

The Inkling

The News of First Presbyterian Church

February 2014

The signs of winter weather greet us every morning and still the people of First Presbyterian Church come out to worship God each Sunday morning. The pews are full, we lift our voices in song and in prayer, we hear scripture read and proclaimed, and we give thanks to God for the blessings of our lives. Our acts of justice and kindness reach out beyond our walls, our wheelbarrow fills with good food for our hungry neighbors. Join us in February as we continue to gather together as a community of faith, doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with God.



Annual Meeting of the Congregation to take place on Sunday, February 2

The Session of First Presbyterian Church of New Haven has called the Annual Meeting of the Congregation for Sunday, February 2 following worship. This meeting will take place in the sanctuary. You are invited to make your way to the Owens Community Building for a treat, and then return to the sanctuary for the meeting. During the meeting, Committee chairs will share a bit about their work in the year past, and invite you to share your ideas for new mission directives or programs. There will be time for you to voice your hopes and dreams for our life together in faith. Finally, you will be asked to vote to confirm the Pastors' Terms of Call for 2014. Copies of the Annual Report are available on the Welcome Table in the Copeland Room.

Lovin' Spoonfuls Potluck Lunch – February 9

The Community Life and Outreach Committee (CLOC) invites you to a “lovin’ spoonfuls” potluck following worship on Sunday, February 9. Bring a dish you love to make, or to eat ... and then sit around tables with friends sharing in the goodness of food lovingly prepared with a community gathered in Christ’s love. And, during the Friendship Hour on Sunday, February 23rd, artists of the First Presbyterian Church community will display their work. Please talk with Scott Funston and Jesse Cooper if you have arts and crafts you would like to show.

Adult Education News!

Beginning on February 2, Bruce Gordon will lead an Adult Education series on “Our Reformed Faith and the Sacred,” taking a look at sacred words (Feb 2), sacred time (Feb 9), and sacred space (Feb16). Bruce is the Titus Street Professor of Ecclesiastical History at Yale Divinity School and a member of the Worship Committee.

Then on Sunday, February 23rd, join our guest, Alex McNeill, Executive Director of More Light Presbyterians for a conversation about the church’s welcome of transgender people. Join us for these engaging conversations on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the Miller Gathering Hall. Coffee and tea will be available.

Presbytery of Southern New England Meets on February 8

The Presbytery of Southern New England will meet on Saturday, February 8th at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in West Hartford. On the docket for the meeting will be a conversation and then a vote on two overtures regarding marriage equality, and an additional overture about sustainable development. The Session of First Presbyterian Church voted to send these overtures to the Presbytery for their consideration. One overture, calling for an "Authoritative Interpretation" seeks to permit pastors of churches in states where marriage equality is legal to have permission to officiate at same gender weddings. The second overture addresses the need to change the current wording in our constitution, the Book of Order, which currently defines marriage only as between one man and one woman. The overture affirmed by our Session asks that the language be changed from one man and one woman to a couple. These overtures have also been sent by First Church in Stamford, Wilton Presbyterian Church, Granby Presbyterian Church and New Canaan Presbyterian Church. Finally, our Session sent an overture inviting the denomination to affirm the moral and ethical importance of sustainable development and calling for a study group to prepare a paper for use by congregations throughout the denomination, enabling congregations to advocate for reform. Elders Betty Whitney, Jim Whitney and Mary Webber will serve as our commissioners to the meeting. Please keep the Presbytery in your prayers.

Presbyterian Promise Invites You!

Presbyterian Promise invites you to meet and talk with Alex McNeill, the new executive director of More Light Presbyterians, one of the major voices advocating and working for LGBT equality in the Presbyterian Church USA. The weekend will focus on how we can live into the dream of equality in the PCUSA and on transgender issues and what we still need to do to make sure all are welcomed, respected and included in God's Presbyterian family. Join us for all three public events.

Saturday, February 22 - 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

"Connecting the Dots: Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation: A workshop"

Have you ever felt tongue-tied in discussing the nuances of gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender identities? Have you wished there was a better way to talk about gender identity and sexual orientation that doesn't segment people into categories but unites us all in a journey of discovery and expression? We promise this workshop will inspire new ways of thinking and teaching others about gender and sexuality that you won't want to miss. This event will take place at the Wilton Presbyterian Church, 48 New Canaan Road, Wilton, Connecticut

Sunday February 23 - There will be two opportunities to meet and talk with Alex.

9:30 to 10:30 - Christian Education class focusing on transgender issues.

3:00 to 5:00 – Presbyterian Promise Annual Meeting: "Shaping the Future." Alex McNeill, Co-Pastor Bill Goettler and church member Margaret Fox, Yale Divinity School, Yale Law School and Candidate for ministry in the Presbytery for Southern New England, will engage in a lively conversation about the future of MLP and the entire LGBT movement and its continuing witness to God's welcome and love. There will be music and food and joy. Be with us.

Alex Patchin McNeill is the new Executive Director at More Light Presbyterians. He is the first openly transgender person to head a mainline Protestant organization. He is a life-long Presbyterian, and a nationally known educator and advocate for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Christians. Alex holds his Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School He currently lives in Maryland just outside of Washington, DC with his wife and three dogs.

New Member Luncheon – February 23

Co-Pastors Bill Goettler and Maria LaSala will host a lunch for those considering church membership on Sunday, February 23rd at 12:45 p.m., following the Friendship Hour. If you've been worshiping at First Presbyterian Church of New Haven and want to learn more about what it means to become a member of the Presbyterian church, please join us.

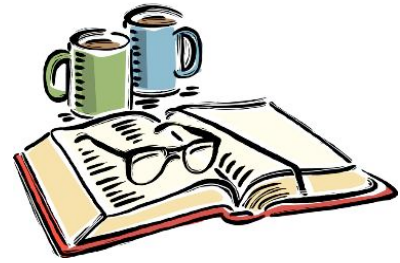
Texts for the Sundays in February:

February 2: Micah 6:1–8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18–31; Matthew 5:1–12

February 9: Isaiah 58:1–9a [9b–12]; Psalm 112:1–9 [10]; 1 Corinthians 2:1–12 [13–16]; Matthew 5:13–20

February 16: Deuteronomy 30:15–20 or Sirach 15:15–20; Psalm 119:1–8; 1 Corinthians 3:1–9; Matthew 5:21–37

February 23: Leviticus 19:1–2, 9–18; Psalm 119:33–40; 1 Corinthians 3:10–11, 16–23; Matthew 5:38–48



Pipes, Pedals, and Pizza

On Saturday morning, February 8, First Presbyterian Church and our closest church neighbor, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, will join with the New Haven Chapter of the American Guild of Organists in an event called “Pipes, Pedals, and Pizzas.” The purpose of the event is to interest young piano students in playing the organ. For all sorts of reasons, it is less common now than it was a few decades ago for middle school and high school students to be attracted to the organ, and to spend their last years of secondary school taking organ lessons and learning to play. We and the AGO want to restore this tradition, so we’re working with the Neighborhood Music School and local piano teachers to invite pianists, aged 8-18, to come and get acquainted with the pipe organ. We’ll start at St. Thomas, talking about their organ, explaining how it works, playing a bit, and then giving the students an opportunity to try the instrument out. We’ll then walk down the street to FPCNH and do the same here. The morning will close with pizzas in the Owens Building.

A Visit from South Sudan Mission Co-Workers Nancy and Shelvis Smith-Mather

Nancy and Shelvis Smith-Mather, PCUSA mission co-workers in South Sudan have returned to the United States for a time of rest and renewal and to have the opportunity to share a bit about their work and the communities in their care in South Sudan. We are hoping that their schedule will permit a visit to the New Haven area to be with us in worship, and to meet with members of the Yale Divinity School community. Writes Shelvis and Nancy, “You have been an uplifting source of support to our family during our 1st term of missionary service in South Sudan. As a result, we want to personally thank you.”

As you might have read in the news, waves of political-ethnic violence are flooding South Sudan. We believe the heart of God is grieving as our brothers and sisters endure displacement, disease and death. During this difficult time, the Presbyterian Church USA, the Reformed Church in America and RECONCILE International (the organization which we are serving in South Sudan) asked Nancy and Shelvis to the US to share about the great faith and great lament of the church in South Sudan. They would like to talk with us about the ways in which our partnership with them has been a blessing to the newest nation in the world.

We’ve extended an invitation to Nancy and Shelvis to come and visit in April. We will keep you posted as we continue to work out plans for their visit.

Lenten Devotional Book: Call for Reflections

People Along the Way... Journeying with Jesus Through Lent is our theme for Lent this year. Each week, the common lectionary tells the story of very real people, encountering Jesus, and walking with him, just as we do. A Lenten devotional book will be written by 40 different members of our church community, reflecting on the Biblical stories that we will encounter each Sunday, and on their own lives.

If you’d like to write one of these reflections, please send a note to firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com by February 7. You will then be assigned a day, and asked to complete your 200 word reflection by February 21. The booklet will be available in hard copy and online, beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 5.

Glory to God, the new Presbyterian hymnal

On Saturday, January 25th about 25 people from First Presbyterian Church of New Haven attended a morning workshop sponsored by the Yale Divinity School's Institute of Sacred Music. Mary Louise Bringle, the chair of the hymnal committee, and David Eicher, the editor, were on hand to introduce us to this new collection of hymns to the glory of God. Pat McCreless accompanied our singing, as we lifted prayers and songs to God. Mel and David took us through the process of choosing hymns that now reflect the fullness of the PCUSA's worshipping communities. The room was filled with a joyful noise as all who gathered sang old favorites as well as new songs of praise that are sure to become our new favorites. We have already been singing many of the new hymns from *Glory to God*, each week as we gather for worship. The Worship and Music Committee will consider purchasing the new hymnals for our weekly worship. Stay tuned for more news about the new hymnal.

Memorial Cairn - February 3

Reclaiming the Prophetic Voice will again be marking the cost of the continuing violence in Iraq and Afghanistan by placing the January stone on the Memorial Cairn at the intersection of Broadway, Elm and Park streets in New Haven on Monday evening, February 3, at 6 p.m. This stone will be inscribed with the January death toll of US military personnel and the approximate documented numbers of Iraqi and Afghani civilians killed during that same period of time.

Connecticut Folk First Friday Concert – February 7

Come and listen to the music of The Meadows Brothers and Last Fair Deal on Friday, February 7th at 7:30 p.m. in the Owens Community Building. The church receives 10 free tickets. To reserve yours, email firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com.

Peace and Justice Action Group News

The First Pres Peace and Justice Action Group (PJAG) gathers for a pot luck dinner from 6 pm to about 8 pm on the second and fourth Mondays each month. The next meeting is Monday, February 10. All are welcome. Contact Art or Mary Hunt for additional information (art@cheswood.com, mary@cheswood.com, 203-288-3530).

Several web sites can keep you informed about a variety of issues and make it easy for you to contact your representatives including:

- PC(USA) Office of Public Witness at www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/washington/about-us/
- Creation Justice Ministries at www.creationjustice.org
- Change.org at www.change.org
- CREDO Mobilize at www.credomobilize.com

The PC(USA) along with over 50 other religious organizations is a member of Ecumenical Advocacy Days (EAD) <http://advocacydays.org/about-ead/>. Each year, EAD sponsors a national gathering in Washington, DC for people who want to learn about social justice issues and then personally visit their representatives in Congress. EAD 2014 National Gathering Jesus Weeps – Resisting Violence, Building Peace is Friday, March 21 – Monday, March 24, 2014. It is a great opportunity to personally contribute to the national policy debate.

First Presbyterian Church is supporting Overtures on Marriage Equality and the Precautionary Principle as the basis for sustainable development supporting a responsible, moral and ethical means of working and being. Overtures are a way for local congregations to influence the policy and actions of the General Assembly. PJAG will be looking at additional Overtures in the coming year.

Stewardship Update and Thanks

For those who offered your pledge for the financial support of the life and ministry of First Presbyterian Church for 2014, *thank you!* Over the past several months, our congregation has responded faithfully with 93 member households pledging a total of \$280,000. The number of pledges nearly equals the number of pledges last year – 95. We did lose a number of supportive members during the past year to moves from the area or illness but we also gained several new pledges. The total pledged is less than last year's pledge receipts of approximately \$295,000. The past year's surplus will be used to help meet the church's financial needs for 2014.

Pledges toward 2014 are still being encouraged and received. If you have not yet had the opportunity to pledge, we invite to prayerfully consider your pledge of financial support for our new year. Pledge cards will be continue to be available on the welcome table or you can simply email (in confidentiality) to firstpreschurchstewardship@gmail.com.

Finally, a number of individuals deserve our gratitude for their support of this year's Stewardship efforts. Minutes for Stewardship were presented during Sunday services in October and November by high school senior Harrison Davis, member Gayle Irvin and Elder Rona Johnston Gordon. Thank you to Harrison, Gayle and Rona for sharing your time and wisdom. Through the month of November, the church's website featured a Stewardship message on its front page – thanks to Mary Hunt. We gathered on Sunday November 10 for our annual Stewardship Celebration Luncheon. Many hands helped make the luncheon a delightful success – thank you to all.

The opportunity to be part of this active and engaged worshipping community is truly a blessing. None of us can do this work alone, but when our pledges are gathered together, the ministry of First Presbyterian Church grows vital and active, locally and around the world. Thank you for your continued and renewed support. ---- David B. Miller - Elder, Chair of Stewardship

Contribute to the CCA Wheelbarrow

The CCA Wheelbarrow always awaits your food donations. Please support the good work of Christian Community Action with your contributions of food to help feed our hungry neighbors. Cereal, rice, beans, baby food, soups and other nutritious, non perishable foods are welcome. Thanks.

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 ...

The men of Abraham's Tent: John, Dwayne, Steven, Scott, Henry, Kwasi, Nicholas, Gregory, Abraham, Rodolfo, and Woumbe.

Grace and Jonathan Yukich who welcomed their daughter, Eleanor Rose, on January 20, 2014.

Jeremy Cline and Michelle Yetter, who were married on January 18, 2014.

John Withers, now at Montowese Rehab Center and Sandy Withers, who is recovering from surgery.

Church members and friends who seek God's healing grace, including Eugene Smith; Ken Haynam; Caty Poole's mother Hedy Walter; Paul Turner's mother Sylvia; Joan Wells; Drew Long, Mattie Long's son; and John Wood, Becky Cline's father.

The people of South Sudan, Syria, Egypt, and for all across the Middle East, during this time of unrest, violence, and discord.

David Meeske, serving with the Peace Corps in Mongolia.

James Smit, Patrick Copeland, and Jordan Matos, 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.

February 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<p>1</p> <p>9:00am Yoga</p> <p>9:30am Women's AA</p>
<p>2</p> <p>9:30am Choir, Church School</p> <p>10:45am Worship</p> <p>12:00pm Congregational Meeting</p> <p>12:00pm Friendship Hour</p>	<p>3</p> <p>4:15pm Musical Folk</p> <p>6:00pm Memorial Cairn</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:30am Musical Folk</p> <p>6:30pm CE Committee</p> <p>1:00pm Dancing with Parkinsons</p> <p>7:30pm CLOC and Mission Committee</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:00am Musical Folk</p> <p>4:30pm Staff Meeting</p> <p>5:30pm Musical Folk</p> <p>7:00pm Choir</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:00am Yoga</p> <p>5:30pm Musical Folk</p> <p>6:30pm GNHCC</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:30pm Connecticut Folk</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:00am Yoga</p> <p>9:30am Women's AA</p> <p>10:00am Choir Rehearsal</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9:30am Choir, Church School</p> <p>10:45am Worship</p> <p>12:00pm Potluck</p>	<p>10</p> <p>4:15pm Musical Folk</p> <p>6:00pm Peace and Justice Dinner Group</p> <p>6:00pm Worship Committee</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30am Musical Folk</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:00am Musical Folk</p> <p>4:30pm Staff Meeting</p> <p>5:30pm Musical Folk</p> <p>7:00pm Choir</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:00am Yoga</p> <p>5:30pm Musical Folk</p> <p>6:30pm GNHCC</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:00am Yoga</p> <p>9:30am Women's AA</p>
<p>16</p> <p>9:30am Choir, Church School</p> <p>10:45am Worship</p> <p>12:00pm Friendship Hour</p>	<p>17</p> <p>4:15pm Musical Folk</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:30am Musical Folk</p> <p>1:00pm Dancing with Parkinsons</p> <p>7:15pm Session</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:00am Musical Folk</p> <p>4:30pm Staff Meeting</p> <p>5:30pm Musical Folk</p> <p>7:00pm Choir</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:00am Yoga</p> <p>5:30pm Musical Folk</p> <p>6:30pm GNHCC</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:00am Yoga</p> <p>9:30am Women's AA</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9:30am Choir, Church School</p> <p>10:45am Worship</p> <p>12:00pm Friendship Hour</p> <p>12:45pm New Member Lunch</p> <p>1:00pm Presbyterian Promise Annual Meeting</p>	<p>24</p> <p>4:15pm Musical Folk</p> <p>6:00pm Peace and Justice Dinner Group</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:30am Musical Folk</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10:00am Musical Folk</p> <p>4:30pm Staff Meeting</p> <p>5:30pm Musical Folk</p> <p>7:00pm Choir</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:00am Yoga</p> <p>5:30pm Musical Folk</p> <p>6:30pm GNHCC</p>	<p>28</p>	

March 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
2 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Friendship Hour	3 4:15pm Musical Folk 6:00pm Memorial Cairn	4 9:30am Musical Folk 6:30pm CE Committee 1:00pm Dancing with Parkinsons 7:30pm CLOC and Mission Committee	5 10:00am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Musical Folk 7:00pm Choir	6 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk 6:30pm GNHCC	7 7:30pm Connecticut Folk	8 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA 10:00am Choir Rehearsal
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16 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Friendship Hour	17 4:15pm Musical Folk	18 9:30am Musical Folk 1:00pm Dancing with Parkinsons 7:15pm Session	19 10:00am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Musical Folk 7:00pm Choir	20 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk 6:30pm GNHCC	21	22 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
23 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Friendship Hour	24 4:15pm Musical Folk 6:00pm Peace and Justice Dinner Group	25 9:30am Musical Folk	26 10:00am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Musical Folk 7:00pm Choir	27 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk 6:30pm GNHCC	28	

CO-PASTORS: BILL GOETTLER & MARIA LASALA

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: PATRICK McCRELESS

PARISH ASSOCIATE: SUE ASHER

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: MIRIAM SAMUELSON

CAMPUS CHAPLAIN TO YALE: HANNAH DREITCER

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Christian Education for all ages

9:30 a.m.

Worship

10:45 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church
704 Whitney Avenue
New Haven, Connecticut
06511

Please find your e-copy on the church website at fpcnh.org! We hope to stop printing most copies of the Inkling, moving to an entirely digital format. So take a moment today to check out the newsletter online.