



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

"Gathering in Faith Since 1698"



EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE – April 5th - 6:30A at Amos Lake, Hollowell Road, Preston. In case of inclement weather, the service will be held in our Sanctuary.

EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE – April 5th - 9:30A

April 2026

Church Office Hours:
Mon– Fri 9AM – Noon
Minister Office Hours:
Mon, Tu, Thu 10A - 2P

Minister

Reverend Thomas, Burke, Jr.
203-297-0254
pastortompmccc@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 REV. TOM ...

Easter is finally here! He is Risen! We have finally emerged from a long winter and can look forward to warmer weather and spring lilies. Lilies have become a symbol of resurrection since Jesus emerged from the tomb. They are meant to represent purity, hope, rebirth, and new beginnings. Legends say that white lilies grew in the garden of Gethsemane after Christ's death, springing up from where his sweat and tears fell as he prayed to His Father before he was arrested. Today, lilies are planted around olive trees in the garden and visitors are welcome to pray and walk amongst the very same soil where Jesus prayed. I was able to visit the garden in one of my trips to Israel a few years ago. It is a place of hushed reverence where one can reflect on the sacrifice Jesus made for us.

The garden sits at the base of the Mount of Olives across from the Kidron Valley where Jesus would be crucified the very next day. The name comes from the Hebrew gat shemanim, or "oil press." It's also where Jesus' spirit was crushed as he agonized the night he was arrested. The garden is not large, but the olive trees that dot the landscape are ancient and some date back almost 2000 years. When you stand there, you feel the weight, the silence, and the tension of that night. Jesus knew he needed to give His life for us to be free from sin. Lilies grow to show that new life came through his sacrifice and resurrection.

It has been a long winter, and at some moments my spirits felt crushed by snow and ice. Cold weather made it feel like we would never see the sun again, but the Easter promise can never be forgotten. Spring is always coming; we see the power of God in the change of seasons. Birds return, trees start coming alive, and we see new life everywhere we look. Our hope rests in Jesus and that, no matter what happens, the seasons change and new life will come. Lilies grow in the wild without any human intervention and God's grace comes to us as freely as the flowers.

As we look ahead to the Easter season and spring, let us rejoice in the warm weather and the spring season. Let us listen to Jesus from His Sermon on the Mount and consider how the lilies of the field grow, they toil not, so let us be anxious for nothing and enjoy the new life that is all around us.

Easter is here! He is Risen!



MEN'S GROUP

Our next meeting is April 4th at 10A.

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

The Senior Luncheons have concluded for the season. Thank you to Rick Alletto, Sandy Dudek, the Migliaccio family, and all who have made these lunches such a great success. Remember to check here to see when our next meal will be!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Confirmation Sunday was March 8th and three teens joined our church after several months of classes. They are Samantha Bednarz, Riley Stankewicz, and Trey Nowakowski.

On Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026, five people became members. They are Charles Ackles, Kimberly Ackles, AnaRosa Aguilar, Sherree Greczkowski and Theresa Pearson.

The congregation welcomes all of you.

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.



Many of you know my daughter, Amy, who has lived a life of many challenges due to being paralyzed in a car accident at age 19. Her prognosis was that she would not walk or use her hands again. She is now in her 50's and works at a job she loves despite using a rollator to walk. She was asked some months ago to be one of the guest speakers

at the Crystal Ball at The Riverview in Simsbury where there were 400 in attendance and they raised about a half million dollars for Easter Seals. Joe and I were ever so proud of her. The speech she gave was "out of the park!" Thanks for reading. I'm not generally a bragger, but you know how parents can be regardless of the age of their kids!

Our children were brought up with religion and I would encourage those of you with children to bring them to our awesome Sunday School and invite their friends to come. The world is a tough place for children to grow up in these days and teaching them about God and Jesus Christ will help them with some of what they see and hear in the world. It's worth your time.

May the SONshine through me, *Sandy Dudek*



THE SUPPER COMMITTEE'S "LADLES OF LOVE" has ended for the season. We are looking forward to more 'soup of the month' in the fall! Thank you for such delicious choices.

Our item-of-the-month for April is spaghetti sauce.

April 5th 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. There are envelopes on the bulletin board in the main hallway for monetary donations and ideas for needed items.



Thoughts from a friend...

Pray hardest when it is hard to pray.



Our next Book Club meeting is May 16th at 10A and our book is **Theo of Golden**, by Allen Levi.

Our Women's Fellowship is hosting a 'Baby Shower' for the month of April. They are collecting new infant clothing, diapers, wipes, creams, powders, bottles, nursing accessories – anything to welcome a new baby! There is collection box in Halls' Hall in front of their bulletin board display.



CHOIR PRACTICE is on Sunday after our service. New and returning voices are always welcome.

Arrangements can be made for special music. See Organist/Choir Director Trish Maerkle or call (860) 705-5391.

Scarecrow Festival Meeting - April 1st @ 6:00 P.M.

This meeting will be to discuss *food* and *silent auction* parts of the festival. All are welcome, because of the hour, light refreshments will be served.



Our SPRING YARD SALE is planned for May 16th. Now is the time to start gathering up your donations!

Donation drop-off times will be announced in the May issue of this newsletter.



News from Hunter Bustamante Interim DRE

April 5th - Easter Sunday (No Sunday School)
Easter Egg Hunt

April 12th - No Sunday School (A Children's message will be given instead)

April 19th - Bake sale for Samson, our sponsor child

On Behalf of the Board of Religious Education, I would like to thank everyone who has donated candy for our Easter Egg hunt. We truly appreciate the outpouring of support!

On April 19th, we will be holding a bake sale for Samson, our sponsor child. Baked goods will be made and provided by families of the Sunday School.

When Sunday School returns on April 19th, we will begin our preparations for Children's Day. If we have not received your child's t-shirt size, send an email to me directly. (We will also be contacting parents in the meantime!)

TRUSTEES Spring Cleanup



The Trustees would like help cleaning up the winter debris around the church grounds on Saturday April 11th. Please bring rakes, leaf blowers, and work gloves.

Your help would be greatly appreciated.

We will be back at Strawberry Park Bingo this summer! PCCC is one of the non-profit organizations that assist at the games selling cards. Funds received are used to offset our budget.



We need three workers to sell cards at each session. Do you have a Personal Identification Number (PIN) necessary to help? The office has the information and forms available to get you started if you don't! You must be a church member to receive a PIN.

Thank you to those who sign up to assist and continue to make this a successful mission for our church. A list of available dates will be posted on our bulletin board soon!

