

The Inkling

The News of First Presbyterian Church

January 2018

Pastor's Message

Dear FPCNH Community,

As a congregation, we are embarking on a period of discernment – and over the last few weeks, I've gotten a lot of questions about what a process of discernment looks like. So, I thought I'd spend a little time describing it – from my perspective.



First of all, one of the most beautiful elements of discernment is that it takes both intentional planning and openness to the Spirit – and these two elements dance together, like a magnificent waltz. We will have to take time to listen, to talk, to share, and to pray – we will have to be intentional about engaging in the process. And, as you are well aware, the Spirit will be at work in wild, wonderful, and mysterious ways. For people who like to plan – planners such as myself - it can be hard to work with such a partner. However, if we are open the Spirit nudging us, guiding us, presenting us with opportunities, and leading us forth and we may glimpse a clearer picture of the kingdom of God at hand.

Often times, a discernment process is compared to a strategic visioning process and while there are some similarities (looking to the future, understanding trends, setting goals), the lived experience is quite different when an equal partner in discernment is the Holy Spirit. We set goals but we cannot be rigid in our achievement of them. Experiential learning, flexibility, and communal decision-making will both guide and disrupt our path. Patience and the act of letting go will be required practices. "I don't know" will often be an answer to a question. The sensation of thrilling excitement will almost always come with at least some sense of fear and trembling – that's usually a good sign, in fact. The work will feel productive, even if there's not much to show for it yet. The loudest or most energetic of us will likely not dictate the outcomes – rather, this work will require everyone to put the community's passions and interests before our own individual ones. We'll be drawn in directions where energy lies, where opportunities arise, where we may have not gone before. We will experience a transformation.

We're going to start by dreaming of the world we believe God desires for us – and we'll go from there.

Peace,

Pastor JC

SCRIPTURE TEXTS FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY



Date	Scripture Texts
Jan 7	Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 2 (whole chapter)
Jan 14	TBA
Jan 21	Mark 1:14-20, Psalm 62:5-12, Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Jan 28	Mark 1:21-28, Psalm 111, Deuteronomy 18:15-20
February 4	Mark 1:21-28; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c, Isaiah 40:21-31
February 11	Mark 9:2-9, Psalm 50:1-6, 2 Kings 2:1-12
February 14	Isaiah 58:1-12, Psalm 51:1-17, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
February 18	Genesis 9:8-17, Psalm 25:1-10, Mark 1:9-15
February 25	Mark 8:31-38, Psalm 22:23-31, Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Michal Beth Dinkler Ordination Service - Saturday, Jan 6 @ 4pm

Mark your calendars to attend the very special worship service on January 6, 2018 to celebrate the ordination of Michal Beth Dinkler to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. Michal Beth serves in ministry as Assistant Professor of New Testament at the Yale Divinity School.

A reception will follow the service.

Winter Potluck-Sunday, January 7th

Prepare a winter dish to share, and join friends for a delightful meal to warm both the body and the spirit. We'll gather in the Owens Building after the Congregational Meeting.



3rd Thursday at the Manse – January 18th



On the 3rd Thursday of the month (January 18), Pastor JC and Heather invite you to come to the manse for fellowship and food. They'll provide the main dish (likely pasta) — and you provide a side or dessert. Even if you don't/can't bring anything to share, come on along – there will be plenty. Come anytime after 6pm. BYOB. ALL ARE WELCOME!!

The manse is the yellow brick house next door to the church (724 Whitney). Please park in the manse driveway or wherever you can find street parking. This month you can also park in the church lot as the Greater New Haven Community Chorus will not be rehearsing.

Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 7, 2018

The Session has called a congregational meeting for this Sunday, following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to elect elders and no other business may be conducted. Below is information on the people who will be presented by the Nominating Committee for congregational approval to serve 3-year terms as Elders on Session.

Sue Balakrishnan and her husband, Ken, came to First Presbyterian Church 24 years ago, after moving from their home state of California. They and their children, Kevin (28), and Anna (25) have called First Pres home ever since. With a background in religious education, Sue quickly engaged in the Christian education at the church, serving as superintendent of Sunday school, and then Director of Christian Education, where she served for many years. Since leaving her position as CE director, Sue served on session as co-chairs of the clock committee, where she remains today. Sue currently works as a Special Education Paraprofessional at East Haven Public Schools.

Jennifer Ballew and her husband, Mark Lanz, were married at the First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor in 1998, and first began attending FPCNH in 2002, soon after relocating to New Haven from Michigan. They soon became members and both of their children, Riley and Molly, have been baptized at FPCNH and are active in the church's Youth Group. Jenn has served as an adjunct member of the CLOC committee for several years, taught a unit of youth Sunday School in 2016, and was a member of the 2017 Pastoral Nominating Committee. She earned her PhD in cardiovascular pharmacology in 2000, but left the research world to become a psychiatrist and now specializes in the treatment of addictions.

Jen Herbst and her other half, Scott Funston, have been members at FPCNH since 2012. Jen has led a number of Sunday school classes looking at how Scripture talks about health, law, gender, and taxes and currently serves on the Communications Committee. She teaches at Quinnipiac University's law and medical schools and writes about the intersection of health, ethics, law, and money. Jen is already an ordained elder, having served on the Session at Ardmore Presbyterian Church in Ardmore, PA and on an Administrative Commission to Arch Street Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, PA.

Tim McConnell joined FPCNH in 1995, married Rose Spielman in 1999, and they have two children Tess (16) and Calum (14) who are members of Temple Beth Sholom in Hamden. Tim has previously served on Session, the Finance, Education, and Nomination Committees, and as Disbursements Treasurer. He works at a Biotech Company, IsoPlexis, in Branford directing grant-funded projects to facilitate new treatments for a variety of diseases. Tim is the son of a Presbyterian minister as well as a grandson and great-grandson of ministers.

Abraham's Tent is coming *very soon!*

Our church will be hosting 12 men from Columbus House starting Monday, January 15th (Martin Luther King Jr. observance day) until Monday, January 22nd. Sign-up sheets are posted on the white boards in the Miller Gathering Hall. We seek people to host, provide dinner, stay overnight and/or greet the men. Your participation is encouraged and greatly appreciated! Any questions, please contact Brian Gray at brian_gry@yahoo.com.



DECEMBER SESSION REPORT

Report on the Session Meeting

December 19, 2017

One of the first important pieces of business that the Session considered was the proposed 2018 budget. David Miller was present on behalf of the Finance committee to answer questions and direct our discussion. Our budget for 2018 is about \$349,000 of which we are expecting about \$269,000 in pledges. This includes funding for a new Committee, the Communications committee, which oversees our online presence as well as signage and other communications. We are still receiving pledges and they will be reflected in next month's budget figures.

There were two overtures brought to us for discussion. The first overture is the 223rd General Assembly to instruct the Board of Pensions (who has charge over this) to include a 12 week Paid Parental Leave as part of the benefit package of employees covered under their plans. This would be available to all parents of new children regardless of how the child came into the family including birth, adoption, and fostering. The Session voted to approve this overture.

The second overture came out of the Mission committee which had received it from the Hudson River Presbytery. This Overture 006 directs the Board of Pensions and the Foundation to divest from fossil fuel and to seek out investments which center around renewable and/or energy efficient sources. After discussion, the Session voted to approve this overture.

Both of these overtures will now go to our Presbytery of Southern New England for consideration at its next meeting in February.

One final important discussion the session had concerned how we as a church invite people to become members and how to best invite and involve them in the work of the church. All our committees would love to have new members. We are in an exciting place now with our new pastor, JC and we welcome all ideas and suggestions from you. Our committees are: Christian Education, CLOC, Communications, Mission, Worship, Property, Personnel, Finance, and Stewardship. The current ruling elders are listed on the back of every bulletin and our pictures are displayed in the Copeland room. We are waiting to talk to you.

Submitted by,
Lynn Autry

List of Upcoming Events for Christian Education

Check out our upcoming events at [meetup.com/FPCNewHaven](https://www.meetup.com/FPCNewHaven) or download the Meetup app.



Sun., Jan. 7	9:30-10:30 a.m.	Sunday School for All Ages
	10:45-11:45 a.m.	Children in Worship Program with Children's Ministry Moment Prep
	12-1 p.m.	All-Church Potluck & Games
Sun., Jan. 14	9:30-10:30 a.m.	Sunday School for All Ages
	10:45-11:45	Children in Worship Program with Children's Ministry Moment Prep
	2-3 p.m.	Youth Escape Room (Space Station: Andromeda)
Fri., Jan. 19	5:30-8 p.m.	Youth Serve Abraham's Tent
Sun., Jan. 21	9:30-10:30 a.m.	Sunday School for All Ages
	10:45-11:45	Children in Worship Program
Sun., Jan. 28	9:30-10 a.m.	Sunday School for All Ages
	10:45-11:45	Children in Worship Program
	5:30-7:30 p.m.	Confirmation Dinner Church

Next Children's Ministry Moment

In the Children in Worship program on Sunday, January 7th, children will learn about Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s particular role as an ordained preacher and the Church's history as a force for social change. Those who are interested will prepare a related Children's Ministry Moment to share with the congregation the following Sunday, January 14th. Volunteers of all ages and reading levels, including non-readers, are welcome to participate.

Meet in the sanctuary for worship until the children's invitation following the announcements.

Youth Escape New Haven (Ages 10-18)

We had such a good experience in the Crypt that we decided to go to outer space! Whether you attended last time or never before, join us for an otherworldly mission right here in town.

From their website: "Located at 103 Whitney Ave in New Haven, Connecticut, Escape New Haven is a cooperative, real-life 'escape room' – an adventure space where nothing is as it seems. You and your team are trapped; you have 60 minutes to escape the room by solving a series of puzzles that will challenge your mind and confound your senses. Explore, adapt, work together, think creatively... and you just might succeed."



We'll test our mettle at Space Station: Andromeda on Sunday, January 14th from 2-3 p.m. We will make arrangements for lunch and transportation as needed, so plan on spending a bit of time before and after the hour-long 2 p.m. reservation.

Free to FPC youth and \$10 per guest. Several spaces available. RSVP to firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com by **Monday, January 8th** (1/8/18).

25th Annual True Colors Conference (Youth & Adults)

March 16 & 17, 2018
UCONN, Storrs, Connecticut

From their website: "True Colors offers the largest and most comprehensive conference in the country focused on LGBTQ youth issues. Now going into its 25th year, the conference hosts more than 3,500 participants from CT, the Northeast and Nationally. With more than 200 workshops to choose from, the conference offers something for everyone!"

Learn practical ways to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, asexual, aromantic, queer, and questioning (+) people, and appreciate spaces built for and by these communities.

Take a variety of workshops on art, activism, faith, sexuality, romantic relationships, friendship, consent, health, and identity. Workshops are listed for middle school, high school, college, professional, and general audiences, making it easy to find content that's relevant and age-appropriate. Keynote speakers and performers in dance and music begin and end each day. Attend just one day or both!

RSVP to Kimberley at firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com by **Monday, January 8th** (1/8/18). A second round of registration will be announced if space allows after this date.

Admission cost varies based on student status and registration date, but we have full and partial scholarships available for all interested youth ages 10-18. Carpooling available.

Youth Serve Abraham's Tent (Ages 10-18)

Youth ages 10 and older are invited to help serve and share dinner with the men of Abraham's Tent on Friday, January 19th. Brian Gray and Tyler Wadzinski will bring ingredients for tacos along with Mexican rice, chips, salsa, and dessert. Youth can arrive to the Owens Community Building between 5:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., and we will serve dinner at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to stay and talk and play card/board games. Dinner and games will be finished by 8:00 p.m.

Optionally: Bring a (new or used) deck of cards or a similarly small, portable game to DONATE for any of the men to take with them if they want it. Otherwise no need to bring anything with you.

As needed, let us know of your own dietary restrictions and how we might best ensure there's enough for you to eat. Please RSVP to Kimberley (firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com) or Brian (brian_gry@yahoo.com) by Wednesday, January 17th.

Please Note: Other church members, friends, and guests of all ages are welcome to attend as well. This is the youth's annual tradition of outreach to Abe's Tent but is not a youth-only event.

Confirmation Dinner Church (Ages 14-18)

Pastor JC and Kimberley meet with confirmands on the fourth Sunday of each month. The atmosphere of the class is relaxed and warm, in the format of Dinner Church.

Meet from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Gathering Hall for food, friendship, and intentional space for sacred conversation. Our next meeting is January 28th.

PC(USA) Anti-Racism Adult Education Series in January

Facing Racism: A vision of the Intercultural Community, Anti Racism Study Guide

Are you thinking “I’m not a racist” but you see the racism pervasive in the every day interactions around you and you are also thinking about the multiple ways you benefit from racism – past and present? Come to the final three Adult Ed sessions on January 7th, 14th and 21st during the 9:30 a.m. time.

Racism – it is the water we swim in, the air we breathe. How do we, as a people of God stand against, speak against and work against racism? Come to the final three Adult Ed sessions using the PC(USA)’s Facing Racism: A vision of the Intercultural Community and be part of the conversation.

Racism is the opposite of what God intends for humanity. It is the rejection of the other, which is entirely contrary to the Word of God incarnate in Jesus Christ. Racism is a lie about our fellow human beings, for it says that some are less than others. Because of our biblical understanding of who God is and what God intends for humanity, the PC(USA) stands against, speaks against and works against racism.

“This is not a time for timidity. The current struggles over racial justice in the United States mark a *kairos* moment. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has long held strong convictions regarding the sinfulness of racism and the need to struggle against it. Speaking our own convictions now, with clarity and power, could make a tangible difference in the current struggle. Furthermore, it is required of us, as the church is called to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.” The Rev. Shannon Craigo-Snell.
(Rev. Craigo-Snell serves on the PC(USA) church-wide Antiracism Policy Team.)

Art and Mary Hunt will be leading the class, with guest discussion leaders for the three January sessions:

January 7 - Racism 101 with the Rev. Emily Brewer, Executive Director of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship

January 14 - Enduring Legacy of Racism in the U.S. with Rick Ufford Chase, Moderator of the 216th General Assembly and Co-Director of the Stony Point Conference Center

January 21 - Responding as a Community of Faith with the Rev. Shannon Craigo-Snell via Skype

[Study guides](#) are available on the [Presbyterian Mission Agency’s Racial Justice web site](#).

Questions? Call us at 203-288-3530.

Please join us,
Art and Mary Hunt



In nothing be anxious; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. (Philippians 4:6)

When you pray, offer prayers for ...

Our country and its leaders.

Church members and friends who seek God's healing grace, including Ken Haynam, at Benchmark Senior Living in Hamden.

For the family and friends of Grace Pauls, mourning the death of her husband, Robert "Bob" Ritchie, on Tuesday.

For Jeff Miller, brother of David, who is recovering from surgery.

For Nancy Walker's 3-month old niece, recovering from heart surgery.

Prayers for those who suffer from gun violence.

Prayers for those who do not have enough to eat.

Prayers for people who are homeless.

James Smit and Patrick Copeland, who are serving in the armed forces.

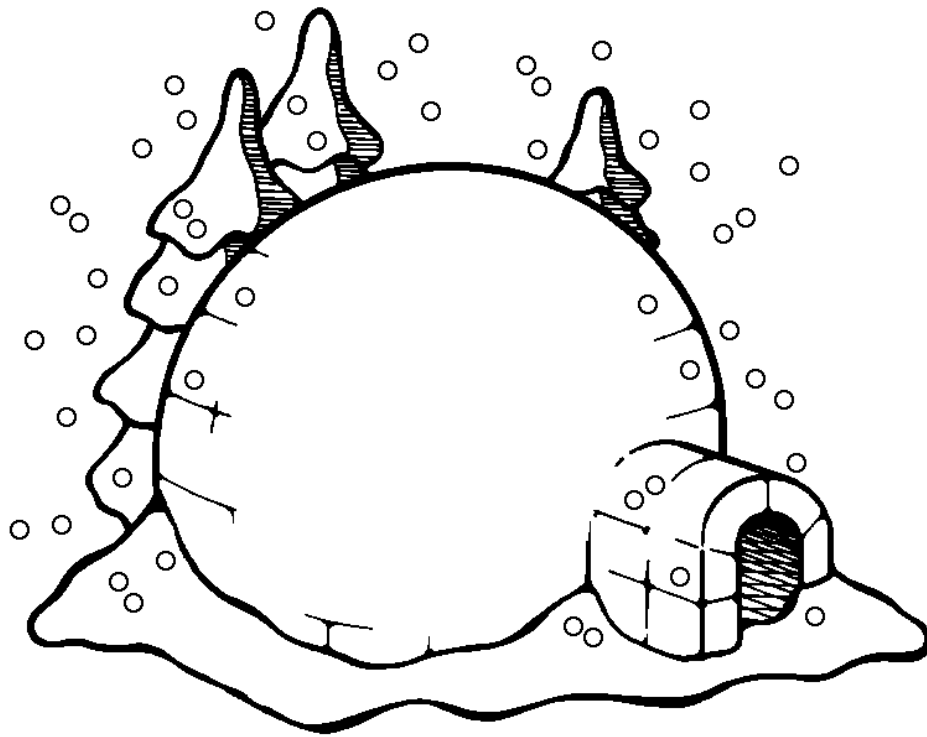
Those who are unable to worship with us on a regular basis.

Prayers for other people and situations in need of our supplications.

JUST FOR FUN

Q: What's an ig?

A: A snow house without a loo!



Q: If you live in an igloo, what's the worst thing about global warming?

A: No privacy!

January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:00 p.m. Memorial Cairn	2 7:30 p.m. CLOC Committee	3	4 9:00 a.m. Yoga 7:00 pm GNHCC	5 7:30 p.m. Folk Concert	6 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA 5:30 pm Columbus House Dinner 4:00 pm Dinkler Ordination
7 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages. 10:45 a.m. Worship & Communion, J Shannan Vance Ocampo preaching 12:00 pm Cong Mtg 12:10 pm Potluck Lunch	8	9 9:30 am Musical Folk 10:30 am Musical Folk 4:30 pm Musical Folk 6:30 pm Worship Comm 7:15 p.m. Mission	10 9:00 am Presby Comm Mtg 5:30 pm Musical Folk 6:00 pm Assoc for the Gifted 7:00 p.m. Choir	11 9:00 a.m. Yoga 9:30 am Staff Meeting 7:00 pm GNHCC	12 9:30 am Musical Folk 10:30 am Musical Folk	13 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
14 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages. 10:45 a.m. JC Cadwallader preaching 12:00 pm Friendship Hour	15 9:30 am Musical Folk 10:30 am Musical Folk 4:00 pm Abraham's Tent 4:30 pm Musical Folk	16 9:30 am Musical Folk 10:30 am Musical Folk 4:00 pm Abraham's Tent 4:30 pm Musical Folk 7:15 p.m. Session	17 4:00 pm Abraham's Tent 5:30 pm Musical Folk 7:00 p.m. Choir 7:00 p.m. Homicide Survivors	18 9:30 am Staff Meeting 4:00 pm Abraham's Tent 6:00 pm 3rd Thurs Potluck	19 9:30 am Musical Folk 10:30 am Musical Folk 4:00 pm Abraham's Tent	20 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA 4:00 pm Abraham's Tent
21 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages. 10:45 a.m. Worship, JC Cadwallader preaching 12:00 pm Friendship Hour 4:00 pm Abraham's Tent	22	23 9:30 am Musical Folk 10:30 am Musical Folk 4:30 pm Musical Folk 4:00 pm Homeless Pt in Time Count	24 5:30 pm Musical Folk 7:00 p.m. Choir	25 9:00 a.m. Yoga 9:30 am Staff Meeting 7:00 pm GNHCC	26 9:30 am Musical Folk 10:30 am Musical Folk	27 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA
28 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages. 10:45 a.m. Worship, JC Cadwallader preaching 12:00 pm Friendship Hour 5:30 pm Confirmation	29	30 9:30 am Musical Folk 10:30 am Musical Folk 4:30 pm Musical Folk	31 5:30 pm Musical Folk 7:00 p.m. Choir 10			

February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:00 a.m. Yoga 9:30 a.m. Staff Mtg 7:00 pm GNHCC	2 9:30 am Musical Folk 10:30 am Musical Folk 7:30 p.m. Folk Concert	3 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA 5:30 pm Columbus House Dinner
4 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages. 10:45 a.m. Worship & Communion, JC Cadwallader preaching 12:00 pm Friendship Hour	5 6:00 p.m. Memorial Cairn	6 9:30 am Musical Folk 10:30 am Musical Folk 4:30 pm Musical Folk	7 5:30 pm Musical Folk 7:00 p.m. Choir	8 9:00 a.m. Yoga 9:30 am Staff Meeting 7:00 pm GNHCC	9 9:30 am Musical Folk 10:30 am Musical Folk	10 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
11 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages. 10:45 a.m. Worship 12:00 pm Potluck Lunch	12	13 9:30 am Musical Folk 10:30 am Musical Folk 4:30 pm Musical Folk 6:30 pm Worship Comm 7:15 p.m. Mission	14 ASH WEDNESDAY 5:30 pm Musical Folk 7:00 p.m. Choir	15 9:30 am Staff Meeting	16 9:30 am Musical Folk 10:30 am Musical Folk	17 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA
18 Abraham's Tent 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages. 10:45 a.m. Worship 12:00 pm Friendship Hour	19	20 9:30 am Musical Folk 10:30 am Musical Folk 4:30 pm Musical Folk	21 5:30 pm Musical Folk 7:00 p.m. Homicide Survivors 7:00 p.m. Choir	22 9:00 a.m. Yoga 9:30 am Staff Meeting 7:00 pm GNHCC	23 9:30 am Musical Folk 10:30 am Musical Folk	24 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA
25 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages. 10:45 a.m. Worship, JC Cadwallader preaching 12:00 pm Friendship Hour 5:30 pm Confirmation	26	27 9:30 am Musical Folk 10:30 am Musical Folk 4:30 pm Musical Folk	28 5:30 pm Musical Folk 7:00 p.m. Choir			

PASTOR: J.C. CADWALLADER

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: PATRICK McCRELESS

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: MARTHA SMITH

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR
CHILDREN AND YOUTH: KIMBERLEY FAIS

NURSERY CARE PROVIDER: EMILY LANDINO

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Web site: www.fpcnh.org

Christian Education for All Ages

9:30 a.m.

Worship

10:45 a.m.

**First Presbyterian Church
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