



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

"Gathering in Faith Since 1698"

August 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.

FROM THE DESK OF REV. TOM...

It is hard to believe how quickly the summer has passed. The long days are already beginning to grow a little shorter. Gardens are producing their harvest, children are preparing to return to school, and many of us are wondering where the time has gone. August often feels like a bridge between the restful pace of summer and the busy schedules that await us in the fall. It is a season that invites us to pause, give thanks, and prepare for what comes next.

In Ecclesiastes 3:1 we are reminded that, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." God's creation teaches us that every season has its own purpose. Spring is a time for planting, summer is a time for growth, autumn is a time for harvest, and winter is a time for rest. Our spiritual lives follow many of these same rhythms. There are seasons when we feel ourselves growing quickly, seasons when we are called to patiently wait, and seasons when God invites us to gather the fruits of what He has been doing in our lives.

As we approach the end of summer, it can be helpful to look back over the past few months. Where have you seen God at work? Perhaps you experienced moments of unexpected joy with family and friends. Maybe you found peace while sitting on a porch, walking along a trail, or watching a beautiful sunset. It could be that God met you in a difficult conversation or gave you strength during a challenging season. Sometimes God's greatest work happens quietly, in ways we only recognize after we take the time to reflect.

Just as farmers and gardeners take time to gather their harvest, August offers us the opportunity to gather the blessings God has provided. Gratitude is an important part of our faith because it reminds us that every good gift comes from God. When we pause to notice His blessings, our hearts become more open to His presence and more willing to share those blessings with others. A thankful heart naturally becomes a generous heart.

As the routines of school, work, and church activities begin again, consider how you want to carry your faith into this next season. Summer often gives us more opportunities to slow down, but our relationship with God should not end when life becomes busy again. Continue setting aside time for prayer, reading Scripture, worshipping with your church family, and serving those around you. These simple practices become the foundation that keeps us grounded when our calendars begin to fill.

This month, I encourage you to spend a few moments each day noticing the beauty around you. Watch the sunrise with a cup of coffee, listen to the sounds of creation, or simply sit in silence for a few minutes before the day begins. Thank God for the blessings of this summer and ask Him to prepare your heart for the season ahead. May August remind us that every season of life is an opportunity to grow closer to Christ, to serve our neighbors with love, and to trust that God is faithfully guiding us wherever He leads.

God Bless
Rev. Tom

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Sandy Dudek – Pastor's Administrative Assistant

RILEY MOUNDS graduated from Rham High School in Hebron, CT and will be attending Merrimack College in MA.

She is the granddaughter of Laurie Bowers and attended Sunday School here.

On July 26th 2026, we welcomed into the Household of Christian Faith through the sacrament of Baptism,
Liley Elle Schaefer.



She is the daughter of Erika and Joel Schaeffer. We ask God's blessing on this little one.



We expressed our condolences to the family of Dawne Landa on Saturday, July 11th, 2026.

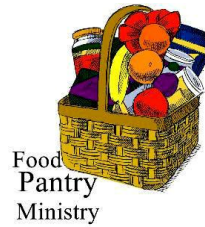
Betsy Haskell passed away July 25th and her graveside burial will be August 16th. Cheryl and Jerry Giuliano invite you to attend; it is at Pachaug Cemetery at 11:30 a.m.

John (Jack) Dicey passed away on July 26th. A calling hour will be held here at Preston City Congregational Church on Thursday, August 6th from 10-11 am. Funeral service will be at 11 am followed by a reception downstairs. He will be laid to rest at New Lebanon Cemetery at 1:30 pm.

A Seniors' Picnic has been scheduled for **Tuesday, August 4th**, with a raindate of August 5th, at noon. If it is extremely hot we will eat indoors in Halls' Hall. The menu will include: hotdogs, hamburgers, potato salad, macaroni salad, baked beans and dessert. Please signup on the sheet on the mid-level bulletin board or call the office.

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.**

TWO CAN FOOD PANTRY



OUR ITEM-OF-THE-MONTH FOR AUGUST IS PASTA & SAUCE.

Consider donating a box of small pasta for a summertime pasta salad meal. A great pasta salad meal uses short noodles like rotini, tortellini, or fusilli tossed with fresh vegetables, cheese, and a tangy dressing. You can add in some fresh herbs and even chopped cooked ham or chicken. Do you prefer a creamy dressing or oil and vinegar?

Thoughts from a Friend...

Faith and Fear both demand that you believe in something you cannot see. You Choose.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPCOMING EVENTS

The Board of Religious Education has planned some occasions for church families and friends to get together.

Friday August 28 - Back to School Movie Night with popcorn and pizza

Sunday August 30 - Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday September 13 - First Day of Sunday School



The Men's Group is not meeting in MEN'S GROUP August.

Their next meeting will be September 13th.



Summer choir continues 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 Maerke or call (860) 705-5391 for more information.



News from the Scarecrow Festival Committee

We will have our volunteer lists up soon. Are you available to help for an hour or two? Check the sign-up sheets to choose your time slots.



The Office will be **CLOSED**
for the holiday, Monday, September 7th.



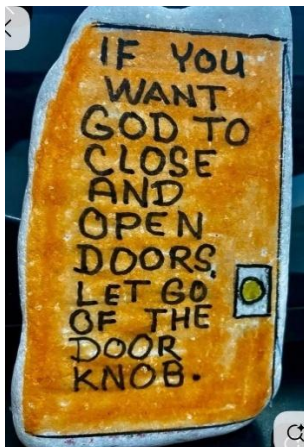
**PCCC IS BACK AT
STRAWBERRY PARK BINGO
THIS SUMMER!
Come join the fun!**

Help is needed selling the cards the players use.

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.



Do you have a meeting or event scheduled at church? Is the room too cold or too warm? Did you know that you are able to change the thermostat? When you adjust the thermostat, just return it to the starting temperature when you depart. Please refrain from using the on/off buttons and use the temperature up and down settings. If you would like to reserve a room for a meeting, please contact Sandy to confirm availability.



Women's Fellowship

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

Book Club-Our next book is "Somehow: Thoughts on Love" by Anne Lamont. We will meet on September 5th to discuss the book @ 10am at the church. Kindness bags will be assembled on August 8th and distributed through the Food Pantry.

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
9/05/2026	10am	"Somehow: Thoughts on Love" by Anne Lamont	Halls' Hall
11/07/2026	10am	TBD	Halls' Hall