

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

Congregational Church  
"Gathering in Faith Since 1698"  
**December 2025**

**OFFICE CLOSED**

**THURSDAY DECEMBER 25  
CHRISTMAS**

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 26  
DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

**THURSDAY JANUARY 1  
NEW YEARS DAY**

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](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

**FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR TOM:**

When our first son, Thomas, was born, we spent months preparing. We tried to set his nursery up, built his crib, stocked up on diapers, and tried to make everything perfect for when he arrived. So much effort went into preparing for his arrival, but no amount of work would ever prepare us for our first baby. No amount of advice or preparation would ever help us understand what having a baby would be like. Not just how hard it would be to have sleepless nights, but also the pure joy we would have from getting to know this sweet, beautiful child.

Advent is a similar time of preparation. Advent comes from the Latin word Adventus, which means coming. The Christian calendar gives us the liturgical season of Advent in four weeks to prepare for the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Advent prepares us by giving us four weeks to fill our bodies with hope, peace, joy, and love for when Jesus comes. We spend Advent decorating the tree and our homes, but we also spend this time decorating our hearts and souls by giving and receiving. Following Thanksgiving, we devote ourselves to caring for others in the hopes we can get things right for when Jesus comes. In reality the entire year is spent preparing for the incarnation. It is not just four weeks, but a whole year to try and make ourselves perfect for the coming of a sweet baby named Jesus.

Just like parents preparing for their first child, we aren't going to get everything right, but when Christmas finally comes, we can still celebrate and be happy. We might buy the wrong gift or set the crib up wrong, but that's ok; we always have more opportunities to get it right. That's what Jesus came for in the first place, for God to show us a new thing. Just because we make mistakes, or we don't prepare as well as we can, or we don't listen to the advice others give us doesn't mean we can't experience joy when Christmas comes. As you hang up the lights and prepare for Christmas, don't stress too much about getting it right, because when Jesus comes it won't really matter if we are perfect or not, because he sure is.

God bless.

**DECEMBER EVENTS**

TUESDAY December 9 ~ Senior Lunch ~ Noon  
SATURDAY December 13 ~ Jean Miller Memorial Cookie Sale ~ 9A-1P  
SUNDAY December 14 ~ Christmas Pageant ~ 9:30A  
SUNDAY December 14 ~ Church Meeting/Vote ~ 10:30A  
SUNDAY December 21 ~ Christmas Sunday Service ~ 9:30A  
WEDNESDAY December 24 Christmas Eve Children & Families Service ~ 4P  
December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service ~ 7P

## FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

**The December Senior Luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday December 9<sup>th</sup> at noon.** If you are 62 or older and regularly attend church, we invite you to come. There is no charge. The Migliaccio family will be hosting this event.

**The sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board.**

### IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN...

Time to start working on those annual reports for 2025! Reports are due in the office by January 16, 2026.

**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.



**THE MEMORY TREE is up and waiting for ornaments!** Is there someone you would like to remember this Christmas? Ornaments may be hung on the tree (remember to add your last name on the back!) and then fill out the memorial form for names to be added to the list in the church bulletin.

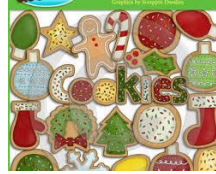
Ornaments may be taken after December 25<sup>th</sup>.

### Thoughts from a friend...



**THE SUPPER COMMITTEE'S "LADLES OF LOVE"** offering for December is homemade Creamy Turkey and Wild Rice Soup. Orders will be taken on November 30<sup>th</sup> and may be picked up on December 7<sup>th</sup>. This is take-home and the cost is \$10 a quart.

**CHOIR** practice continues Sundays following our service. New and returning voices are welcome. Arrangements can be made for special music. Contact Organist/Choir Director Trish Maerkle or call (860) 705-5391.



**Calling All Bakers - The Jean Miller Memorial Cookie Sale - is December 13<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Bakers are asked to make a double batch of their favorite cookie recipe (4 dozen), and bring to the church Friday Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> 5-7 p.m. or Saturday morning 8-9 a.m.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & CELEBRATIONS



During the months of October and November we expressed our condolences to the families of Debra Harrison, Shirley Russ, and Paul Gray.

New Members were welcomed into the church on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Thanksgiving Sunday. They are Curtis Edwards, Liza Krider, Shelby Sabrowski, and Donna Swanson.

### A WARM CLOTHING DRIVE -

Hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves are needed. Donations of coats of all sizes are welcome for men, women and children.



Items may be left in or on the Elizabeth Allyn box located to the right of the table in the mid-level hallway. Laurie Bowers is coordinating this mission. Thank you for your support.

**Preston City Congregational Church Food Pantry** received a \$2,000 grant to assist with food purchases to stock our pantry shelves from the Jewett City Savings Bank. Thank you for your support!





### Memorial Poinsettias

We will be placing memorial poinsettias on the altar on Christmas Sunday, December 21st. Poinsettias are \$13.00 apiece. We will be collecting the money on Sunday, December 7th, and Sunday, December 14th after the service. Wendy Zajac and Sharon Breen will be collecting the forms and payment. If you have any questions, please call or text Wendy at 860-705-8176 or Sharon at 860-303-1184. Orders and payment must be received by December 14th so we can give an accurate count to the greenhouse.



### 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. This trip is open to friends, family, and community members.



### CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 2025

was a great success!

Thank you to all who participated in any way.  
Almost \$5000 will be added to our budget!

### THE SEASON OF ADVENT



Hope ~ Prophet ~ November 30  
Peace ~ Bethlehem ~ December 7  
Joy ~ Angel ~ December 14  
Love ~ Shepherd ~ December 21  
Christ Candle ~ The Light of the World ~  
December 24

### CHURCH MEETING CALL and AGENDA

December 14, 2025

10:30A or following the morning service

A meeting of the members of the Preston City Congregational Church will be held in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 14, 2025, at 10:30A or following the morning service,

for the following actions:

1. "to vote on the disbursement of Mission Funds for 2025 as proposed by the Missions Committee and reviewed by the Standing Committee"
2. "to vote on the proposed budget for 2026 of \$283,588.00 as developed by the Finance Committee and approved by the Standing Committee"

Susan P. Brosnan  
Clerk

**Only active members eighteen (18) years and older may vote on corporate issues.**

Missions disbursement recommendations can be found on the next page and the proposed 2026 budget can be found in your stewardship letter.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES ~  
Wednesday December 24<sup>th</sup>  
Everyone is welcome to attend**

**4P CHILDREN & FAMILIES  
7P CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**



Missions Committee Recommendations For 2025 Giving		
National Association – Missions fund	\$685 (2@ \$200, 1@ \$285)	
<i>Word Alive Missions (Rev. Charles Nyane)</i>	\$285	<i>Western Ghana/ Ivory Coast based Mission</i>
<i>Piedmont College</i>	\$200	<i>Congregational College</i>
<i>Olivet College</i>	\$200	<i>Congregational College</i>
NACCC Hurting Churches Fund	\$300	Builds new Churches and helps Churches in need
Congregational Library	\$300	Congregational Library in Boston
Gideons International	\$200	Bible Distribution
Missionary Flights International	\$300	Missions Air Support
Heifer Project International	\$300	Income-Producing Animals
American Red Cross Disaster Relief	\$200	Relief to Disaster Victims / Connecticut Chapter
Salvation Army	\$300	Norwich Chapter / Charity
Madonna Place	\$450	Supports Local Families
St. Vincent de Paul	\$600	Soup Kitchen
Safe Futures	\$450	Transitional Housing and Assistance for Domestic Violence
Martin House	\$450	Housing for homeless with addiction or mental health problems
Bags of Hope NE	\$450	Provides personalized duffle bags to children in foster care
Pastor's Discretionary Outreach	\$1000	One Time Financial Help
Senior Luncheon Outreach	\$400	Luncheon / Church Seniors
Total	\$6385	
The Missions Committee would like to thank the Congregation for your generosity; your support made this possible.		