The Inkling

The News of First Presbyterian Church

April 2014



Finally, spring is in the air. The buds on the trees are making their way out after a too long and too cold winter. We can begin to see tulips and daffodils emerging from the earth. Warmer temperatures find us shedding layers of clothing. Yes, after weeks of waiting, the signs of hope and new life astonish us at every turn. The month of April opens as we draw near to the end of our Lenten journey. We've journeyed with Jesus and his friends from the valley near the Galilee to the hilltops outside Jerusalem. As Holy Week begins we enter the gates of the Holy City and prepare our hearts and minds to hear again the Passion of Jesus Christ, Savior of the World.

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, April 13th. Join friends at 9:30 a.m. for a morning of activities. Breakfast treats will be provided and you are invited to experience the story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and his week of trial in tangible ways. Turn palms into crosses. Create bags for the treats to be found during the Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday. Read and discuss the Palm Sunday Lenten Devotional reflections prepared by church members. At 10:30 a.m. we invite you to gather in the Miller Hall ready to see the story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem come to life. And then all together, we will process across the walkway into the sanctuary, waving our palm branches high. As we enter the sanctuary, we will join our voices in song, singing *All Glory Laud and Honor* until all are seated and we call one another to worship.

Mission Co-Workers Nancy and Shelvis Smith-Mather will be our guest preachers on Palm Sunday morning. Nancy and Shelvis serve the Presbyterian Church in South Sudan. They direct the RECONCILE program working with divided communities to restore peace in that war torn and troubled country and they will offer both a sobering word and a word of hope. During worship The One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering will be received. We will sing songs, lift prayers, witness a baptism and the joining of new members to the church community, and prepare ourselves to journey with Jesus to the cross.

Easter Sunday Sunrise Worship will be offered at 6:30 a.m. at the Summit of East Rock Park, and again at 10:45 a.m. in the First Presbyterian Church sanctuary. Join us for the sunrise service, standing in the cool of the morning, as we hear the good news of Jesus' resurrection proclaimed from the mountaintop! This is a shared service with the congregations of Hamden Plain UMC, and First and Summerfield UMC in New Haven. The Rev. Soon Ahn from the Hamden Plains United Methodist Church will offer the sermon this year.

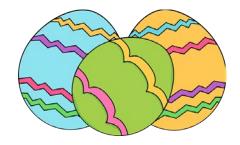
Easter Rejoicing music begins at 10:30 a.m. with a trumpet voluntary and at 10:45 a.m. our Easter worship begins as we profess in loud and strong voices that Jesus Christ is Risen! Trumpet sounds will announce the good news of Jesus' resurrection. Alleluias will ring out from every voice as we give thanks to God. Co-Pastor Bill Goettler will be the preacher for the morning. The service will end with everyone singing the *Hallelujah Chorus* from Handel's *Messiah*. This is the day that God has made and we will rejoice and be glad in it!

Easter Breakfast - 9:30 a.m. in the Miller Gathering Hall

What better way to welcome the good news of Easter joy than to sit around tables with friends, enjoying a delicious breakfast. Egg strata casseroles, both meat and vegetarian, will be prepared. There will be muffins and bagels and yogurt and fruit as well ... plenty for all. Fill your plates and then fill your spirits on this most holy day.

Easter Egg Hunt

Children from infancy through 5th grade are invited to participate in an Easter Egg Hunt following Easter worship. The hunt for eggs is a delight for young and old alike. Babies and toddlers will hunt for eggs in the play yard. Older children will be invited to follow the youth group leaders to hunt for eggs on the church lawn. Bags will be provided. If you'd like to contribute candy or stickers or other treats to fill the plastic eggs, please bring them to church on Palm Sunday morning. Thank you.



Upcoming Music at First Presbyterian Church

Music composed for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter constitutes a rich tradition going back many centuries. In the next few weeks our worship services will draw deeply on this tradition. On Sunday, April 6, the choir will sing a motet by Gioachino Rossini, who is best known as a composer of operas, but who also wrote some lovely sacred music. Although the original motet is in Latin, we will sing an English translation, "Thou, Who for Us Was Sacrificed." Palm Sunday, April 13, will feature more contemporary music: Michael Bedford's "Look Who's Coming," sung by our Children's and Youth Choir, and Daniel Moe's "Hosanna to the Son of David," sung by the Adult Choir. During Holy Week we'll hear organ music by Bach, Maundy Thursday and Communion anthems by the British composer Ian Brentnall, and traditional hymns and spirituals for both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. And Easter Sunday will be especially festive this year. We'll have a trumpeter, Joshua Gailey, a graduate student in the Yale Department of Music, who will offer music for the prelude, and will also us on hymns and one of the anthems. The choir will sing a contemporary Easter anthem, "Joy in the Heart," as well as a chorus from Handel's *Messiah*. And of course, we'll all sing Handel's *Hallelujah* at the end of the service.

And be sure to save Sunday, May 4 (two weeks after Easter) for a special Jazz Vespers that we are collaborating on with the choir of Bethesda Lutheran Church. Last year the Bethesda choir invited us to join in a performance of Mozart's *Requiem* on their concert series, and so we have invited them this year for a very different musical experience. The choirs will sing spirituals and jazz anthems, to the accompaniment of piano, drums, and more. It's not a concert—there will be readings from Scripture, psalms, and prayers, as in the long tradition of Vespers in both Catholic and Protestant churches—but it will nonetheless <u>really rock!!!</u> It will, we hope, be a joyful and meaningful service. Don't miss it – and invite your friends!

Adult Education

April 6 will be the final class in the series exploring the wisdom of the desert fathers and mothers. Co-Pastor Maria LaSala will conclude the conversation based on the book *Desert Spaces* by Joan Chittister, drawing upon the Gospel lesson for the morning from John 11, Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. On April 27th, Steve Davis will talk with us about his work in ancient and medieval Christianity in the Middle East. Steve is also the founder and director of the Yale Monastic Archaeology Project which sponsors work at two sites in Egypt. Steve has just returned from Egypt, and will tell stories about the desert mothers and fathers and respond to any questions you may have about his research and about the current situation in Egypt. The class meets in the Miller Hall at 9:30 a.m. Coffee and tea are available.

Texts for April:

April 6: Ezekiel 37:1–14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6–11; John 11:1–45 **Palm Sunday - April 13:** Matthew 21:1–11; Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29 Easter Sunday—April 20: Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 28:1–10 April 27: Acts 2:14a, 22–32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3–9; John 20:19–31



Dinner with Friends - Saturday, April 12 at 6 p.m.

Join friends for good food and great conversation at this month's Dinner with Friends. A sign up sheet can be found on the Welcome Table.

Rock to Rock Earth Day Ride

The Rock to Rock Earth Day bike ride will take place on April 26, 2014. It's a great way to explore New Haven, whether you ride from West Rock to East Rock, or take on one of the more challenging rides of 20, 40 or 60 miles. The Rock to Rock event invites local nonprofits to participate to raise money for making greater New Haven a greener, healthier community. Riders are welcome to join Team Massaro and help raise funds that support our food donation program. Last year the farm donated 8,200 pounds of food to hunger relief agencies. But all riders are encouraged and welcome to participate in this family friendly event. Rock to Rock organizers are also working with 11 participating nonprofits to perform service projects on Environmental Service Day, April 5 from 10am-1pm. You can find registration info and a form to sign up for Service Day at <u>rocktorock.org</u>. Riders can also see Joel LaChance or Caty Poole.

Youth Group News! An April Lock-In

A Lock-in for youth in grades 8-12 will take place on Saturday, April 12th. The Lock-in will begin at 5 p.m. and will end on Sunday morning, April 13th, in time for Palm Sunday festivities! We will meet for dinner and fun and games and conversations in the Miller Gathering Hall, and then the boys and girls will move to separate classrooms for their night's rest. Please contact Joel or Anna Hamaguchi if you are interested in coming: thehamaguchis@gmail.com.

This will be Anna and Joel Hamaguchi's last youth group event at First Presbyterian Church of New Haven. In late April, Anna and Joel will leave the New Haven area and First Presbyterian Church and return to Hawaii, to await the birth of their first-born son. Their last Sunday with us will be on Easter! In addition to serving as Youth Group leaders for the past two years, Anna and Joel have been teaching the Middle School Sunday School class with Gary Cline, making friends of almost all the children and youth in our congregation. We are grateful to them both for sharing their energy and enthusiasm for the church with our youth.

Afghanistan Memorial Stone, Monday, April 7

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, April 7, at 6 p.m. All are welcome.

Easter Flowers and Lilies	
Orders for Easter lilies and plants are now being be taken home after worship on Easter morning, homebound members. Please leave this form and	accepted by the church office. The cost is \$12 each. Plants may or given to the church to be planted outside or given to lack at the Welcome Table by April 13.
Donated by: In memory of In thanksgiving for I would like to take the plant home	3

The Sanctuary Task Force invites you to a conversation on April 27

The Sanctuary Task Force invites you to join them in a conversation on April 27th about the sanctuary space! Changes to the placement of the pulpit and communion Table were made for the season of Lent, bringing our Reformed understanding of the centrality of Word and Sacrament together in a visual way. The task force has also spent considerable time discussing seating. Out of love and respect for the current look and feel of the sanctuary, the task force has considered ways to alter the existing pews to make them more comfortable. Thanks to David Miller we have prepared 4 "test pews," the 2 last pews in the center section, the 3rd pew from the left on the back wall and the choir pew against the front wall, are each marked with a small sign indicating that they are "test pews." These pews have been placed on 2 1/4 inch risers, which brings the height of the pews to a more typical pew height. Please take time to sit in these pews, before, during, or after worship. We are also exploring whether to replace the carpet, and whether to get cushions for the pews. At this point, no study has been done regarding the banner hanging at the center of the church, although we are all aware that is had faded and needs attention. Please direct your comments to Tim McCloskey, chair of the task force and plan now to attend the conversation. A light lunch will be provided. Other members of the Task Force are: Andrew Forsyth, Daniel McCloskey, Bruce Peabody, Anita Shaffer, and Debbie Tenney.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering – April 13

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be received on Palm Sunday, April 13th. The offering, which goes to support the work of the Self Development of People Committee and the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, is one of the five special offerings received at First Presbyterian Church. In the past, our funds have gone to support the work of local organizations such as *Teach Our Children* and *Mothers for Justice*, a program of Christian Community Action working to find affordable housing in New Haven for single moms and their families. These funds have also been used to send out teams of relief workers --- in nearby Springfield, Massachusetts after devastating tornadoes swept through, and most recently to the Philippines for relief after typhoon winds destroyed so many communities. Envelopes can be found in the pews. Please give generously.

Men's Breakfast – April 5

Men of the congregation are invited to have breakfast together on Saturday, April 5th at 8 a.m. at Manjares in Westville, right off West Rock Avenue. Bruce Gordon will lead the conversation.

Walk Against Hunger, May 4

Join our church adults and youth for Connecticut Food Bank's annual Walk Against Hunger at 2pm on Sunday, May 4th. The 2.5-3 mile walk will start at East Rock Park. Pets are welcome (as long as they are on a leash.) More than 1 in 7 households in Connecticut are at risk of hunger. Every step and every dollar raised makes a difference. Sign up and pick up a brochure at the Welcome Table. Talk to co-pastor Maria LaSala for youth participation and Nancy Rupp (nr46@columbia.edu), Brian Gray (brian_gry@yahoo.com) or Cressida Lui (luicressida@yahoo.com) for adult participation.

Glory to God! We lift our voices in song!

We invite you to help us fill the pews with the new *Glory to God* hymnal by purchasing a hymnal "in memory of" or "in honor of" or "in thanksgiving for" ... a loved one or a person who has made a difference in your life. The new hymnal, which has a lovely purple cover, costs \$25.00, by check payable to First Presbyterian Church of New Haven with a note that it is for hymnals. Please fill out the form below and mail it to the church or place it in the offering plate on Sunday morning. For more information, please talk with Bruce Peabody.

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I would like to purchase a h	ymnal for First Presbyterian	Church.
Donor Name:		
Hymnal given: (circle one) (if desired)	in honor of in memory of in thanksgiving for	Name(s):

Please attach \$25 check payable to First Presbyterian Church of New Haven. Place in the offering plate on Sunday morning or mail to: First Presbyterian Church of New Haven, 704 Whitney Ave, New Haven, CT

Visit from Shelvis and Nancy Smith-Mather, Palm Sunday Weekend

On Palm Sunday, Nancy and Shelvis Smith-Mather, mission coworkers in South Sudan, will preach the Palm Sunday sermon; we will then host a conversation about their work and about the struggles taking place in South Sudan. This conversation will follow the Friendship Hour on Sunday. A light lunch will be provided for all who stay for the conversation. On Monday, Shelvis and Nancy will attend chapel at the Yale Divinity School and 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. Nancy and Shelvis work for RECONCILE, (Resource Centre for Civil Leadership), an indigenous ecumenical Christian organization that promotes peace building. RECONCILE works in areas of high inter-ethnic conflict, with churches often being the point of entry into these communities. Nancy and Shelvis both participate in RECONCILE's training events addressing 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 in peace studies and conflict transformation. To read more about their work with RECONCILE, visit the PCUSA webpage: www.pcusa.org.

The Smith-Mathers were also featured on CNN in January 2014, and the clip of that televised segment can be found at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=a-wtjCcLDCY

Mission Committee's Peace and Justice Group

The Mission Committee's Peace and Justice Group meets the second and fourth Monday each month at 6 p.m. for a pot luck supper and discussion. Come to a single meeting or become a regular attendee. The April meetings are Monday, April 14th and Monday, April 28th. Please RSVP to Art or Mary Hunt, 203.288.3530 (art@cheswood.com or mary@cheswood.com). Current discussion topics include Habitat for Humanity New Haven, a dessert and discussion series on the Sunday evenings in June, immigration reform and incarceration reform. We hope you will be able to join us. We would love to hear about an issue close to your heart.

Food Donations Go Further This Month

For the twelfth year in a row, Christian Community Action (CCA) will be participating in the nationwide million-dollar Alan Shawn Feinstein Foundation Anti-Hunger Challenge. The foundation (www.feinsteinfoundation.org) will make a financial donation for each food item or cash donation made to the CCA Food Pantry during March and April. The more donations received, the bigger the check from the Feinstein Foundation. Donations can include cash, checks, food items, or pledges. We urge you to give generously to CCA during April. Keep the wheelbarrow full!



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 Sam.

Church members and friends who seek God's healing grace, including Ken Haynam; Paul Turner's mother Sylvia; Joan Wells; Drew Long, Mattie Long's son; John and Sandy Withers; John Wood, Becky Cline's father; Babs Cluse, Betsy Mussmann's cousin; Mary Evans; Christy Purnell; Lindsay Miller.

The people of Ukraine, 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.

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April 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:30am Musical Folk 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	7:00pm Connecticut Folk Concert	5 8:00am Men's Breakfast 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 6:00pm Dinner with Friends
13 9:30am Palm Sunday Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Friendship Hour 12:30pm South Sudan Conversation	14 4:15pm Musical Folk 6:00pm Peace and Justice Dinner Group	15 9:30am Musical Folk 6:30pm GNHCC	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	7:30pm Good Friday Service	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	9:30am Musical Folk 1:00pm Dancing with Parkinsons 7:15pm Session	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 10am Rock to Rock Ride
27 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Friendship Hour 12:30 pm Sanctuary Task Force Conversation	28 4:15pm Musical Folk 6:00pm Peace and Justice Dinner Group 6:00pm Worship Committee	9:30am Musical Folk	30 10:00am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Musical Folk 7:00pm Choir			

May 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk 6:30pm GNHCC	7:30pm Connecticut Folk	3 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
4 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Church Potluck 2pm Hunger Walk 4 pm Jazz Vespers	5 4:15pm Musical Folk 6:00pm Memorial Cairn	6 9:30am Musical Folk 6:30pm CE Committee 7:30pm CLOC and Mission Committee	7 10:00am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Musical Folk 7:00pm Choir	8 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk 6:30pm GNHCC	9	10 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
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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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Web site: www.fpcnh.org

Christian Education for all ages

9:30 a.m.

Worship 10:45 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church 704 Whitney Avenue New Haven, Connecticut 06511