

The Inkling

The News of First Presbyterian Church

July/August 2014

All Are Welcome!

Worship is in the Owens Community Building Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Our summer worship schedule is underway as members and friends from First Presbyterian Church of New Haven gather each Sunday for worship, friendship, and service.



Each Sunday, the air-conditioned Miller Hall is transformed into a place to gather to sing, pray, and hear God's word read and proclaimed. The Children in Worship program will continue throughout the summer for all children in grades K-5. Nursery care is available throughout the morning.

This summer invites us to explore the new Presbyterian Hymnal, *Glory to God*. The hymnal arrived in time for Palm Sunday worship and we have enjoyed singing new hymns and old favorites. During the summer months, the preachers, choosing one hymn from the hymnal, will reflect on the biblical and theological concepts raised in the hymn text. By the end of the summer we will have learned ten new hymns. Perhaps some of these new hymns will soon become our new old favorites.

Members of the choir will offer special music each Sunday, friends will share a brief story about a local or global mission of the church, and a light Friendship Hour will follow each worship service.

Come and sing a new song to God! Join us on Sunday mornings.

Summer Schedule of Preachers

July 6 – Steve Davis, preacher and presider (with Bill Goettler) at Communion. Hymn of the Day: *Softly and Tenderly, Jesus Is Calling*

July 13 – Hannah Dreitcer. Hymn of the Day: *Lord Jesus, Think on Me*

July 20 – John Sandel. Hymn of the Day: *Christ Is Coming!*

July 27 – Andrew Forsyth. Hymn of the Day: *O God, Show Mercy to Us*

August 3 – Margaret Fox, preacher.

Hymn of the Day: *Deep in the Shadows of the Past*, Diane Goudreau, presider at Communion

August 10 – Diane Goudreau. Hymn of the Day: *Shall Tribulation or Distress*

August 17 – Bill Goettler. Hymn of the Day: *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship*

August 24 – Maria LaSala. Hymn of the Day: *For All the Faithful Women*

Elders and Pastors on Call

Co-Pastors Bill Goettler and Maria LaSala will be on vacation from Sunday afternoon, July 6 through early August. There will be an Elder on Call for each of the weeks Bill and Maria are away in the case of an emergency. Clergy and divinity school students from our congregation will be on call for pastoral needs. Please feel free to call the church office (203-562-5664) if you require a pastoral call; your request will be received and responded to by the Elder and Pastor on call.

A Summer “Dinner with Friends” – at the home of Pat Wales

Friends from First Presbyterian Church of New Haven are invited to come together and share a meal at the home of Pat Wales in Hamden, CT. Pat has graciously offered her home ... with its lovely porch and backyard ... as the place to gather for a pot luck dinner on Saturday, July 12th beginning at 5:30 p.m. Please sign up at the Welcome Table, noting what you will contribute to the meal, or call or e-mail Pat to let her know. Everyone is welcome!

Presbyterian Promise Summer Picnic.

You and your spouse, partner and friends are invited to a potluck on Sunday, July 27th from 4 – 7:30 p.m. at the home of John Merz. Celebrate with friends in Christ, eat good food, and hear more about Presbyterian Promise’s ongoing work of ministry and justice. There will be an update on the work of Presbyterian Promise’s new visioning task force. Please bring your favorite appetizer, side dish, dessert, and wine/soda. Grilled items will be supplied (including vegetarian options). Directions can be found by searching 49 Musket Trail, Simsbury CT on Mapquest or by calling (203) 208-0578. Please RSVP to PresbyPromise@att.net or call (203) 208-0578.



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.

Ushers and Friendship Hour hosts are needed!

Might you consider serving as an usher one Sunday this summer? Ushers welcome people as they enter the Owens Community Building, pass out bulletins, assist in finding a seat, collect the offering, and keep an eye out for visitors or first time worshippers. Friendship Hour hosts are also needed to help set out light refreshments. Lemonade and simple snacks are the order of the day. A sign up sheet can be found on the bulletin board in the Miller Gathering Hall.

Iraq/Afghanistan Memorial Stone

Reclaiming the Prophetic Voice will again be marking the cost of the continuing violence in Iraq and Afghanistan by placing the June stone on the Memorial Cairn at the intersection of Broadway, Elm and Park streets in New Haven on Monday evening, July 7, at 6 p.m. The stone will be inscribed with the June death toll of US military personnel and the approximate documented numbers of Iraqi and Afghani civilians killed during that same period of time. With American soldiers now being sent back to Iraq, new numbers will undoubtedly be added as these endless wars continue. The Rev. Shelly Stackhouse of the Church of the Redeemer in New Haven will lead the service.

News from the 211th General Assembly

The General Assembly of the PCUSA met over eight days in Detroit to worship, pray, and to give thanks to God from whom all blessings flow. The commissioners and invited guests also met to consider overtures from across the nation, reflect, and vote on policy changes and new mission directions for the denomination in the years to come.

Elder Dick Hasbany was one of the commissioners from the Presbytery of Southern New England. In addition to Dick, church member Margaret Fox, and YDS Intern Jackie Spycher were also in attendance.

The assembly was life changing for so many, and it was difficult and wonderful and challenging too. The Session of First Presbyterian Church sent three overtures to this year's Assembly.

The overture that our Session supported on Sustainable Development passed along with others asking the denomination to continue to advocate for better food policies, eco justice, and attention to the ways we care for the creation. Much attention was paid to the ways we as faithful Christians are called to be attentive to the ways we care for the earth, and for our water, soil, and air, as we also give thoughts to the food we eat and the way that food is grown and cultivated.

The overtures on Marriage Equality that our Session initiated were also approved with an overwhelming majority of votes. The first overture which calls for an Authoritative Interpretation of Christian marriage passed and now permits pastors of Presbyterian congregations to officiate at weddings of same gender couples in the states where such marriages are legal. The other overture sought to amend the language in our Directory for Worship to state that Christian marriage is between two people ... traditionally a man and a woman, opening the way for the Presbyterian Church to once again affirm its identity as an inclusive church. This overture will need to return to the Presbyteries for their vote and a majority of Presbyteries will need to approve it in order for the policy to change.

Finally, the General Assembly decided (in a very close vote) to divest pension monies from three corporations, Motorola, Caterpillar, and Hewlett Packard because of the work that they do in Israel and Palestine. This decision will surely invite some conversations with our Jewish sisters and brothers, as we move forward in our relationship and work together. Co-Pastors Bill Goettler and Maria LaSala have been in conversation with Rabbi Herbert Brockman of Congregation Mishkan Israel to assure them of our friendship and our commitment to working together for peace in the Holy Land.

Come fall, our Adult Christian Education class will explore what these decisions mean for the life of the Presbyterian Church. For complete reporting, go to www.pres-outlook.org. Copies of The Presbyterian Outlook's post-assembly report are available on the Welcome Table.

Lectionary Texts for July and August:

During the summer, First Presbyterian Church of New Haven's preachers may choose a different scripture lesson from the ones identified in the Common Lectionary. Here are the selected readings for the month of July and August.

July 6th: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45:10-17; Romans 7:15-25*a*; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 13th: Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119: 105-112; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 20th: Genesis 28:10-19*a*; Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 27th: Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11, 45*b*; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

August 3rd: Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

August 10th: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45*b*; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14: 22-33

August 17th: Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133; Romans 11:1-2*a*, 29-32; Matthew 15:21-28

August 24th: Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

August 31st: Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45*c*; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28



Christian Education News: Meet Kimberley Fais, Director of Christian Education for Children and Youth

First Presbyterian Church of New Haven will welcome a new Director of Christian Education for Children and Youth in August. Kimberley Fais, a recent graduate of Drew Divinity School, will arrive in New Haven to lead our children and youth.

Kimberley is excited to serve as FPC's Director of Christian Education for Children and Youth. She has worked with children, teens, and adults of all ages and particularly enjoys intergenerational ministry. She aims to equip adults and children to communicate and learn together, and she encourages Christians of all ages to see spiritual formation on a continuum, a lifelong course to be journeyed rather than a course from which we graduate. She's looking forward to journeying with everyone at FPC!

Kimberley holds degrees from Sarah Lawrence College (BA) and Drew University (MDiv) and studied abroad for a year at Oxford University. Most recently, she served for three years as a Youth Minister and Seminary Intern at Chatham United Methodist Church in New Jersey. She has over ten years of experience as a youth leader, teacher, tutor, caregiver, and camp counselor.

Kimberley has an inclusive and progressive Christian theology and a deep respect for the many ways that people learn new things and perceive God in our lives. She enjoys nature, rowing, playing games, reading, writing, language, music, and dabbling in the arts.



Kimberley's first goals will be to meet the children and youth of our congregation and to prepare for the start of the church school year. She looks forward to welcoming children and youth to church on her first Sunday with us, August 17th, to working closely with Sunday School teachers to help them get ready for a new church school year, and to knowing who we are as First Presbyterian Church of New Haven. Join us in welcoming Kimberley!

Hannah Dreitcer Accepts a Call to Ministry!

Hannah Dreitcer, our Yale Divinity School intern and Campus Chaplain to Yale has accepted a call to serve as the Associate Pastor for Family Ministry at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Springfield, Illinois. Hannah will preach her candidating sermon on Sunday, July 20th and if the way be clear, Hannah will be approved for ordination and installation.

Hannah, who has lived on two coasts - a native of Northern California, with an undergraduate degree from Occidental College, and a Masters of Divinity from Yale, will soon make her way to the middle of America, to a new community of friends, and to new and exciting work as a Teaching Elder. Congratulations Hannah. You will be in our prayers.

A Note of Thanks

Since last December I've been on the prayer list because I was being treated with chemotherapy for Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma. On June 10 after 8 treatments, my hematologist/oncologist, told me that no more treatments will be necessary. He was pleased with my progress. However, I will continue to be monitored every three to four months. I want to thank the church family for your prayers, support and special loving care during the past several months. It has meant a great deal to me. I thank God every day that I have done so well and I am also grateful to be a part of this church family. God Bless, Joan Wells

A Pastoral Letter from That All May Freely Serve

Below is a letter to all the churches who support the work of That All May Freely Serve and their independent affiliate organizations. First Presbyterian Church of New Haven is a founding member of one of their affiliates, Presbyterian Promise. Presbyterian Promise was organized to work for the full inclusion of our LGBTQI friends in Christ. For many years, the First Presbyterian Church Session sent overtures to the Presbytery for their vote. These overtures focused first on removing the ban on ordination for LGBTQ people. In 2010, that ban was removed. Since that time the Session has sent overtures to address the issue of marriage equality. This year was no exception, and the two overtures we sent on - first to the Presbytery and then to the General Assembly, passed. We include this letter as a pastoral response to the decisions of the 221st General Assembly. If you would like more information about the work of Presbyterian Promise, please talk with Jane Hindenlang or Dick Hansbany.

Dear Friends in Christ,

The decisions of the 221st General Assembly in favor of marriage equality are welcome relief following decades of conflict in our church. That All May Freely Serve believes that these outcomes of allowing pastors to legally perform weddings and for presbyteries to consider amending W-4.9000 will bring us closer together than was possible just one week ago. The impact of the commissioners' votes powerfully addresses the violence tied to the exclusion of our family members who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning (LGBTQ/Q) with a clear answer that the church has chosen a new way. We rejoice in this prophetic response that establishes a loving witness for all and advances us in the elimination of discrimination in our denomination. As Paul says, "Love is not boastful or rude," and we see these events as a call to come together.

As members of the PC(USA), our LGBTQ/Q community has been greatly impacted by the deliberations and decisions of previous General Assemblies -- decisions that have wounded our congregations, families and friends, while pushing many others away. Yet, on this long journey, we have always striven to honor the full humanity and dignity of those who oppose us, and we are especially alert to doing so now. We bring our Christian love, healing and hope to our future together. The ministry of That All May Freely Serve is dedicated to such healing, as we advocate for justice and love *for all* in the PC(USA), making sure that no one is ever alone in this struggle and carrying the message of the Good News wherever we go.

The 221st General Assembly's decisions fill us with gratitude, joy and hope for the conversations and healing that can now occur throughout the church. We readily join with all of good will on this Emmaus path. We embrace the road of reconciliation of our many families in the Body of Christ, and we pray without ceasing for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in this new dawn of hospitality and justice for all. We look forward to hearing from you.

Peace be with you!

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 ...

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; Drew Long; Ed Miller, Jeff Miller, Mike Spicer, and Ned Castner.

The family and friends of Quintin Johnstone who died on Friday, June 27th.

The people of Iraq, Ukraine, Syria, South Sudan, and Egypt, and for all across the Middle East, especially Israel and Palestine during this time of unrest, violence, and discord, and for the girls who were abducted in Nigeria.

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.

July 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 7:00 pm Summer Chorus	3 9:00am Yoga	4 Independence Day	5 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
6 9:30am Worship 10:30am Friendship Hour	7 4-6:30pm Music Together 6:00 pm Memorial Cairn	8 9:30-11:30am Music Together	9 10:00am- 12:00pm Music Together 4:30-6:30pm Music Together 7:00pm Summer Chorus	10 9:00am Yoga 11:00 am Memorial Service for Quintin Johnstone	11	12 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA 5:30 pm Dinner with Friends at Pat Wales
13 9:30am Worship 10:30 am Friendship Hour	14 4-6:30pm Music Together	15 9:30-11:30am Music Together	16 10:00am- 12:00pm Music Together 4:30-6:30pm Music Together 7:00pm Summer Chorus	17 9:00am Yoga	18	19 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
20 9:30am Worship 10:30am Friendship Hour	21 4-6:30pm Music Together	22 9:30-11:30am Music Together	23 10:00am- 12:00pm Music Together 4:30-6:30pm Music Together 7:00pm Summer Chorus	24 9:00am Yoga	25	26 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
27 9:30am Worship 10:30am Friendship Hour	28 4-6:30pm Music Together	29 9:30-11:30am Music Together	30 10:00am- 12:00pm Music Together 4:30-6:30pm Music Together 7:00pm Summer Chorus	31 9:00am Yoga		

August 2014

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10 9:30am Worship 10:30 am Friendship Hour	11 4-6:30pm Music Together	12 9:30-11:30am Music Together	13 10:00am- 12:00pm Music Together 4:30-6:30pm Music Together	14 9:00am Yoga	15	16 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
17 9:30am Worship 10:30am Friendship Hour	18	19	20	21 9:00am Yoga	22	23 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
24 9:30am Worship 10:30am Friendship Hour	25	26 7:15 pm Session	27	28 9:00am Yoga	29	30 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
31 9:30am Worship 10:30am Friendship Hour						

CO-PASTORS: BILL GOETTLER & MARIA LASALA

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: PATRICK McCRELESS

PARISH ASSOCIATE: SUE ASHER

SUMMER CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: PETER
SCHATTAUER

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Worship

9:30 a.m. in the Miller Gathering Hall of the
Owens Community Building

10:30 a.m. Friendship Hour

**First Presbyterian Church
704 Whitney Avenue
New Haven, Connecticut
06511**

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