



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

"Gathering in Faith Since 1698"

March 2026

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:

They say that March goes in like a lion and out like a lamb. As we head into March and further into the Lenten season, we are certainly experiencing the lion as winter weather lingers and continues to dump snow. In the Bible, Jesus is referred to both as a lion and a lamb. In the Book of Revelation, Jesus is named the Lion of Judah, representing his power and authority over the world. In the Gospel of John, Jesus is called the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Lent gives us the opportunity to reflect on our relationship with God and how it parallels the natural world around us.

During a cold and tough winter, it can be so easy to forget the warm weather that comes in Spring and Summer. When we experience hardship in our life, it can be so easy to forget all the blessings that we have received in the past. Lent begins during winter but ends on Holy Thursday, the night before Good Friday. As we pick up and carry our cross, it can feel so heavy that we forget we are heading towards the resurrection. The joy that comes with Spring seems far away, but it always comes.

The duality of our faith in Christ is stark; we both rejoice at the new life offered by God while reflecting on death. The contrast between visions of Jesus as the lamb of God who takes away our sins and the lion of Judah who reigns over Earth is great. We rejoice in a God that blessed us by sending his Son, Jesus Christ and giving us eternal life. Our salvation rests in the promise we have by God to protect us from the storms of life and lead us into new life and warm weather in the Spring.

As we continue to dig out of a hard winter full of snow and storms, we keep our eyes fixed upon the cross, remembering the promises that God gave us. Spring will come again and with it, beautiful flowers, and an abundant harvest. We give thanks for a God that contains vast multitudes for us to celebrate during times of grief and during times of celebration. As we continue through the Lenten season, we are given this time to reflect on our relationship with God which leads to our salvation. Through fasting, praying, and giving charity, we come closer to the God who gives us a new commandment: to love one another as Jesus has loved us.

God bless.

MARCH 8



Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour!

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

The March Senior Luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday March 10th at noon. Inclement weather date is Wednesday, March 11th. The menu includes soup, sandwiches, and dessert. Rick Alletto and Sandy Dudek are coordinating this event. 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.

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



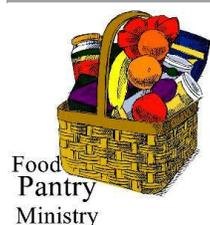
Our next meeting is March 7th at 10A.



THE SUPPER COMMITTEE'S "LADLES OF LOVE" will be back in March! Watch the Sunday bulletin for dates to purchase/pickup and the soup of the month.

WARM CLOTHING DRIVE

Over 200 donations of coats of all sizes for men, women, and children have been donated! Hundreds of hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves were donated as well. St. Vincent de Paul Place in Norwich, New London Community Meal Center, and the Warm Shelter in Westerly were all recipients of your generosity. Thank you for your support. Laurie Bowers is coordinating this mission and still accepting donations.



March 1st 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.
Our item-of-the-month for March is cereal.

Thoughts from a friend...

A tree doesn't eat its own fruit –
your gifts were meant to bless others.



On March 26th we will meet at 1:30P at Bridget's to assemble Easter bags. Our next Book Club meeting is May 16th at 10A and our book is **Theo of Golden**, by Allen Levi.

DID YOU KNOW ...

The Teen Class, with Sunday School students in grades 6 through high school, work on "helping hands" mission projects throughout the school year? They prepare and deliver monthly "Meals That Heal" to our shut-ins, people on the prayer list, and those who may need a bit of cheer. They make favors for the Senior lunches and will soon stuff Easter eggs. This is a great introduction to Christian mission work. Under the guidance of Liz Stammel and Marisa Stankiewicz, they are learning to share God's love through actions and words, to work together, and



find a friend or two.

"Be like the Son of Man. How He did not come to be served. Instead, he came to serve others." Matthew 20:28. NIV

Toiletry items will be collected for Teen Challenge, February 22nd through March 15th. The Sunday School children will be donating items as well. Toiletries are especially needed for men. We are accepting shaving cream, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouth wash, and nail clippers. Donations may be left on the table in the main hallway, outside Dudek Hall. Contact Lisa Bettencourt with any questions.



to all who donated to the Scholarship Fund. Donations may be made at any time during the year.



News from Hunter Bustamante Interim DRE

Candy Donations for Easter Egg Hunt

We plan to host an Easter Egg Hunt!
We are looking for candy donations in the month of March
(Fun-sized individually-wrapped candies for filling easter eggs)
There is a specially marked tote in Dudek hall for donations.

March 29th is the last Sunday we will collect candy.

Upcoming Dates and Events to look forward to!

- March 8th** - Confirmation Sunday
- March 15th** - Last Sunday for Teen Challenge Toiletry donations
- March 29th** - Last Sunday for Easter Egg Hunt Candy Donations
- April 3rd** - Good Friday
- April 5th** - Easter Sunday
- April 19th** - Bakesale for Samson, our Sponsor child
- May 17th** - Children's Day

ALSO –

Nancy Whitacre is putting together a group of Cricut designers. It will be a group that can help with on-going projects for the Sunday school.
Their first project will be to put together T-shirts for each class to wear on Children's Day.
If you are interested in joining her, you can email her at nancywhitacre@cox.net or text her at (401) 633-2476.

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 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.



61st Annual Fish & Chips

- Where:** St. James Episcopal Church
95 Route 2A, Preston, CT
- When:** Every Friday: 4:00 to 6:30 pm
February 20 through March 27
- Menu:** \$19.00 per dinner *Cash or credit/debit cards accepted
Baked, Fried or Combo Fish available
All meals include french fries, coleslaw & a dessert.

To place your order begin calling anytime after 1:00 pm at 860-889-0150 Or you can drive up in person.



This is a Drive-Thru / Take-Out Only Event
Dinner Pick-up time: 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm OR until sold out



WELCOME SPRING!

MARCH 29TH



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

- PALM SUNDAY** – March 29th - New Members -9:30A
- MAUNDY THURSDAY** – April 2nd - Seder Meal – 6:30P
- GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE** – April 3rd - Noon
- ECUMENICAL EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE** – April 5th - 6:30A at Amos Lake, Hollowell Road, Preston. In case of inclement weather, it will be held in our Sanctuary.
- EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE** – April 5th - 9:30A