



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

"Gathering in Faith Since 1698"

July 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
AA - Wednesday – 7:30P
Bible Study – Thursday – 10:30A



Join us for Lemonade on
the Lawn and fellowship
following our service.
Refreshments will be in
Halls' Hall if we have
inclement weather.

Thoughts from a friend...

POTATOES, EGGS, AND COFFEE BEANS

Once upon a time a daughter complained to her father that her life was miserable and that she didn't know how she was going to make it. She was tired of fighting and struggling all the time. It seemed just as one problem was solved, another one soon followed.

Her father, a chef, took her to the kitchen. He filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Once the three pots began to boil, he placed potatoes in one pot, eggs in the second pot, and ground coffee beans in the third pot.

He then let them sit and boil, without saying a word to his daughter. The daughter, moaned and impatiently waited, wondering what he was doing.

After twenty minutes he turned off the burners. He took the potatoes out of the pot and placed them in a bowl. He pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl.

He then ladled the coffee out and placed it in a cup. Turning to her he asked. "Daughter, what do you see?"

"Potatoes, eggs, and coffee," she hastily replied.

"Look closer," he said, "and touch the potatoes." She did and noted that they were soft. He then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg. Finally, he asked her to sip the coffee. Its rich aroma brought a smile to her face.

"Father, what does this mean?" she asked.

He then explained that the potatoes, the eggs and coffee beans had each faced the same adversity– the boiling water.

However, each one reacted differently.

The potato went in strong, hard, and unrelenting, but in boiling water, it became soft and weak.

The egg was fragile, with the thin outer shell protecting its liquid interior until it was put in the boiling water. Then the inside of the egg became hard.

However, the ground coffee beans were unique. After they were exposed to the boiling water, they changed the water and created something new.

"Which are you," he asked his daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a potato, an egg, or a coffee bean?" "

Moral of the story: In life, things happen around us, things happen to us, but the only thing that truly matters is what happens within us.

Which one are you?

Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through him who strengthens me"

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Sandy Dudek – Pastor's Administrative Assistant

Active members who wish to borrow items from the church (chairs, tables), please check with the office. They may have been requested by someone else! **There is now a form to fill out to help keep track of borrowed items.**

On June 14th 2025, we welcomed into the Household of Christian Faith through the sacrament of Baptism, Brooke Rose Burns daughter of Angela (West) Burns and Jesse Burns and Claire Alexandria McArthur, the daughter of Gabrielle and Scott McArthur.



We ask God's blessing on these little ones



We expressed our condolences to the family of Elizabeth (Betty) Bassette on Saturday, June 27, 2026.



Preston City Congregational Church - Food Pantry has been selected again as a nonprofit partner in the Stop & Shop Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet Program.

This time, your organization will receive \$1 for each \$11.99 Bloomin' 4 Good bouquet sold throughout the month of July 2026 at your designated Stop & Shop location(s):

42 Town Street, Norwich CT

Going on vacation this summer? Remember to take your church along! Our service is live at

9:30A on Sunday morning on our website:
prestoncitycongregational.org.

Archived services may be viewed at any time.

And remember, the church does not take a vacation. Pledges and donations may be made online or mailed to the church to keep up-to-date.



Food
Pantry
Ministry

**FOOD PANTRY
OUR ITEM-OF-THE-MONTH
FOR JUNE IS PEANUT BUTTER**



The Men's Group is not meeting in July and August.

Their next meeting will be in September.

**An umbrella cannot stop the rain but it allows us to stand in the rain.
Faith in God may not remove our trials but it gives us strength to overcome them**

Our Choir was celebrated on June 28th. Members received roses, a certificate, and a coupon for Buttonwood Farm ice cream. Everyone shared in a homemade baked goods reception following our service.



Summer choir sings from July 5 through Sept 6. Packets of music are available on the small table in the main entrance. We will practice at 9A in the large meeting room before our Sunday service. Everyone is welcome to join as we sing some familiar hymns. Regular choir resumes on Sept. 13 (which is the Sunday after Labor Day).

See Organist/Choir Director Trish Maerkle or call (860) 705-5391 for more information.



NEWS FROM THE DEACONS

A Scholarship was awarded on **June 28th** to Samantha Bednarz. Sam will begin her studies in Psychology at Springfield College in the fall. Congratulations!

Thank you to all who have supported our students who are continuing their education



News from the Scarecrow Festival Committee

The Committee will not be meeting during July. Most committees are in place. We will have our volunteer lists up soon. Are you available for an hour or two? Three maybe? We still need to finalize our Silent Auction event. We are looking for volunteers to contact area businesses for donations. Kim Lang



"It's a pickle jar, Tom... Twist the lid, not scripture."



INDEPENDENCE DAY
Office closed Friday, July 3rd

VBS 2026

What a great week!

44 children attended VBS, with many teens and adults helping out. The children donated 48 boxes of cereal for our food pantry! A small group of attendees shared one of their songs at our service on Sunday. Their enthusiasm has not dwindled!



PCCC IS BACK AT STRAWBERRY PARK BINGO THIS SUMMER!

We have another **ten-day session coming up** and would welcome

some more volunteers to sell cards.

A Personal Identification Number (PIN) is no longer necessary to help! Just

check the list of available dates posted on our bulletin board, pick your date, and sign up! For more information contact Lee Ann Fessenden or Lisa Fessenden.



Thank you to those who sign up to assist and continue to make this a successful mission for our church.



Women's Fellowship

Our schedule for the remainder of the year has been revised. All gatherings are on Saturday @10am going forward. The

June meeting is cancelled. See schedule below. Book Club-Our next book is "If a Church Pew Could Talk" by Cindy Garraway Williams. We will meet on July 11th to discuss the book @ 10am at the church. The Paint Party was lots of fun. We made a profit of \$55 and took home a new piece of "art" to boot. Thank you to those who attended. The funds will be used to support the kindness bags and birthday bundles to be created later this year.

Bridget Park

Date	Time	Place	
08/08/2026	10am	Church	Kindness Bags
10/10/2026	10am	Church	Birthday Bundles
12/03/2026	10am	Church	Christmas Cards

Book Club

Date	Time	Title	Place
07/11/2026	10am	"If a Church Pew Could Talk"	Meeting Room
09/05/2026	10am	TBD	Halls' Hall
11/07/2026	10am	TBD	Halls' Hall

