

**Preston City
Congregational Church**
"Gathering in Faith Since 1698"



**week of
May 19, 2024
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Church Office Hours:
Monday – Friday, 9AM – Noon
Interim Co-Ministers
Rev. Mark Porizky – 860 705-1262
porizky@gmail.com
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
Rev. Mark will be available
Wednesday evenings. Please call
to make an appointment.
OFFICE CLOSED MONDAY MAY 27
in honor of Memorial Day

**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

Bible Study – Tuesday 7P
Choir Rehearsal – Thursday 7P
Sunday Service – 9:30A

COVID UPDATE 3/16/2022

The Standing Committee has
determined that wearing a mask is
optional.

FROM THE DESK OF REV. MARK

Thank You All

I've heard several people say, very graciously, that I came along at a time that helped the church when it was in great difficulty. While I am grateful for those thoughts, I should share with you that Preston City Congregational Church went a long way toward helping me reclaim my idea of church.

Let me explain. Since leaving St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in July of 2015, I have often had the privilege and pleasure of being "that guest preacher" at various churches. Unfortunately, most of the time, the churches were struggling. Two of the seven had no children, and the other five didn't have two dozen young people between them.

Then the pandemic came, and the situation became worse. Interestingly, after "Zoom worship only" ended and pandemic restrictions were relaxed, the churches I helped became older! It was the younger people who didn't return, and the number of kids who had been in worship fell to almost zero.

Only PCCC continued to have diversity in who attended worship. It felt the way a church is supposed to feel. That observation, and a push from my wife, led me to cobble together with Stan a plan to help the church beginning in March of 2023.

Oh, I've had so much fun! The idea that church could be joyful again gave, and gives, me hope. I owe you a debt of gratitude. I will miss tripping up the stairs to the altar, forgetting the closing hymn, having Katie Gates remind me what comes next, and dancing with Stella.

I want to thank Stan, mostly for being a good sport. I said last year that he is what a pastor should look, and act, like. Nothing has made me want to change that opinion.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't add that none of this could have worked without Sandy Dudek's help, support, and yeoman's effort in the office. I could preach, visit, and attend meetings. I did not have time to administrate, in almost any capacity. She did all of that—almost half of what a minister is expected to accomplish. I'd say you should name something after her...but you already have!

June 9th won't be goodbye. We'll see each other soon. But, from the deepest part of my heart, I want to thank you for a wonderful year.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Mark



**Join us for coffee,
punch, and
fellowship following
our Sunday service.**



**Please join the 325th Anniversary Committee this
Memorial Day weekend,** as we honor our veterans &
former ministers, by placing flags in the Preston City
Cemetery on Saturday May 25th, 2024 at 10A.

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

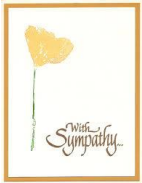
On Friday June 7th a Memorial Service will be held for Ed Miller. Calling hours from 11A-12P with the service to follow.

CONFIRMATION CLASS?? If you are a 9th grader and would like to take the Confirmation Class this year taught by Rev. Stan, please call the church office. If you missed taking it in 9th grade, older high school students will also be eligible to attend.

Active members who wish to borrow items from the church (chairs, tables, etc. that are reserved for this purpose), please check with the office. They may have been requested by someone else!

Please remember to check with the office for space availability when scheduling meetings or events.

On May 14, 2024, a Service of Remembrance was held in the Preston City Cemetery for Brenda Vars, attended by members of her church family. A coffee and donut reception followed.



Our **SPRING YARD SALE** was a great success, even though it was chilly and drizzling! Thanks to the wonderful donations, the workers and the customers, a profit of \$1433.65 was realized.



to the **MEN'S GROUP** for the delicious Mother's Day Brunch, to the **SUNDAY SCHOOL** for the carnations, and to the **DECORATING COMMITTEE** for the beautifully arranged geraniums.

Thoughts from a friend...

"Our flag does not fly because the wind moves it. It flies with the last breath of each soldier who died protecting it." - Anonymous

JUNE 9TH IS A GOOD DAY FOR A CELEBRATION FOR THE REV. DR. MARK PORIZKY,

who will deliver his last sermon for **now**. He's been with us a year and what a year it's been!

He's been an amazing friend to our church and came in our hour of need...thanks be to God!

We hope you will mark your

calendar to be here following worship for a brunch in his honor. Please sign the sheet on the mid-level bulletin board if you can attend. There will be a space to sign if you can provide a breakfast or lunch potluck item. Desserts will be accepted as well. Coordinators are Sandy Dudek (860 8874647) and Sue Creamer (860 376-2731).



LITTLE PILGRIM COORDINATOR The Little Pilgrim comes out twice a month. Please send information to be included in the week of June 2nd newsletter no later than Tuesday, June 4th at noon to: susan.brosnan@gmail.com or leave information at the office.



I am looking for instrumentalists to form a mixed ensemble. Beginners who are taking lessons are also welcome.

There is a sign-up sheet on the mid-level bulletin board.

Trish Maerke, Organist/Choir Director

FRIDAY FAMILY NIGHT

Date: June 7, 2024

Time: 6pm till 8pm

Bring your favorite card or board games to play with other kids and families.



Snacks and drinks provided. Please

sign up on the list on the main bulletin board so we know how many to plan for.

Questions? Contact Chris Burden 401-465-8900 or Lisa Van Alst 860 710-1262.

CAMP FIRELIGHT (VBS) is July 8th–12th. Registration forms are now available. You can find them in the church office, on the tables outside the sanctuary, or by asking DRE Lisa Van Alst for one.



325TH ANNIVERSARY NEWS & EVENTS

Flag placement Saturday, May 25th at 10A Preston City Cemetery

Day trip to Plymouth, MA. Wednesday, June 26th

Guest organist Sunday, July 28th

Noank Community Band Outdoor Concert Saturday, August 3rd

Old-Fashioned Church Picnic Saturday, August 17th (Rain date Saturday, August 24th)

All Church Sing-Along Saturday, September 7th

Preston City Cemetery Walk Saturday, October 5th

Anniversary Service & Reception Saturday, November 16th

Check back for details and more events!



MEMORIAL DAY – MONDAY, MAY 27

**Remembering those who gave their lives
for our freedom.**

The greatest love you can have for your friends is to give your life for them.

John 15:13 GNT