

The Inkling

February ... begins in Ordinary Time and ends with the First Sunday of Lent

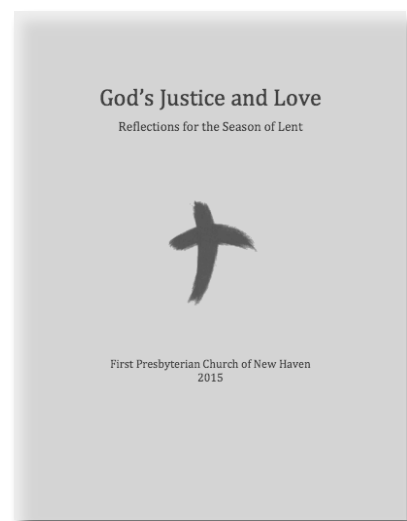
The balmy winter days of early January came to an end quickly and we begin the month of February with snow on the ground, the expected and ordinary sights of winter revealed. Piles of snow border our paths and still we make our way to the First Presbyterian Church of New Haven for worship, for learning and growing in faith together, and for service to our neighbors near and far.

The first weeks of February invite us into the Ordinary Time of the Church as we continue to follow Jesus through the region of Galilee. He calls more and more people to his side, proclaiming God's good news, healing the sick, and welcoming the outcasts. Those acts of kindness and mercy, then and now, are part of the Christian story, and our story.

The Season of Lent begins on Wednesday, February 18th with Ash Wednesday worship at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. This service invites us to reflect on our past while we consider our present, reminding us that we are loved by a God who will not let us go. We will sing and we will pray and all who wish will be marked with ashes, a visible reminder of our very earthly state.

Lenten Reflection Book: God's Justice and Love

Spend the season of Lent reflecting on a daily lectionary of scripture. Read the thoughts and prayers of friends from First Presbyterian Church of New Haven as a daily Lenten devotion. This year's Lenten booklet will address the themes of forgiveness and mercy, justice and reconciliation, compassion and love. The book will be available in both paper form and electronically beginning on Ash Wednesday.



Texts for the Sundays in February:

February 1: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

February 8: Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

February 15: 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

February 22: Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15



20@12 Bible Studies on Wednesdays

Perhaps 2015 is the year to begin attending the mid-week, mid-day prayer and Bible study program. Co-Pastor Maria LaSala leads a twenty minute time of prayer, scripture reading and song followed by lunch and a discussion of one of the lectionary texts for the following Sunday. Come just for prayer, or lunch, or Bible Study, or join us for the whole hour! All are welcome.



“Souper Bowl” Sunday – February 1

As you enter the sanctuary for worship on Sunday, February 1st, you will be greeted by the youth of our congregation holding soup pots ready to receive your donations toward the Christian Community Action Food Pantry. Or, if you prefer, come to church that morning with foods to fill the CCA Wheelbarrow. The “souper bowl” goal for the day: \$200. Let’s help our youth score that goal!

February 8th Church Potluck

The February potluck will take place on Sunday, February 8th following worship. Join friends around tables for an afternoon of good food and good conversation. Please plan to bring a family sized main dish, side dish, salad or dessert to share.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper!

What makes us yearn for the season of Lent to begin? Getting together the night before for “Breakfast for Dinner,” the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Plan now to come to church on Tuesday, February 17th. There will be pancakes of many varieties ... blueberry, chocolate chip, banana, and plain, ready to be smothered with syrup and butter. Meat and meatless sausage patties will also fill our plates and there will be plenty of orange juice, coffee, and tea. The dinner begins at 5 and pancakes will be served until 6:30 p.m. The cost of the dinner is \$4.00 per person or \$12 for a family of four or more!



Christopher Morongiello Lute Concert February 15 at 3 p.m.



First Presbyterian Church of New Haven proudly presents an afternoon recital of exquisite music by virtuoso lutenist Christopher Morongiello on Sunday, February 15 at 3 p.m.. A graduate of the Mannes College of Music and University of Oxford and a recipient of the prestigious British Marshall Scholarship, Dr. Morongiello has been actively promoting the lute and its repertoire in concerts, recordings, and academic journals for more than twenty years. He has performed for HRM Queen of England and was a prizewinner in the BBC Radio Two Young Musician of the Year Competition. His recital will be played on an authentic gut-strung Renaissance lute. During the performance he will give an account of this beautiful instrument’s fascinating history, cultural significance, and playing technique. Do join us for what promises to be a splendid, memorable event!

College and University Student Pizza Nights on Mondays

College and university students are welcome to join YDS Intern Jackie Spycher for pizza and conversation on Mondays at 5 p.m. at Wall Street Pizza, 90 Wall St. Students: Stop by and have a slice on us!

Mission Committee 2015 Topic: Mass Incarceration

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, *I was in prison and you came to visit me.*'

— Matthew 25:35-36

Mass incarceration: the words sound ominous but what do they mean? What does mass incarceration have to do with police tactics in Ferguson, New York City and other areas around the country? What are we as Christians called to do?

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

— Martin Luther King Jr.

20% of Americans – 1 person in 5 has a criminal record. 2,200,000 are in prison. 688,000 are released each year. The United States imprisons more people in total than any other country and is second in prisoners per capita. The prison population grew 343% between 1965 and 2000. The cost is staggering. In dollars, prisons cost taxpayers \$49,000,000,000 (in 1999). The cost in human lives is unimaginable unless you are one of the 65,000,000 Americans with a criminal record. Around 47% of crimes were non violent.

If you are poor, if you are a person of color, if you live in a densely populated urban environment, you are far more likely to experience prison. More than 60% of the people now in prison are racial and ethnic minorities. Over their lifetime, 1 in 3 black men will be imprisoned compared to 1 in 17 white men; 1 in 18 black women compared to 1 in 56 white women.

“If the misery of the poor be caused not by the laws of nature, but by our institutions, great is our sin.”

— Charles Darwin, Voyage of the Beagle

The American Bar Association Journal in an article posted June 1, 2013 stated: “Some estimates speculate that today’s ex-offenders could face up to 50,000 legally mandated collateral consequences, including restrictions on housing, employment, public benefits and immigration.” Voting rights needs to be added to their list.

Throughout 2015, the Mission Committee will be presenting programs on:

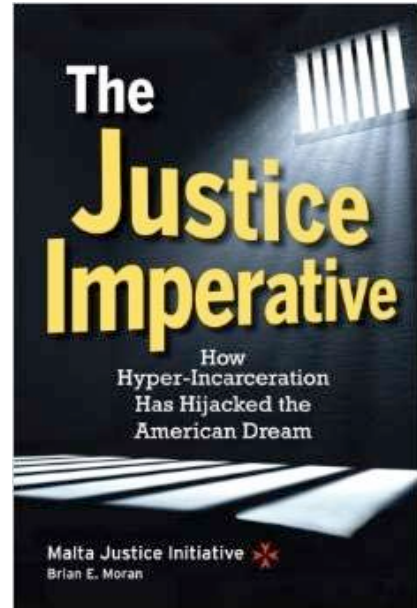
- why so many Americans are in prison
- why the prison population is predominately minority
- what prison conditions are like
- how ex-offenders are reintroduced to society

There will be speakers, book and movie discussions and opportunities for you to work to correct injustices if you are moved to do so.

The Mission Committee is still planning the program. Save the dates February 22, March 8 and March 15. We welcome your suggestions for specific topics, speakers, movies or books. Our opening speaker on February 22 at 2 pm is Marilyn Kendrix, an expert on incarceration and the Associate Pastor for Faith Formation at our neighbor, The Church of the Redeemer (see separate announcement for more details). - By Art Hunt

What Can Communities of Faith Do to Help End Mass Incarceration? A Talk by Marilyn Kendrix

The Rev. Marilyn B. Kendrix will give a talk at First Presbyterian Church on February 22 at 2 p.m. titled “What Can Communities of Faith Do to Help End Mass Incarceration?” Rev. Kendrix spoke at First Presbyterian Church in 2013 about Michelle Alexander’s book *The New Jim Crow*. Since then, with FPCNH’s Jen Herbst and others, she has collaborated with Brian Moran and the Malta Justice Initiative on *The Justice Imperative: How Hyper-Incarceration has Hijacked the American Dream*. The book focuses on Connecticut and provides 30 recommendations to cut the number of Connecticut prisoners in half in five years—at no cost to public safety. Accompanying Rev. Kendrix for her February 22 talk are Rev. Gini King, Marcia Myhre, and Kevin Dean, members of First Congregational Church of Guilford’s Prison Re-Entry ministry, and Cindy Clooney, whose participation in Faith Behind Bars and Beyond (www.faithbehindbars.org) is informed by her own incarceration at York Correctional Institution in Niantic. Come and learn the ways we can advocate as communities of faith for a pressing issue of social justice.



Adult Education During February

February’s Adult Education contains two series. Paul Chapman will lead a conversation on Sunday, February 1 and 8, exploring the themes of “Radical Exegesis” and the “Subversive Jesus.” These conversations will invite us to study the works of the Jesus Seminar, William Herzog, and Richard Rohr.

Jen Herbst returns on February 15th for a three-week series. As part of a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation fellowship, Jen Herbst, Associate Professor of Law & Medical Sciences at Quinnipiac University School of Law, has been spent much of this school year looking at the role of the law and lawyers in improving public and community health. Using law as a tool to keep communities healthy is hardly a new idea. A number of the laws we find in the Bible were put in place to promote public health. We’ll spend three Sundays looking at some of these Biblical laws and comparing them to our current use of law to support healthy communities, whether in terms of improving food safety and security, providing safe housing, caring for the most vulnerable, preserving the environment, or limiting the spread of contagious diseases.

Poverty Simulation at Congregation Mishkan Israel

All are welcome to join a poverty simulation at Congregation Mishkan Israel on Sunday, February 22 from 2-5 p.m. Over the course of 3 hours, individuals will step into the shoes of a family living at or near poverty. This participatory experience will challenge one's assumptions and give a deeper awareness of the struggles many of our neighbors face on a daily basis. The event is sponsored by Neighbor-to-Neighbor Lifeline (N2N), a collaboration between United Way of Greater New Haven and the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven. Use the following link to register: <http://www.uwgnh.org/event/poverty-simulation-neighbor-neighbor-campaign> or e-mail Kathleen at kcrisafi@uwgnh.org or call 203.691.4213.

(Note: this does conflict with the Marilyn Kendrix event at First Presbyterian Church.)

In Session:

Our January Session meeting included a two-hour retreat. Below is a summary of the highlights of that gathering:

1. The meeting included incoming and outgoing Session members in addition to those continuing their service. It was an important opportunity to engage those who have been and those who soon will be very active in the decision making of First Presbyterian.
2. The 2015 Operating Budget includes the addition of funding for the Christian Education position and a significant increase in Mission giving.
3. Andrew McCloskey's application to serve the denominations as a Young Adult Volunteer was unanimously approved. We are excited to see where his service may lead him, after he graduates in May from Wesleyan University.
4. Former Church member Rev. Jenny Davis, led the session in a conversation about our structure of Church life and new structures we might implement to include more members in leadership. Stay tuned for more information as this conversation is continued and the Session provides opportunities for you to add your voice to this important dialogue.

If you want to learn more about the work of the Session and the committees of the Church please connect to a Session member, our names are included in the back of the weekly bulletin and Bill and Maria are happy to introduce you to members.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Gill

Stewardship 2015 – A Final Update

Thank you for responding wonderfully to the call for Stewardship this season. We are successfully funding our hopes for our ministry, worship, Christian education, community, mission and outreach in 2015.

**We sustain
the work of God
in this place with
our time, talents
and treasure**

This Stewardship season, Session challenged us to increase our funding in two specific areas: Christian Education to support for our new professional Christian Educator, Kimberly Fais. And for Mission, to subsidize a youth group mission trip and for seed money toward transitional housing for the homeless men with Abraham's Tent. The resulting Stewardship goal for 2015 was \$300,000.

Our congregation strove to meet this challenge, answering faithfully with 97 pledges for a total of \$289,337. This is 96.4% of our goal. (For comparison, in 2014 there were 93 pledges for \$279,671.) We welcomed eight new pledges this year. Of the 89 repeat pledges, more than half increased their pledge from 2014 in response to this year's challenge. Our congregation can be most grateful.

Pledges toward 2015 are still being received. If you have not yet had the opportunity to pledge, we invite you to do so. You can simply email a note in confidence to firstpreschurchstewardship@gmail.com. Pledge cards are also available on the welcome table and can be placed in the offering plate.

The opportunity to be part of this active and engaged worshiping community is truly a blessing. Thank you for your continued and renewed support.

David B. Miller
Elder, chair of Stewardship

Overseas Ministry Resource Center Events

On Friday, February 6, Ruth Padilla DeBorst will give a lecture titled "Faith and Life: Theological Formation off the Grid" at 12:30 p.m. at the Overseas Ministry Resource Center Great Commission Hall. A brief description of the event follows: Thanks to the Costa Rica-based Center for Interdisciplinary Theological Education (CETI, www.ceticontinental.org), a student named Rodolfo looked behind an imposing wall and discovered hundreds of scared and violent young people in need for hope. Meanwhile, another student, Lilibeth, connected for the first time a love for journalism with a sense of mission. Ruth Padilla DeBorst, OMSC resident senior mission scholar for spring 2015, explores the model of theological-missiological formation that opened Rodolfo's eyes and propelled Lilibeth into a recognized career of investigative journalism.



Save the date for a community ministries forum titled "Strategies for Ending Racism" on Thursday, February 19 at 10:00 a.m. in the Great Commission Hall at OMSC. For more information, visit: <http://www.omsc.org/lectures.shtml>.

Afghanistan Memorial Stone



We have been told that the wars are over, but they are not. 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 2, at 6 p.m. The 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.

Folk Fridays Concert February 6

Connecticut Folk Society's Folk Fridays concert will take place this Friday, February 6, featuring Dan Tressler and Ron Anthony. Doors open at 7 and the concert begins at 7:30. The church receives 10 free tickets. E-mail firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com to reserve yours.

Children and Youth Events: Mark Your Calendars

Senior Youth Group (grades 9-12) will meet after worship on **Sunday, February 8** from 1-3 p.m. We'll enjoy the potluck in the Miller Gathering Hall and then carpool to Tyler and Erin's place to play games. Bring a game and a friend!

Junior Youth Group (grades 5-8) will meet after worship on **Sunday, February 22**, gathering at church and carpooling from there to Teri Anna's Ceramic Studio at the Courtyard Plaza in Milford. You may arrange with Katharine and Micah to leave with your family directly from the studio. Otherwise we'll return to First Pres by 3 p.m. We'll cover the sitting fees for participating youth. Please RSVP in advance to firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com so we can provide transportation for everyone!

A Note About Winter Weather

In the event of inclement weather on a Sunday morning, we will hold worship at 10:45 a.m. trusting that you will use your best sense about traveling to church. If there is any reason to cancel a church program, we will send an email alert.

Please remember that parking is available at the Red Cross and Hooker School on Sunday mornings when lawn or street parking is unavailable due to winter weather.



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, Eugene Smith, Gordon Ambach, Ned Castner, and Jean McCloskey.

Joan Wells, whose granddaughter Brianna died unexpectedly in December.

The men of Abraham's Tent: Juan, Kevin, Leonard, Samuel, Gregory, Stanley, Lucian, and Joseph.

The people of Nigeria, Paris, Turkey, Syria, South Sudan, Egypt, Israel and Palestine, Iraq, and for all across the Middle East, during this time of unrest, violence, and discord, 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.

February 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Friendship Hour	2 4:15pm Musical Folk 5:00pm Student Pizza at Wall St. 6:00pm Memorial Cairn	3 9:30am Musical Folk 6:30pm CE Committee 7:30pm CLOC and Mission Committee	4 10:00am Musical Folk 12:00pm 20@12 4:30pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Musical Folk 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	5 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk	6 12:30 OMSC Lecture 7:30pm CT Folk	7 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA 9:30am Presbytery of Southern New England, at Yale Divinity School
8 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Church Potluck 1:00pm Senior Youth Group	9 4:15pm Musical Folk 5:00pm Student Pizza at Wall St.	10 9:30am Musical Folk	11 10:00am Musical Folk 12:00pm 20@12 4:30pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Musical Folk 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	12 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk	13	14 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
15 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Friendship Hour 3 p.m. Recital Christopher Moringello, lute	16 4:15pm Musical Folk 5:00pm Student Pizza at Wall St.	17 9:30am Musical Folk 5:00pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 7:15pm Session	18 10:00am Musical Folk 12:00pm 20@12 4:30pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Musical Folk 7:00pm Ash Wednesday	19 9:00am Yoga 10:00am OMSC Lecture 5:30pm Musical Folk	20	21 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
22 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship - First Sunday of Lent 12:00pm Friendship Hour 1:00pm Junior Youth Group 2:00pm Marilyn Kendrix Talk 2:00p.m. Poverty Simulation CMI	23 4:15pm Musical Folk 5:00pm Student Pizza at Wall St.	24 9:30am Musical Folk	25 10:00am Musical Folk 12:00pm 20@12 4:30pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Musical Folk 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	26 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk	27	28 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA

March 2015

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CO-PASTORS: BILL GOETTLER & MARIA LASALA

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: PATRICK McCRELESS

PARISH ASSOCIATE: SUE ASHER

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: MIRIAM SAMUELSON

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR
CHILDREN AND YOUTH: KIMBERLEY FAIS

YDS INTERN: JACKIE SPYCHER

NURSERY CARE PROVIDERS: NAOMI BRINTON AND
KAYLA FURMAN

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Web site: www.fpcnh.org

Christian Education for all ages
9:30 a.m.

Worship
10:45 a.m.

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06511

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