told him that sounds like church to me. Maybe that's an easy response for a pastor, but his question really made me think. I hear it all the time from people my age. They can't carve out any time to be with the people they love because they are so busy. I started thinking about the first Passover seder, the last supper, and the first communion meal the apostles shared without Jesus. These were all just people who loved each other and wanted to find time to be together.

This is what is special about church. We have all put one date on our calendar that does not get moved. It is a time that we have all agreed on that we will gather to worship the God that created us, that created the heavens and the earth. We are incredibly blessed to have this time to be with one another, to put aside the business of the world, the changing of the seasons and to focus on God.

The Letter to the Hebrews says that we should encourage one another to meet as much as possible because some people find it easy to fall out of the habit. It tells us that meeting together spurs one another towards love and good deeds; when we gather together, it reminds us—we are not alone and that we are loved. We owe so much to those first Christians who began by gathering in each other's homes and sharing a common meal. Here at church, we share our faith, and we share our lives. This is the gathering place God has given us, so let us give Him thanks for this gift. Every time we gather here at Preston City Congregational Church, "Where Friends Become Family," we are hanging out with God, and you are always invited.

God Bless.

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WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY is October 5th.

World Communion Sunday is a celebration observed by several Protestant denominations, taking place on the **first Sunday of every October**, that promotes Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation. Join us as we gather at His table.

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Sadie Daniewicz is this year's recipient of The Cynthia Carano Memorial Scholarship Fund annual award.

Sadie is a 2025 graduate of Norwich Free Academy and will be pursuing a nursing degree at Endicott College in Beverly, Massachusetts with a focus on pediatrics. Your church family celebrates this honor with you and your family.

Did you know that a former Sunday School student, Kim (Abrahamson) Tucker, wrote a book about her experience as a surrogate mother? Kim credits her faith, learned in Sunday School, and good Christian parenting, to help get her through some of the tough times. 'A Good Deed, Turned Deadly' is available for purchase at the church office for \$10.

Mission Opportunities

The Clothing Shed

Please place donations in bags and tie them. We accept all soft goods: clothing, shoes, blankets, curtains, towels, etc.

The Book Bin

Help us recycle your unneeded books and get them into hands that can use them and keep them out of landfills!

Both can be found in the lower parking lot.

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.

TOUCAN FOOD PANTRY NEWS

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat," Matthew 25:35

Our item of the month is cereal.

Oatmeal and other hot cereals are included; quick-cooking or boxes of individual packets are welcome.



CHOIR NEWS

Choir has begun its fall schedule. We will practice on Sundays following our service. See Organist/Choir Director Trish Maerke or call (860) 705-5391 for information.



The Men's Group will meet Saturday, October 4th at 10A.



Thoughts from a friend...

Listen to the wind, it talks.
Listen to the silence, it speaks.
Listen to your heart, it knows.

Native American Proverb



MONTHLY MEETING Oct. 11th @ 9A - at the church.

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. Open to the public; consider bringing a friend!

We will be hosting another Book Club this fall. Title to be announced!

Bridget Park



Thank you to everyone who made our sale another success! Thanks to you, over \$1500 dollars will be added to the church budget!



Our **Scarecrow Festival** returned Saturday, September 20th on a beautiful day! Old friends; new friends; community friends; animal friends were all there. Thank you to all who made our day the success it was! Over \$12,000 was realized.

The following scarecrows were crowd favorites:



CHILDREN

- 1st – Troop 75 Boy Scouts
- 2nd – Good Farmers
- 3rd - Maple Leaves Zombie Family

ADULTS

- 1st – Itsy Bitsy Farm
- 2nd – Pink Panther
- 3rd – Invasive

MAIN STREET

- 1st – Wicked Characters (Broad Brook Maple Syrup)
- 2nd – Libby the Librarian (Preston Public Library)
- 3rd - Bank Friends (Jewett City Savings)

VENDORS

Preston Public Schools

CAR SHOW

1940 Ford Pickup (Ed Shea)



**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. **We will have an informational meeting on Monday, October 20th at 6P in Dudek Hall with Aiden from Collette available to answer any questions.**

This trip is open to friends, family, and community members. Invite someone to come and hear the presentation.

LOOKING AHEAD

NOVEMBER is the month the Nominating Committee will begin seeking candidates to fill the many positions in our church. Now is time to ask yourself “How can I help to keep my church moving forward?” “What talents do I have that can be shared with my church?” It takes many people to keep our church running smoothly throughout the year. Please consider serving in one of the open positions when they are announced. The current list of Boards and Committees can be found on our website and what they do can be found in our bylaws or by talking with a member of the committee you are interested in. Ask them what they do! There are positions that our friends may fill as well, where church membership is not required.

We welcome everyone!

**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!



**Daylight Savings Time ends
November 2nd!**

Remember to set your clocks back one hour Saturday night.



**The Office will be CLOSED
Monday, October 13 in honor of Columbus Day.**