

The Preston Pilgrim

the monthly newsletter of the Preston City Congregational Church

"Gathering in Faith Since 1698"

NOVEMBER 2026

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

OFFICE CLOSED WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 11TH VETERANS DAY

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 26 - THANKSGIVING

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 27 - DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING

Minister
Reverend Thomas, Burke, Jr.
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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.

FROM THE DESK OF REV. TOM…

November is one of those months that invites us to slow down a little. The leaves have mostly fallen, the mornings are colder, and the days are getting shorter. The mums that looked so beautiful a few weeks ago are probably past their prime, and if you're anything like me, you've already started wondering where you put your winter gloves.

We also look forward to Thanksgiving. A holiday that reminds us to gather around a table, eat far too much food, and give thanks for the blessings in our lives. Although, if we're being honest, sometimes the giving thanks comes after the second helping of mashed potatoes.

Thanksgiving is something more than a meal or a holiday on the calendar. It is an invitation to see our lives a little differently. It is easy to give thanks when things are going well. When our families are healthy, our homes are warm, our bills are paid, and life seems to be going according to plan. But life doesn't always cooperate. For some, the holidays bring worries about loved ones, financial struggles, or the empty chair at the table left by someone we miss.

Christian gratitude doesn't ask us to pretend everything is wonderful. It doesn't mean ignoring our grief or putting on a happy face when our hearts are heavy. Instead, it invites us to recognize that even in difficult seasons, there are still signs of God's goodness. A phone call from a friend, a child's laughter, a warm meal, or the simple comfort of knowing we don't have to face life alone.

The Apostle Paul writes in his first letter to the Thessalonians, "Give thanks in all circumstances." Paul doesn't say we should give thanks for all circumstances. There are things in this world we should never be thankful for. But, even when life is difficult, we can still find reasons to be grateful.

As a church, we have so much to give thanks for. We are grateful for those who show up week after week, care for our building, teach our children, visit the sick, comfort the grieving, and quietly help someone who needs a little extra support. These things may not make headlines, but they are what make a church a community. They are small expressions of a much bigger love.

So, this November, I hope you'll take a little time to slow down and notice the blessings around you. Call someone you haven't spoken to in a while. Invite someone to your table who might otherwise be eating alone. Tell the people you love that you're grateful for them. And before you go to bed each night, name one thing for which you are thankful.

From my family to yours, I wish you a happy and blessed Thanksgiving. May your tables be full, your hearts be grateful, and your homes be filled with laughter and love. And if the turkey comes out a little dry or the pie doesn't turn out quite right, remember that grace is a gift we can always use a little more of.

After all, we don't gather because everything in our lives is perfect. We gather because we have been blessed, because we belong to one another, and because there is always room for a little more love. Happy Thanksgiving, beloved. May we continue to be an outpost of God's beloved community, giving thanks not just with our words, but with the way we care for one another and share God's love with the world.

God Bless, Rev. Tom

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

SENIOR LUNCH – Tuesday, November 10th at Noon
We will share a meatloaf dinner**. When you sign up, please add your phone number.** Having your number on the list makes things easier should there be a need to postpone the luncheon. Sandy Dudek and Rick Alletto are the coordinators.

NEW MEMBERS will join our church on Sunday, November 22nd, Thanksgiving Sunday. A meeting with the deacons will follow our service on Sunday, November 15th. If you are interested in joining the church, please sign the sheet on the mid-level bulletin board by November 8th. We'll mail you all the information. Please call the office if you have any questions.

REMEMBER - INCLEMENT WEATHER CANCELLATIONS can refer to many situations. If you are unsure if the church is open, follow the instructions below.
Tune in to Television Channel 3 (WFSB), local radio stations or you may check Facebook, our website prestoncitycongregational.org or call the office. A message will be announced on the answering machine. When Sunday School is cancelled, church is NOT CANCELLED unless specifically announced.

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.

WORDS FROM A FRIEND…
Gratitude doesn't change what you have.
It changes how you see it.

New members will be welcomed into our church on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 22nd.
The signup sheet is on the bulletin board. Please print your legal name (William, not Bill), address, and phone number.

Choir is back in session! Ready to sing? We're welcoming back all our returning members and looking for fresh new voices to join the mix. Come check it out—we rehearse in the meeting room after service. See Trish Maerkle, Organist/Choir Director

Our recent trip to Italy with Collette Travel earned our church a $9947.70 profit to be used towards our budget. Thank you to our travelers who traveled with friends and helped support the church.



THE SCARECROW FESTIVAL COMMITTEE thanks all who assisted with the Mini Festival! $8100 will be given to the church budget.





TWO CAN FOOD PANTRY

Preston Troop 75 collected over 1300 items in their Scouting for Food Drive and donated them to our Pantry. Thank you, Scouts, and thank you friends and neighbors in Preston who donated!



OUR ITEM-OF-THE-MONTH is Thanksgiving sides. Think stuffing mix**,** cranberry sauce, turkey gravy, sweet potatoes. Items to complete a Thanksgiving dinner.



THANK YOU for Your Service

- **SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE**
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- Mrs. Megan and Mrs. Liz were thrilled to have so many children celebrate Halloween by trick or treating through the halls! 40 kids and many kids at heart joined us for a night of fun! Check out our Facebook page for some pictures of the fun.
- We are still looking for donations for our drawing baskets for the Christmas Bazaar. You can sign up here: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4AA9A823A6F8C61-66026872-christmas#/ or on the church bulletin board.
- Christmas Pageant rehearsals are underway - mark your calendars for December 13th during the 9:30 service.
- Reminder that there is no Sunday School on November 29th





The Men's Group next meeting is Saturday November 7th at 10A.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP BOOKCLUB
is meeting November 7 at 10A for their discussion.

STRAWBERRY PARK BINGO



Our sessions have ended for the year. **Thank you to those who signed up to assist** and continued to make this a successful mission for our church. We were able to contribute $7600 to the church budget.

THE FALL YARD SALE THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED!



Whether donating, shopping, setting up or cleaning up, you made this mission a great success!! Over $800 was collected for the church budget.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR WISH LIST



Because the Scarecrow Festival was delayed, we now only have 3 weeks till our Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 14th from 9 to 2. We are asking for your help, again, to have another successful bazaar!

Things we need:
1. Bake Sale items - We will be calling soon for donations. Drop off to the church will be Thursday and Friday, November 12th and 13th between 4 and 6 pm.
2. Help with setting up tables and decorating on Thursday, November 12th at 4PM
3. Help with cleaning up after the bazaar at 2PM
4. Donations for the gift room: Craft items from our many talented church members; like new children's toys; Christmas decorations; like-new pretty gift items for women, children and don't forget items for the men too. If you can place some of these items in gift bags, it would be a great help. Please let me know if you have any other gift ideas for the gift room.

A signup sheet will be downstairs on the bulletin board for setup and cleanup.
Thank you for all your help, ideas, participation and donations.
Nancy Obreiter 401-206-3881

SUPPER COMMITTEE



LADLES OF LOVE will be available starting in November.
Homemade soup will be sold by the quart and is take-home only. Soup must be ordered ahead so we know how much to make!

Pasta e Fagioli
Nov 15 order
Nov 22 pickup
Creamy Turkey Wild Rice
Dec 6 order
Dec 13 pickup

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE will begin seeking candidates to fill the many positions in our church. Now is time to ask yourself "How can I help to keep my church moving forward?" "What talents do I have that can be shared with my church?" It takes many people to keep our church running smoothly throughout the year. Please consider serving in one of the open positions when they are announced. The current list of Boards and Committees can be found on our website and what they do can be found in our bylaws or by talking with a member of the committee you are interested in. Ask them what they do! There are positions that our friends may fill as well, where church membership is not required. We welcome everyone!



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Daylight Savings Time ends November 1st!
Remember to set your clocks back one hour Saturday night.



PRESTON CITY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

321 Route 164, Preston, CT

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2026

9 AM TO 2 PM



CRAFTS
BAKED GOODS
BASKET DRAWING
QUILT DRAWING
UNIQUE GIFTS ROOM
CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

CLARA'S KITCHEN:
SOUP, SANDWICHES,
CHIPS AND COLD DRINKS

LOTS OF VENDORS, FREE ADMISSION,
AND COME VISIT SANTA!