



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

"Gathering in Faith Since 1698"
January 2026

OFFICE CLOSED

THURSDAY JANUARY 1
NEW YEAR'S DAY

MONDAY JANUARY 19
MARTIN LUTHER KING
BIRTHDAY

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

**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
Sunday School – 9:15A
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:

The banners that hang in the sanctuary never cease to offer wisdom and guidance. As we celebrate the New Year, it always leaves us reflecting on the past. God promises us that he has, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future," in Jeremiah chapter 29. As we make resolutions and reflect on the past year, we make goals that set us on the path towards hope. In the Book of Revelation, God keeps his promise and tells us that "He is making all things new." We are always invited to begin again even when our resolutions fail and we fall off the path we started on. Whether it is reading the Bible more, getting closer with God, or promising to exercise and eat healthier, it can be hard to keep our goals every year.

Instead of remembering all the times we failed in our resolutions, we can reflect on the good that God has done for us. It is much easier to dwell on the negative than it is to focus on the positive. Instead of making a list of all the times you failed, make a list of all your accomplishments. This is the best way to start making new resolutions, by not focusing on your failures, but evaluating your successes. It allows us to start the new year in gratitude for all that God has done for us and giving ourselves a foundation of thankfulness. God has forgiven us of all our sins and transgressions so we should try to give ourselves the same grace.

If you are hoping to keep your resolutions this year, focus on the words from Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." We have been inspired by the Christmas season with the glittering lights and beautiful carols to continue to sing a new song unto the Lord. Let this song continue to motivate you throughout the year as you deal with tough and testing times. There will be times of joy and times of sorrow but if we continue to focus on the good, we will be able to endure the bad. Don't let yourself be discouraged when you let yourself or others down, but be confident that Christ shines a light that will always lead you back to the right path.

God Bless.



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

The January Senior Luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday January 13th at noon. If you are 62 or older and regularly attend church, we invite you to come. There is no charge.

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 18, 2026.

INCLEMENT WEATHER CANCELLATIONS 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.



Our next meeting is February 7th at 10A.



THE SUPPER COMMITTEE'S "LADLES OF LOVE" offering for January is homemade Beef Barley Soup. Orders will be taken on January 4th and may be picked up on January 11th. The soup is take-home and the cost is \$10 a quart.

A WARM CLOTHING DRIVE -

Donations of coats of all sizes are welcome for men, women, and children. Hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves are needed. Items may be left in the brightly decorated box in Halls' Hall. Laurie Bowers is coordinating this mission. Thank you for your support.



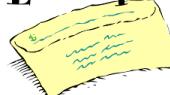
Our special collection this month is peanut butter and jelly.

All donations are welcome. Items may be left in the baskets near the entries.

Thoughts from a friend...



Offering Envelopes



for 2026 are available on the table in the information center if you requested them. Please contact Karen Talbot, our Financial Secretary, if you would like envelopes and have not yet signed up.



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.



The Scarecrow Festival 2026 needs a co-chair.

Shari Purcell is stepping down as chair, but is willing to assist those who take over. Kim Lang has agreed to help and is looking for someone to share the leadership duties. Contact Shari, Kim, or Sandy in the church office for more information.

ORGANIST/CHOIR NEWS

We welcome Robin Lyon back as guest organist while Trish is away.

THE ANNUAL MEETING

is scheduled for February 8, 2026. We will review the 2025 Annual Report, vote on the Nominating Committee proposed slate for 2026, and attend to any other business brought before the meeting.