

The Inklings

Our Lenten Journey Begins!

The signs of winter remain all around us still, but the promise of spring and new life are ever before us. The season of Lent begins this month and perhaps it is fitting that we should enter a season of penitence and reflection while the nights are still long and the air still cold. The season of Lent is not for the faint of heart. It will require each of us to journey with Jesus ... all the way to the cross.



Lent begins with a service of penitence on Ash Wednesday, March 5th. We will gather at 7:00 p.m. in the quiet of the sanctuary to hear words of scripture, lift up prayers for ourselves, one another and our world, and remember anew the promise that God will never forsake us. Ashes will be distributed during the service, which will also include a time of anointing for healing and wholeness. The service lasts about 45 minutes. All are welcome.

Sunday morning worship will take the faithful on a journey with Jesus and his friends, as together we explore the ways that Jesus' touch and teachings changed a people who were worried and afraid, into a people of great hope and promise. Each week, a witness to Jesus' words and deeds will visit, sharing with us the story of how their encounter with Jesus opened their eyes and their souls to a deeper and more profound Alleluia. We will hear the story of Jesus' journeys each Sunday, sing the hymns that sustain a people of faith, lift our prayers for a hurting world, and go forth a people strengthened for the living of our days. Join us on Sunday mornings in Lent. Worship begins at 10:45 a.m.

"People Along the Way: Journeying with Jesus Through Lent"

A Lenten Devotional Booklet will be available this year as a guide and reflection piece for our Lenten journey. Written by members and friends of the congregation, it will include the Gospel lesson for each Sunday of Lent, a brief reflection, and a prayer.

Each week, the common lectionary tells the story of very real people, encountering Jesus, and walking with him, just as we do. The reflections will explore the ways the story relates to our lives, what in it might cause trouble, challenge, or affirmation. Does the story cause you to tremble? Feel awe? Where do we see God at work? We hope that this Lenten project will be a source of strength to you, as together we consider the ways God's people journey with Jesus from the wilderness to the cross. The booklet will be available beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 5th in both an online format as well as a printed booklet.

If it's Lent, it must be time for a Pancake Supper!

Just in time ... this year's Pancake supper will be held on Tuesday, March 4th in the Miller Gathering Hall, beginning at 5:30 p.m. David Miller will be heading up a crew of pancake chefs who will be cooking and grilling until 6:45 p.m. Plain, banana, blueberry and even chocolate chip pancakes as well as meatless and meat sausages and bacon will be served. Donations to offset the cost of the supper will be most welcome. Mmm good is the order of the day. See you there!

First Presbyterian Church Choir News

On Saturday, February 8, the New Haven Chapter of the American Guild of organists sponsored an event called "Pedals, Pipes, and Pizzas," which provided an opportunity for young piano students to learn about the organ and to play it a bit. There was a strong turnout of 15 students, most of them of late elementary or middle-school age, and parents. We met first at St. Thomas Episcopal, just two blocks north of us, where Simon Jacobs, the Music Director and organist there, showed them the organ, explained how it works, and encouraged the students to try it out and experiment with the sounds it could make. We then walked south to First Presbyterian. Since Simon had explained the basics of how organs work, I concentrated on the fact that we have an organ with mechanical, tracker action rather than the more common electro-pneumatic action. The students tried the organ out, and were interested in the fact that the action is indeed different, and that the keys offer more resistance than is the case with the St. Thomas organ. We concluded with pizzas, given by the AGO, and the whole event was fun, informative and a big success.

Looking ahead to early May, save the date Sunday, May 4, at 4:00 p.m. Last year our choir joined with the choir of Bethesda Lutheran Church in a performance of Mozart's *Requiem*. This year we'll get together at our church for a jazz vespers service. Don't miss it!

Adult Education Series: Exploring our Desert Places

Co-Pastors Bill Goettler and Maria LaSala will lead a five-week series based on Joan Chittister's Lenten book, "Desert Spaces," on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the Miller Gathering Hall. Chittister offers us a reminder that "after the Christmas season, it is Lent that centers us in a consciousness of the daily-ness of Christian life, about what it means to live into this world in a way that makes the life of Jesus as real now as it was then." This series will take us back to the third century, to the spiritual counsel of the desert mothers and fathers, to consider "the kind of guidance they gave to one another and to the seekers who sought spiritual direction." Copies of the book will be available beginning on Sunday, March 2nd. Coffee and tea are available before and during class.

The Birds of the Holy Land

On Sunday March 2nd, Florence McBride will share her film, *Birding in Israel* during the Adult Education Sunday School gathering. Israel is only about the size of New Jersey, but the lands of the Bible host a rich array of breeding, wintering, and migrating birds in settings of exceptional scenic, archaeological and cultural interest. Flo is a birder extraordinaire, and this will be a wonderful opportunity to hear her share her love for these littlest but important creatures in God's world. "Consider the sparrow ..." Join us on Sunday, March 2nd at 9:30 a.m. Coffee and tea will be available.



Enormous numbers of White Storks migrate through Israel.

A Simple Lunch of Soups and Bread – March 9

The CLOC Committee invites you to a simple meal following worship on Sunday, March 9th. Please prepare a pot of soup or a tray of sandwiches to share with friends around tables during our Lenten pot-luck lunch. Copies of the 2014 "Lenten Prayers for Hungry People," written by Bread for the World, will be available at each table. During the 40 days of Lent, not including Sundays, Christians pay particular attention to hunger. This simple meal invites us to be thankful for the abundance we know, and mindful of the places where we hunger and thirst ... for peace, for justice, for hope, for community. All are welcome.

Texts for the Sundays in March:

March 2: Exodus 24:12–18; Psalm 2 or Psalm 99; 2 Peter 1:16–21; Matthew 17:1–9

Ash Wednesday—March 5: Joel 2:1–2, 12–17 or Isaiah 58:1–12; Psalm 51:1–17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10; Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

March 9: Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12–19; Matthew 4:1–11

March 16: Genesis 12:1–4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1–5, 13–17; John 3:1–17 or Matthew 17:1–9

March 23: Exodus 17:1–7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1–11; John 4:5–42

March 30: 1 Samuel 16:1–13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8–14; John 9:1–41



Afghanistan Memorial Stone, Monday, March 3

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



Flowering Cherry with Poem Slips, Japanese, Edo period, 17th century. artgallery.yale.edu

BYŌBU: The Grandeur of Japanese Screens at the Yale Art Gallery

“Japanese folding screens, of BYŌBU, were originally constructed to make spatial divisions within a room. This exhibit, currently on display at the Yale Art Gallery, and curated by our own Sadako Ohki, the Japan Foundation Associate Curator of Japanese Art, features screens from the mid-16th century to early 21st century, representing major themes and styles of Japanese painting.

We invite you to a special tour with Sadako following the pot luck lunch on March 9th. With our hunger satisfied from a meal of soup and sandwiches, we will make our way downtown for a 2:00 p.m. tour of this exhibit. Carpools can be arranged. And, if you have not yet visited the Yale Art Gallery since its renovation, you are welcome to stay longer to view the wonderful works of art throughout the gallery. This is an exciting opportunity for art lovers and a great way to visit an art gallery with friends. A sign up sheet will be on the Welcome Table.

Margaret Fox to preach on Sunday, March 30th

Margaret Fox, a candidate for ministry in the PCUSA, and a student at both Yale Divinity School and Yale Law School, will be our guest preacher on Sunday, March 30th. Margaret will preach on the story of the blind man found in John’s gospel, Chapter 9 verses 1-41. Margaret preached last summer during the series, “The Bible from Genesis to Revelation.” Plan to attend Sunday morning’s worship service to hear Margaret proclaim good news.

Connecticut Folk First Friday Concert – February 7

Come and listen to the music of Burning Bridget Cleary on Friday, March 7th at 7:30 p.m. in the Owens Community Building. The church receives 10 free tickets. To reserve yours, email firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com.

Gun Laws, Public Health, and the Prevalence of Gun Violence Symposium

Quinnipiac University will host the 2014 Symposium titled Gun Laws, Public Health, and the Prevalence of Gun Violence: A Critical Look at an Important Balance on Saturday, March 1, 2014 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Quinnipiac University Center for Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (370 Bassett Rd., North Haven, CT, 06473). For more information, contact Jennifer Herbst.

Update on visit from Shelvis and Nancy Smith Mather

Mission Co-Workers from South Sudan, Nancy, who is pregnant with their second child, and Shelvis Smith Mather will be with us on Sunday, April 13th. They will preach a Palm Sunday sermon, talk with us during our Friendship Hour, and then host a conversation about their work and about the struggles taking place in South Sudan later that afternoon. A reception will follow. On Monday, Shelvis and Nancy will attend chapel at the Yale Divinity School and then participate in a conversation with Co-Pastor Bill Goettler about the challenges and joys of mission work, raising a family, and finding strength in relationships. That conversation, while especially for divinity school students, is open to the public. We hope that you will make time to meet this dynamic couple, supported by our mission funds and attend the Sunday evening conversation. Nancy and Shelvis work for RECONCILE, (Resource Centre for Civil Leadership), an indigenous ecumenical Christian organization, which was established in March 2004 by a national church council of the New Sudan Council of Churches. It promotes "peace building" by providing training in trauma recovery, conflict transformation, and civic education. RECONCILE's activities are in areas of high inter-ethnic conflict, with the churches often being the typical point of entry into these communities. Shelvis and Nancy participate in RECONCILE's training events that address inter-ethnic conflict. Shelvis serves as the principal of the RECONCILE Peace Institute, which offers three-month courses in community-based trauma healing as well as peace studies and conflict transformation. To read more about Nancy and Shelvis' work with RECONCILE, visit the PCUSA webpage: www.pcusa.org.

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. This spring, for the 12th year in a row, Christian Community Action in New Haven will be participating in the nationwide Alan Shawn Feinstein Foundation Anti-Hunger Challenge. As part of this campaign, during March and April the Foundation will match with a small financial donation, every food item or dollar donated to the CCA Food Pantry, which now serves more than 700 families and seniors month, with 50 percent of that number being children.

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, Willie, and Woumbe.

Church members and friends who seek God's healing grace, including Eugene Smith; Ken Haynam; Paul Turner's mother Sylvia; Fritz Gorst, friend of Beth Aura Miller; Joan Wells; Drew Long, Mattie Long's son; John and Sandy Withers; John Wood, Becky Cline's father.

Caty Poole and her family as they mourn the death of her mother, Hedy Walter.

Margaret Grace Lewicki, daughter of David Lewicki and Beth Waltemath, who is now home from the hospital.

Kevin Lau, journalist and friend of Cressida Lui, who is in critical condition in Hong Kong.

Maureen Owens' cousin Maggie, who is in the final stages of cancer.

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.

March 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 8:00am Men's Breakfast, Manjares 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
2 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Friendship Hour 12:30pm Sanctuary Task Force	3 4:15pm Musical Folk 6:00pm Memorial Cairn	4 9:30am Musical Folk 1:00pm Dancing with Parkinsons 5:30pm Pancake Supper 6:30pm CE Committee 7:30pm CLOC and Mission Committee	5 10:00am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Musical Folk 7:00pm Ash Wednesday service	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
9 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Potluck 2:00pm Art Gallery trip	10 4:15pm Musical Folk 6:00pm Peace and Justice Dinner Group	11 9:30am Musical Folk	12 10:00am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Musical Folk 7:00pm Choir	13 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk 6:30pm GNHCC	14	15 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
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	29
30 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship: Margaret Fox preaching 12:00pm Friendship Hour	31 4:15pm Musical Folk 6:15pm Worship Committee					

April 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:30pm CE Committee 7:30pm CLOC and Mission Committee	2 10:00am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Musical Folk 7:00pm Choir	3 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk 6:30pm GNHCC	4 7:30pm Connecticut Folk	5 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
6 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Friendship Hour	7 4:15pm Musical Folk 6:00pm Memorial Cairn	8 9:30am Musical Folk 1:00pm Dancing with Parkinsons	9 10:00am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Musical Folk 7:00pm Choir	10 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk 6:30pm GNHCC	11	12 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA 10:00am Choir Rehearsal
13 9:30am Palm Sunday 10:45am Worship Friendship Hour Afternoon South Sudan Conversation	14 4:15pm Musical Folk 6:00pm Peace and Justice Dinner Group 6:00pm Worship Committee	15 9:30am Musical Folk 7:15pm Session	16 10:00am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Musical Folk 7:00pm Choir	17 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk 7:30pm Maundy Thursday Service	18 7:30pm Good Friday Service	19 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
20 Easter Sunday 6:30 Sunrise Worship 9:30am Easter Breakfast 10:45am Worship	21 4:15pm Musical Folk	22 9:30am Musical Folk 1:00pm Dancing with Parkinsons	23 10:00am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Musical Folk 7:00pm Choir	24 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk 6:30pm GNHCC	25	26 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
27 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Friendship Hour	28 4:15pm Musical Folk 6:00pm Peace and Justice Dinner Group	29 9:30am Musical Folk	30 10:00am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Musical Folk 7:00pm Choir			

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.

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Please find your e-copy on the church website at fpcnh.org!