

The Inkling

The News of First Presbyterian Church

May 2014

Spring is in the Air ... inviting us to walk, garden, and celebrate graduations!

Finally, signs of spring can be seen all around 704 Whitney Avenue. The grass is green, daffodils and tulips have bloomed. The sun shines through our windows, providing us with another way to experience and see God's beauty in all of creation. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.



Sundays in May will bring delight to the ears and eyes ... and even mouths as we gather for worship, prayer, a pot luck lunch, a walk against hunger around the church neighborhood, a Vespers service with African-American spirituals, poem, and gospel songs, and a garden clean up day. During the month of May we will celebrate the many graduates in our midst, giving thanks to God for work well done.

On Sunday, May 4th, Sarah Godbehere, a graduating M.Div. student at Yale Divinity School and teacher of our high school Sunday school class this year, will be our guest preacher. Sarah will preach on the story of Jesus' walking on the road to Emmaus. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be shared that morning. Following worship all are welcome to stay for the "Cuatro de Mayo" pot luck lunch. Plan to bring a main dish, side dish, salad or dessert to share as we sit around festive tables filled with good food. The children will have a chance to play "piñata" and all will enjoy the company of friends. Bellies will feel good ... so good that we hope you might want to join the First Presbyterian Church team "walk against hunger," and support the work of the Connecticut Food Bank. Details about the walk can be found in the Inkling. And then, we hope you will return to the sanctuary for an evening Vespers service with music from African-American spirituals. The First Presbyterian Church choir will come together with the choir from Bethesda Lutheran Church for this inspiring worship service.

On Sunday, May 25th, The Rev. Arthur Shippee will be the guest preacher. Arthur delights in sharing the good news of God with the First Presbyterian Church community and we are pleased to welcome him back to the pulpit that morning.

Jazz Vespers with Spirituals and Gospel Music

A special Jazz Vespers with Spirituals and Gospel Music will take place at First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, May 4th at 4 p.m. The choir of First Presbyterian Church will collaborate with the choir of Bethesda Lutheran Church on this program. 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 really rock! It will, we hope, be a joyful and meaningful service. Don't miss it – and invite your friends!

“Cuatro de Mayo” Pot Luck Lunch – May 4th

We know it's not Cinco de Mayo, but we want to celebrate Mexican style! Join friends for a deliciously spicy (and not so spicy) lunch following worship on May 4th. Children will have a chance at a colorful piñata filled with good things, while friends gather around tables. We're hoping for some Mexican style dishes to share, but you are welcome to come with any main dish, side dish, salad or dessert to share. For more information please talk with Scott Funston, chair of CLOC.

Help Reduce Hunger in New Haven!

On Sunday, May 4th, members of First Presbyterian Church will participate in the annual Walk Against Hunger. More than 1 in 7 households in Connecticut are at risk of hunger. Every dollar raised makes a difference. Enjoy the tasty food at the church potluck before the walk. The 3 mile walk starts at East Rock Park. We plan to arrive at the park at 1:30pm. Children must be accompanied by a parent (or an adult designated by a parent). Well-behaved pets on a short leash are welcome.

Donations made by check to the “Connecticut Food Bank” are tax deductible. Walkers who raise \$30.00 or more may receive a Walk Against Hunger tee shirt. Questions? Talk to Cressida Lui, Mary Hunt, Art Hunt or Co-pastor Maria LaSala.

Graduates, Graduates, and More Graduates!

May is the month for graduations from colleges and universities, and friends from First Presbyterian Church celebrate!

Undergraduates:

Scott Burian, from the University of Maine in Orono.
Anna Balakrishnan, from the University of Connecticut
Kamilla Dynai, from the University of Connecticut
Megan Rowland, from the University of Connecticut
Michael Tenney, from Southern Connecticut State University
Lindsay Miller, from Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA)
Anna LaSala-Goettler, from Middlebury College
Margaret Coons, from Yale University
Martha Boateng, from Gateway Community College

Graduate School:

Hannah Dreitcer, from Yale Divinity School
Margaret Fox, from Yale Divinity School
Sarah Godbehere, from Yale Divinity School
Kendra Joyner, from Yale Divinity School
Dan Miller, from Yale Divinity School

704 Whitney Property Work Day!

It's that time of year again! Winter has passed and spring has finally sprung! Our building and grounds need some extra special attention. Join friends on Saturday, May 17th from 9 a.m. until noon. Snacks will be served. Bring your gardening tools, rakes, pruning tools and a happy heart. We'll be cleaning up the children's play yard, and the beds around the walkways. For more information, talk with Caty Poole, chair of the Property Committee.

Adult Education in May

On May 4th, Jim Ehrman from Love 146 will be our guest. Jim will talk about the work of this organization that seeks to help young women and men from a life of sex trafficking. Love146 is an international human rights organization working to end child trafficking and exploitation through survivor care, prevention education, professional training and empowering movement. Love146 believes in helping grow the movement of abolition while providing effective, thoughtful solutions. Join us in the Miller Gathering Hall on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Coffee and tea will be available.

Texts for May:

May 4: Acts 2:14a, 36–41; Psalm 116:1–4, 12–19; 1 Peter 1:17–23; Luke 24:13–35

May 11: Acts 2:42–47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19–25; John 10:1–10

May 18: Acts 7:55–60; Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16; 1 Peter 2:2–10; John 14:1–14

May 25: Acts 17:22–31; Psalm 66:8–20; 1 Peter 3:13–22; John 14:15–21

May 29: Acts 1:1–11; Psalm 47 or Psalm 93; Ephesians 1:15–23; Luke 24:44–53



Spring Bird Walk – Saturday, May 3 at 9 a.m.

Join Flo McBride and other bird watchers for the Annual Spring Bird Walk on Saturday, May 3rd. (Rain Date, May 4th at 9 a.m.) Meet at the Covered Bridge by the Eli Whitney Museum, 915 Whitney Avenue. Bring along binoculars, but no dogs, please. And, do dress according to the weather with good walking shoes and long pants.

Memorial Cairn May 5th

Reclaiming the Prophetic Voice will again be marking the cost of the continuing violence in Iraq and Afghanistan by placing the April stone on the Memorial Cairn at the intersection of Broadway, Elm and Park streets in New Haven on Monday evening, May 5, at 6 p.m.

CT Folk First Fridays Concert Series

On Friday, May 2, CT Folk presents Two Duos: Hannah & Maggie and The Sea The Sea, “An Evening of Beautiful Harmonies in the Spirit of Simon and Garfunkel” at First Presbyterian Church at 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 7). First Presbyterian Church receives 10 free tickets; e-mail firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com to reserve yours.

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 needed, and on the last Sunday of the month, fresh fruit and produce are most welcome. Thanks.



Stony Point Center Volunteers Needed

The Stony Point Center (an Interfaith Conference and Retreat Center of the PCUSA) is a part of the growing faith-based movement for peace and justice, a living community, and a functioning business. It is located at 17 Cricketown Road, Stony Point, New York, nestled in the Lower Hudson River Valley, between New York City and West Point. The Center is currently welcoming volunteers to help complete their new Art Space. The basic structure is complete but there is much to be done.

The volunteer tasks include: insulating all the walls, installing drywall, applying the joint “mud” or sanding the joints smooth, painting the walls with primer, installing vinyl siding, and staining floors and stairs.

The volunteer work crews work from 9 am to 4 pm with an hour for lunch. Experience and your own tools are welcome but not a prerequisite. In your free time, there is canoeing, kayaking, hiking and swimming in the nearby state parks plus gardening on the grounds. There is a small cost - \$60 per day or \$300 for six days - which all goes toward building materials.

There are volunteer opportunities available from May 19 through October 10. Volunteer for a day, a few days or a week (Sunday – Friday). If you are interested, please contact Mary or Art Hunt (mary@cheswood.com, art@cheswood.com, 203-288-2530).

Overture on Sustainable Development

On January 5, 2014, our Session approved an Overture on Sustainable Development. The Overture which was subsequently approved by the Presbytery and will next be acted upon at the General Assembly challenges us to live in harmony with God's creation. And it can be an arduous challenge indeed! We have diverged from harmony with God's creation, sometimes in destructive ways. The result has been pollution, global warming, toxins in our food supply, bees dying, mountain views spoiled, the list goes on. Our unsustainable path has a costly consequence - billions of dollars of clean up costs are being paid from your tax dollars. If you would like to move closer to harmony, there are several great organizations that are leading the effort and would welcome your voice supporting them. Check out these web sites, and if you agree, get on their mailing list and sign their petitions.

- Presbyterians for Earth Care, www.presbyearthcare.org
- Pesticide Action Network, www.panna.org/
- Organic consumers Associations, www.organicconsumers.org
- The New Haven Food Policy Council,
<http://www.cityofnewhaven.com/Government/FoodCouncil.asp>
- The Environmental Working Group, www.ewg.org/
- Sierra Club, <http://www.sierraclub.org/>
- World Wildlife Fund, www.worldwildlife.org/

The Mission Committee's Peace and Justice Group strives to be a strong advocate for sustainable development. The group meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month. The meetings begin with a potluck supper at 6 pm. The group welcomes new members. For more information or to RSVP for a meeting, contact Art or Mary Hunt (mary@cheswood.com, art@cheswood.com, 203-288-3530).

Looking ahead to June:

CE Celebration and Picnic – June 1st

The church school year will end on Sunday, June 1st with a celebration in the Miller Gathering Hall. Children and youth will, once again, present an original play written by Martha Smalley. Bibles will be distributed to fourth graders Alanna Fay, Kelly Fay, Riley Lanz, and Erika Rupp-Coppi. We'll give thanks for another wonderful year of learning and growing in faith. The festivities will begin at 9:30 a.m. with breakfast treats. The official celebration will begin at 10 a.m.

Choir's Final Sunday in the Sanctuary – June 1st

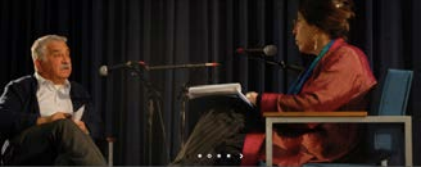



The First Presbyterian Church Choir, who week after week, fill our sanctuary with a joyful noise, will finish the season on Sunday, June 1st. Thanks to Patrick McCreless and the members of the choir for their gifts shared. Members of the choir will continue to sing throughout the summer and will come together again in September.

June 8th – A Day at Killam's Point

Our summer worship schedule will begin on Sunday, June 8th. We will worship in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church at 9:30 a.m. and then everyone is welcome to spend the day at Killam's Point, along the shoreline of Branford, where the grill will be hot, friends will be found and opportunities for fun --- nature walks, swimming, and lawn games --- will be offered throughout the day. Bring your own food, drinks, and tableware. An evening prayer service will be offered at 5 p.m. as our time together draws to a close, though friends are welcome to stay until 8 p.m.

June Dessert and Discussion Movie Series

The Dessert and Discussion Movie Series, hosted by the Mission Committee, is an opportunity to learn about and discuss four of the most critical peace and justice issues of our time. Dessert and coffee/tea/juice will be provided by the Mission Committee. Lisa Molomot, the producer of The Hill, will join us on June 15.

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| <p>Voices Across the Divide by Alice Rothchild and Sharon Mullally</p>  | <p>June 1 @ 6:30 pm “Voices Across the Divide is a powerful documentary and oral history project exploring the Israeli/Palestinian conflict through rarely heard personal stories. Narrated by Alice Rothchild, an American Jew raised on the tragedies of the Holocaust and the dream of a Jewish homeland in Israel, Voices Across the Divide follows her personal journey as she begins to understand the Palestinian narrative, while exploring the Palestinian experience of loss, occupation, statelessness, and immigration to the US.”</p> |
| <p>The Hill by Lisa Molomot</p>  | <p>June 15 @ 6:30 pm “The Hill follows a group of African-American neighbors who fight to save their homes from destruction when the city of New Haven proposes a new school on their property. Clinging to the last affordable housing in a rapidly gentrifying city, a determined group of neighbors struggle to save their homes from destruction. Set upon building a new school, the city of New Haven claims eminent domain over the Upper Hill neighborhood. While the city argues the building of the new school corresponds to a need for better school facilities, the residents of the area, mostly struggling low-income African-American families, say the decision corresponds to the city’s determination to sanitize the neighborhood in the proximity of the Yale-New Haven Hospital.”</p> |
| <p>Dirty Wars by Jeremy Scahill</p>  | <p>June 22 @ 6:30 pm “Dirty Wars follows investigative reporter Jeremy Scahill, author of the international bestseller Blackwater, into the heart of America’s covert wars, from Afghanistan to Yemen, Somalia and beyond. Part political thriller and part detective story, Dirty Wars is a gripping journey into one of the most important and underreported stories of our time. Drawn into the stories and lives of the people he meets along the way, Scahill is forced to confront the painful consequences of a war spinning out of control, as well as his own role as a journalist.”</p> |
| <p>Inequality for All by Robert Reich</p>  | <p>June 29 @ 6:30 pm Inequality For All exposes the heart of our economic problem, something that’s been getting worse and worse for over 30 years, widening inequality. Robert Reich has spent most of his working life concerned about what’s happening to American workers – their jobs, their wages, their hopes and fears. His father sold clothing to the wives of factory workers in the late 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s. He watched as the factories began to close, and as those families struggled with a new economy. Households kept their living standards by sending those wives and mothers into paid work – a strategy that did the trick for a time. But when it no longer generated enough income, American families went deeper and deeper into debt – and that’s been the vicious cycle most middle class Americans have been in ever since.</p> |

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 ...

Becky and Gary Cline and their family as they mourn the death of Becky’s father, John Wood.
 Church members and friends who seek God’s healing grace, including Ken Haynam; Joan Wells;
 John and Sandy Withers; Babs Cluse, Betsy Mussmann’s cousin; Mary Evans; Christy Purnell, and Chuck Forman.

The people of Ukraine, Syria, South Sudan, and 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.

May 2014

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| | | | | 1 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk 6:30pm GNHCC | 2 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 6:15pm Worship Committee | 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 8:00am Men's Breakfast 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA |
| 11 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Friendship Hour | 12 4:15pm Musical Folk 6:00pm Peace and Justice Dinner Group | 13 9:30am Musical Folk 1:00pm Dancing with Parkinsons | 14 10:00am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Musical Folk 7:00pm Choir | 15 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk 6:30pm GNHCC | 16 | 17 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA |
| 18 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Friendship Hour | 19 4:15pm Musical Folk | 20 9:30am Musical Folk 7:15pm Session | 21 10:00am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Musical Folk 7:00pm Choir | 22 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk 6:30pm GNHCC | 23 | 24 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA |
| 25 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Friendship Hour | 26 4:15pm Musical Folk 6:00pm Peace and Justice Dinner Group | 27 9:00 a.m. PSNE CPM Meeting 9:30am Musical Folk 1:00pm Dancing with Parkinsons | 28 10:00am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Musical Folk 7:00pm Choir | 29 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk 6:30pm GNHCC | 30 | 31 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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Christian Education for all ages
9:30 a.m. Last Day of Sunday School is June 1

Worship
10:45 a.m.
Beginning on June 8th Worship is at 9:30 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church
704 Whitney Avenue
New Haven, Connecticut
06511

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