



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

**"Gathering in Faith Since 1698"**  
**February 2026**

**OFFICE CLOSED**

**MONDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2026**

**PRESIDENTS DAY**

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

**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



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

**FROM THE DESK OF REVEREND TOM:**

Snow has kept us away from worship for the last two weeks, and it looks like another storm might be heading our way. By the time you are reading this, we might have missed three weeks of worship because of winter weather. Here in New England the weather is less predictable than whether the Patriots will make the playoffs or not. The last two years they had a losing record, but now they are back to the Super Bowl for the 12<sup>th</sup> time. God certainly has blessed this land since the time the pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock. Even through snow and sleet, we continue to demonstrate our faith and our strength. God calls us to care for each other during good times and bad and winter offers some wonderful opportunities to love our neighbor as Jesus loved us.

I am very embarrassed to say this but during this past snowstorm after shoveling for two hours, I threw my back out. I thought I was too young for my body to fail me, but a shooting pain through my lower back forced me to lie down for longer than my wife would have liked. While my sons were trapped inside because of the freezing temperature, they started to get a little cabin fever. We would have been snowed in and Gretchen and I wouldn't have been able to get out for work if it wasn't for the kindness of some of our neighbors. Members of the local high school football team went around throughout our town with shovels and snowblowers offering to dig their neighbors out. I was incredibly happy to have their help because what they knocked out in an hour would have taken me four.

This winter weather gives us all the opportunity to be a better neighbor to the people in our communities. You don't have to throw your back out like me shoveling, but offering to make a meal or brushing the snow off someone's car goes a long way. You really see how a community can come together during a storm and I was so proud of mine. Last week someone paid for my Dunkin' Donuts order in the Drive-Thru and I was happy to keep the generosity going by paying for the person behind me. Instead of focusing on the struggles that exist during tough and testing times, God allows us to reflect on all the good. That is why we are called to love our neighbor, because it makes the world a better place and allows us to usher in the kingdom of God that Jesus brought with Him.

So, whether you are spending this week digging out your driveway, or you are inside staying warm, make sure that you reach out to your neighbors. It may be cold outside, but you can warm the hearts of the people around you by showing them you care. Jesus is the light of the world who shines through the darkness. We can overcome the darkness of winter together by sharing the light that Christ has filled us with. Be safe and be loved.



**2026 ANNUAL MEETING CALL & AGENDA**  
**FEBRUARY 8, 2026**  
**10:45A**

The Annual Meeting of the Preston City Congregational Church will be held in the Sanctuary, on Sunday, February 8, 2026, at 10:45A for the following actions:

1. To act upon the 2025 reports of Officers, Boards, Committees, and other church organizations.
2. To act on the Nominating Committee's proposed slate for 2026.
3. To transact any other business that may be brought before the congregation.

Susan Brosnan Clerk

All are welcome to attend, however, only church members may vote.

## FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

**The February Senior Luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday February 10<sup>th</sup> at noon.** If you are 62 or older and regularly attend church, we invite you to come. There is no charge. We thank the Migliaccio family for hosting this event.

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

Nancy Obreiter would like to remind everyone that there are still **Christmas Bazaar signs** that have not been returned. They were purchased to be used again in the coming years. They may be returned to church or to the office.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER CANCELLATIONS** Tune in to Television Channel 3 (WFSB), local radio stations or you may check Facebook or our website: [prestoncitycongregational.org](http://prestoncitycongregational.org). When Sunday School is cancelled, church is NOT CANCELLED unless specifically announced.



MEN'S GROUP

Our next meeting is February 7<sup>th</sup> at 10A.



**THE SUPPER COMMITTEE'S "LADLES OF LOVE"** offering for February is homemade Minestrone Soup. Orders will be taken on February 8<sup>th</sup> and may be picked up on February 15<sup>th</sup>. The soup is take-home and the cost is \$10 a quart.

### A WARM CLOTHING DRIVE is still ongoing!

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.



Food  
Pantry  
Ministry

February 1<sup>st</sup> is "Two-Can Sunday" but donations are always welcome. Items may be left in the baskets near the church entries or at the church office.

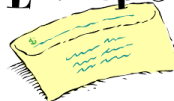
## Thoughts from a friend...

### Golden Rules for Living

(Author Unknown)

1. If you open it, close it.
2. If you turn it on, turn it off.
3. If you unlock it, lock it up.
4. If you break it, admit it.
5. If you can't fix it, call in someone who can.
6. If you borrow it, return it.
7. If you value it, take care of it.
8. If you make a mess, clean it up.
9. If you move it, put it back.
10. If it belongs to someone else, get permission to use it.
11. If you don't know how to operate it, leave it alone.
12. If it's none of your business, don't ask questions.

### 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.

**Receipts for 2025** are also available if you have requested them. If you would like a receipt and have not requested one yet, please speak with our Financial Secretary.



### 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. Did you know that the church receives a commission from each trip which is applied to our budget? It's a win-win situation for all!

### The Scarecrow Festival 2026

Debra LaBree has volunteered to co-chair with Kim Lang to share the leadership duties. We thank all who help with the festival, the biggest fundraiser of the year.





## SCHOLARSHIP MONTH IS HERE!

In 1992, February was established as Scholarship month, in order to give church-goers the opportunity to contribute to the Helen Benjamin Scholarship Fund. Helen worked in the Preston School system for many years and was dedicated to the education of our youth. Upon her passing, her family established the fund in her memory, to provide assistance for young people seeking their first degree. When her husband died in 2015, the fund was renamed as the Winthrop C. and Helen Benjamin Scholarship Fund. Through the years, many of our young people have benefited from this fund, thanks in part to your giving. In 2025, two scholarships were awarded. We are offering the opportunity to members and friends of the church to consider giving a monetary gift to the scholarship fund. You may give your gift in memory of or in honor of someone. A listing of donors (no amounts) will be printed in the worship folder on Scholarship Sunday, which is usually in June. You may place your donation in an envelope marked Scholarship Fund and place it in the offering plate, or mail it to the church. Checks should be made out to PCCC with Scholarship Fund on the memo line. Donations are accepted through the end of May. Please give as you are able and help our young people reach their goals.



Lent begins February 18<sup>th</sup> with our prayer vigil from noon - 6P and our evening service at 7P.

## DID YOU KNOW...

that when the church is closed on Sunday mornings due to inclement weather or another emergency, that Rev. Tom has been giving a message live on our Facebook page at 9:30A? You must have a Facebook account to view it live, but archived copies are available on our website at [prestoncitycongregational.org](http://prestoncitycongregational.org) later in the day. There will also be an archived copy available on our Facebook page for those who wish to view it again or at another time, but you need a Facebook account.



## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP and BOOK CLUB Schedule 2026

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP			
Date	Purpose	Time	Place
3/26	Easter Bags	1:30 PM	Bridget's House
5/2	Baby Shower	10:00 AM	Church
6/20	Cookie Bags for Father's Day	10:00 AM	Church
8/6	Kindness Bags	1:30 PM	Church
10/10	Birthday Bundles	10:00 AM	Church
12/3	Christmas Card for Shut-ins	1:30 PM	Bridget's House
BOOK CLUB			
Date	Title	Time	Place
2/7	Best of Intentions by Susan Ann Mason	10:00 AM	Dudek Hall
5/16	To be determined	10:00 AM	TBD
7/11	To be determined	10:00 AM	TBD
9/5	To be determined	10:00 AM	TBD
11/7	To be determined	10:00 AM	TBD

**THE BOARD OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** would like to invite Sunday School and all church families to roller skating @ The Skate Inn, 992 Norwich Road, Plainfield, CT Sunday, February 22, 2026, from 1:30-3:30 pm. Cost is normally \$10 per skater, however you can go for \$5 per skater! Sign-up is **REQUIRED** on the main bulletin board outside Dudek Hall as well as payment in advance. Let's roll into the new year together as Friends, having Fun in Fellowship! See Hunter Bustamante, Liz Stammel, Nancy/John Whitacre or Abigail Kubiak with any questions.

