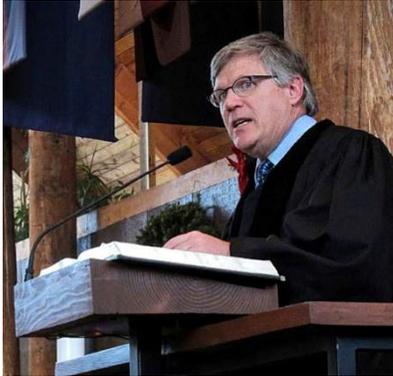


The Inkling

The News of First Presbyterian Church

June 2015



Co-Pastors Bill Goettler and Maria LaSala to end First Presbyterian Church ministry this month

This month Co-Pastors Bill Goettler and Maria LaSala bring their nearly 18 years of ministry at First Presbyterian Church of New Haven to a close. Sunday, June 7th will be a day of rejoicing and thanksgiving. Just as they did when they first preached at First Presbyterian Church as candidates, Bill and Maria will share the sermon. They will be joined in worship leadership by the children and youth of the congregation and by the First Presbyterian Church Choir.

Following worship, a celebratory event will take place in the sanctuary, and then everyone is invited to stay for the church picnic. Burgers (both meatless and meat) and hot dogs will be on the grill. Plan to bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share. Let's hope for sun, but rain or shine, we will have a chance to enjoy one another's company.

Much has changed over these past 18 years and much has remained the same. While some who were in the pews back then have moved on, many more have come and made a home in the beautiful sanctuary on Whitney Avenue. We no longer have to stand shoulder to shoulder during the Friendship Hour, thanks to the Owens Community Building, built ten years ago.



First Presbyterian Church is a strong and healthy congregation. The Word of God is read and proclaimed. The community continues to grow and find new and wonderful ways to come together to eat, laugh, pray, and serve God and God's people. It is a time to give thanks, to celebrate, and to ask for God's continued blessings during this season of transition.

9:30 a.m. Summer Worship Schedule begins June 14th

On June 14th, we will move to our summer schedule, with worship beginning at 9:30 a.m. We will continue to worship in the sanctuary through June 21st. On June 14, The Rev. Sue Asher will be the guest preacher and Brian Gray will accompany Sue in worship leadership. Following worship everyone is invited to make their way to Killam's Point on the shoreline in Branford, for a day of swimming and kayaking, nature walks, hymn singing, and lots of eating. There will be a grill on the site, so bring your own food, table settings, and chairs. Come early and stay all day. We'll have the area until 6 p.m. Directions will be available on the Welcome Table. For more information, speak with Scott Funston, chair of CLOC, or Mary Webber a member of the committee.

(cont. next page)

Summer Worship, cont.

June 21st will be Maria and Bill's final Sunday in worship with us. This service, beginning at 9:30 a.m. will include a special liturgy of separation, thanking God for these years of shared ministry. A special meeting of the congregation will follow the morning's worship to formally end the pastoral relationship between Maria and Bill and the First Presbyterian Church of New Haven. And then all are welcome to stay for the church Friendship Hour delighting in one another's company. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

On June 28th we will move to the Owens Community Building for the remainder of the summer. Sunday services will begin at 9:30 a.m. followed by a Friendship Hour. After worship, the space will be transformed from a worship space to a gathering hall ... with your help.

On June 28th, Mission Co-Worker Karla Koll will be the first of many guest preachers. Karla has been serving as a Professor of Theology throughout Central America. Most recently she was in Guatemala. These days Karla is teaching and living in Costa Rica, but continues to travel throughout Central America to meet with students studying to become pastors. Following the Friendship Hour, Karla will offer a presentation about her work and about the challenges ahead for mission co-workers even as they continue to spread the good news of the gospel in Central America and around the world.

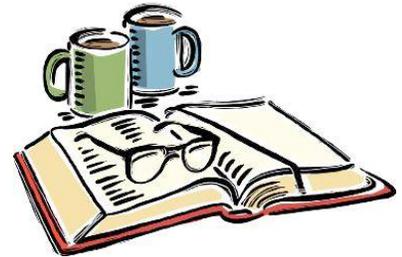
Texts for the Sundays in June:

June 7: 1 Samuel 8:4–11 (12–15) 16–20 (11:14–15) Psalm 138 2 Corinthians 4:13–5:1 Mark 3:20–35

June 14: 1 Samuel 15:34–16:13 Psalm 20 2 Corinthians 5:6–10 (11–13) 14–17 Mark 4:26–34

June 21: 1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4–11, 19–23) 32–49 Psalm 9:9–20 or 1 Samuel 17:57–18:5, 10–16 Psalm 133 2 Corinthians 6:1–13 Mark 4:35–

June 28: 2 Samuel 1:1, 17–27 Psalm 130 2 Corinthians 8:7–15 Mark 5:21–43



The Rev. John Sandel, Summer Interim Pastor

John Sandel, a regular worship attender (with his wife Bonnie) at First Presbyterian Church of New Haven, has graciously agreed to serve as the summer interim pastor. Should you wish a call or a visit, please contact the church office at 203-562-5664 or firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com. Church administrator Martha Smith will alert John to your request and he will be in touch with you directly. John will be present on most Sunday mornings, leading the Pastoral prayer each week.

News from the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee

At a special meeting of the Session, the Session elected an Interim Pastor Nominating Committee. Andrew Forsyth is the chair of this committee. Scott Funston, Elizabeth Gill, Candice Gray, and David Miller are the other members of the committee. The Rev. Susan Trucksess will be the Presbytery of Southern New England's Committee on Ministry's liaison to the search committee. Please keep the Interim Nominating Committee in your prayers.

“Traveling Stories” is the Summer Preaching theme

This summer, as in summers’ past, preachers from our congregation will lead the people of God at First Presbyterian Church in worship. The theme this summer invites preachers to take the community of faith on a journey. Using scripture lessons from the bible about the traveling stories of God’s people, each preacher will reflect on the ways God calls people to be on the go, to be open to new experiences, to rest secure that God’s love is everlasting. Worship begins at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday, in the Miller Gathering Hall, followed by a Friendship Hour.

July 5, The Rev. Arthur Shippee, preaching. Arthur has preached at First Presbyterian Church in the past, sings in the choir, and even takes care of the plants in our sanctuary building. The Rev. Shippee and The Rev. John Sandel will preside at the Communion Table.

July 12, The Rev. Mary Thies, preaching. Mary is a former pastor of First Presbyterian Church. She left First Presbyterian Church, New Haven to become co-pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Stamford. Mary is honorably retired, now serving as chair of the Presbytery’s Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

July 19, Elder Andrew Forsyth, preaching. Andrew is a doctoral student in Christian Ethics at Yale University and a current member of Session. Andrew is also the chair of the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee.

July 26, Christopher McCloskey, preaching. Christopher, a member of First Presbyterian Church, has just completed his second year of theological studies at Princeton Theological Seminary. This summer he is a CPE resident at Bridgeport Hospital.

August 2, The Rev. John Sandel, preaching. In addition to serving as the Summer Interim Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, John is a clinical psychotherapist at the Milford Pastoral Counseling Center. John will also preside at the Communion Table that morning.

August 9, The Rev. Diane Goudreau, preaching. Diane has been a member of the First Presbyterian Church community for many years. Diane was ordained in this congregation and each summer is invited to share God’s good news.

August 16, Alison McKinney, preaching. Ally, a new member of the congregation, is entering her third year in the M.Div. program at Yale Divinity School. Ally is a lawyer, with international human rights experience, having lived in Uganda for many years.

August 23, Bruce Gordon, preaching. Bruce is a Professor of Ecclesiastical History at Yale Divinity School. He has led many Adult Education series at First Presbyterian Church, as well as the Men’s Breakfasts.

August 30, Michal Beth Dinkler, preaching. Michal Beth is a candidate under care of the Presbytery of Southern New England. She is Assistant Professor of New Testament at Yale Divinity School.

May Session Update

As Clerk of Session, I attend all Session meetings, observing and documenting the discussions. Here, then, are my observations from Session's most recent meeting, held on May 19. Overall, while Session's regular responsibilities continue, much attention is also being given just now, as you would expect, to working toward the nomination of a new pastor and to ensuring full pastoral cover in the meantime. In addition to the co-pastors and Session members, Rev. John Sandel, our summer interim pastor, also attended the meeting.

As at every meeting, Session received reports from all the committees of the church, reports that often include announcements – some selected highlights follow – of the provision of meals for the parents of new babies (from CLOC), the repair of the sanctuary skylight (from Property), the funds of \$2,240 raised from the congregation by the Walk against Hunger (from Mission), website development (from "Telling our Story"), and high attendance in the nursery that requires the appointment of additional staff (from Christian Education).

Summer activities were a prime concern, from the provision that each member of Session will act as a contact for one week, with her or his principal responsibilities in ensuring the set up for Sunday worship and the securing of the building at the end of the day – to the summer preaching schedule and payment of the summer interim pastor.

Session was also alerted to a potentially worrying development for mission activities. The PC(USA) has resolved to end central funding for missionaries, who will instead raise their own support. This new method may leave congregations facing decisions for which they feel untrained. The mission committee is following this issue, which they recently explored with Revs. Mary Nebelsick and Paul Mathany, good friends of FPCNH serving in the Philippines.

Session also heard of the recent resignation of Jeff Owens, who has cleaned the church for some fourteen years. Jeff's other work commitments have made it very difficult for him to schedule his cleaning. The property committee, headed by Elder Bob Frew, has taken on the challenge of finding a replacement.

Our co-pastors left the room while Elder Andrew Forsyth, chair of the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee, reported to Session. That committee is working hard to assemble all the paperwork required for the advertising of the interim post. Eager to keep the process moving, Session agreed that additional meetings may be needed this summer.

Let me end on two individual notes that speak to the health and joys of our community. Session heard that two members of the congregation, Christopher McCloskey and Michal Beth Dinkler, were approved as candidates for ministry at the most recent Presbytery meeting, and Session approved the baptism of Harris George Wallman.

Rona Johnston Gordon

Christian Education Plans for 2015-2016

Sunday School might look a little different next year! We will welcome new faces among teachers and students, and we are in the process of shaping our education model for next year, discerning how closely it will resemble those of previous years. Perhaps it is time to let God work in us in some new ways! If you are interested in learning more about the CE Committee and our teaching team, or in volunteering with us in either capacity, please email firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com or speak with Kimberley in person.

High School Graduates!

Two of First Presbyterian Church of New Haven's members will graduate from high school this month.

Leah Miller, child of Beth Aura and David Miller, will graduate from Amity High School. Leah will attend the Honors and Engineering Programs at UConn next fall.

Cameron Owens, child of Jeff and Maureen Owens, will graduate from North Haven High School. Cameron will attend the University of New England in Biddeford, Maine in the fall. Congratulations to our graduates! We are so proud of you.



Update on Peace Corps Volunteer David Meeske

David Meeske is extending his service in Mongolia for a third year and has been selected as a Peace Corps Volunteer Leader for 2015–2016, moving from his remote village to Mongolia's second-largest city, Erdenet, where he will work with children with disabilities and teach life skills classes to Mongolian adolescents.

David is looking forward to being in a place where he no longer has to haul water or break coal for his fires, and where vegetables may even be available on a regular basis.

David in Mongolian garb, May 2015.

Service Project with local Family Services Agency

Mission and Christian Education Committees recently collaborated to provide Father's Day card kits for more than 40 children of offenders in the New Haven area. This project was conducted with Families in Crisis (familiesincrisis.org), a Connecticut nonprofit family services agency that helps offenders and their loved ones confront and overcome challenges. The agency offers specialized counseling, education, case management, and related services.

As part of its effort to stabilize families, Families in Crisis has programs to provide children with some of the things we take for granted—Christmas and birthday gifts and backpacks at the start of the school year, for example.

Many thanks to our senior high youth for helping out with this project!

Planting Seeds of Hope and Joy: CE Director attends Youth Ministry course

Director of Christian Education for Children & Youth, Kimberley Fais, will participate in the Summer Study program at Yale Divinity School the first week in June. This course for Youth Ministry will address topics such as Ministering Effectively in Multi-Ethnic Contexts, Leading Experiential Worship and Prayer, Cultivating Student Leadership, and more. Please pray for the children and youth of First Presbyterian Church and for our teachers and leaders at this time of discernment, preparation, and renewal.

Walk Against Hunger

On Sunday, May 17th, First Presbyterian Church of New Haven carried out our promised Walk Against Hunger in support of the Connecticut Food Bank. Buoyed by CLOC food and Shore Grass music, our team donned T shirts, posed for a group photo (see pictured) and enjoyed the two to three mile stroll under welcome cloud cover and gentle breeze. All together, our church raised \$2,240 to help feed hunger people. We think this is a record dollar amount for our church. Thank you to everyone who walked, donated, or did both!



Our Walkers included Andy Navratil, Anna Navratil, Nancy Rupp, Sadako Ohki, George Rupp , Jane Hindenlang, (Gracie, the dog), Maria LaSala, Brian Gray, , Lynn Autry, Robert Williams, and Greg Greenberg (not in photo).

Playground Work Day on June 28th

After worship on Sunday, June 28, join us on the playground behind the nursery to help ensure the safety and aesthetic of the space. Note the earlier summer worship hour; we'll plan to work from about 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., and Naomi will be available in the nursery during that time. Supplies will be available, but you may bring work gloves if you have them. *Rain Date: Sunday, July 5*

Correspondence from Pakistan/Mission Update

Below is a letter recently received from Friends of Forman Christian College, Pakistan. Last year, our Mission Committee directed church funds to help furnish the new women's dorm. Forman Christian College is a school founded by the late Rev. Dr. Charles Forman's grandfather and supported by the PCUSA.

May 20, 2015

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

I've just returned from Pakistan where the women of Hope Tower Class of 2015, invited me to attend their graduation celebration. Jim and Beth Tebbe, Robert Johnson and I enjoyed their skits, singing and of course, Pakistani dancing! Afterwards, I had a "behind the scenes" tour of Hope Tower and joined the ladies' "after party" where we danced, exchanged jewelry and laughed into the evening.

I'm happy to report that the furnishings you helped fund are in place and, with the exception of washers and dryers that should come soon, Hope Tower is 100% furnished. Astoundingly, the purchasing department in Pakistan was able to accomplish everything under budget. Thanks to this careful stewardship, I can now invite you to rededicate your past gift for Hope Tower to the Forman Advance Fund, which benefits women at Forman in many ways.

Twenty-five percent of the 1,200 women on campus receive scholarships, much of it from the Fund. This year, the Fund will raise up to \$200,000 for new campus security systems that directly benefit women. Women's safety will benefit exponentially from new lighting, emergency text messaging and camera systems. Forman's Student Life department maintains a zero tolerance policy for gender harassment—harassment is quite common on other campuses and its absence is one reason we've grown to 34 percent women!

Again, thank you for all you do for Forman—your gifts, prayers and spreading the good news of our mission in Pakistan rewards us every single day.

All Best,

Suzanne Madison Hogg
Director of Development

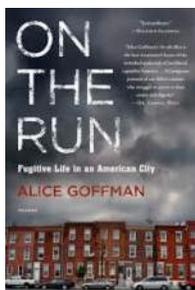
Memorial Cairn – June 1

Reclaiming the Prophetic Voice will once again mark the number of deaths of civilian and military personnel from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Join friends at the monument on the corners of Broadway and Elm Streets in New Haven at 6 p.m. for a 15 minute prayer service. All are welcome.

Help provide fresh food for the hungry!

Are you free on one or more Tuesday afternoons this summer? If so, please help us by picking up our share of fresh produce from Massaro Farm in Woodbridge and delivering it to Christian Community Action (CCA). A sign-up sheet with details is posted in the Miller Gathering Hall.

Through the Mission Committee, First Presbyterian participates in the farm's Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. In 2014 the farm independently donated more than 7,000 pounds of produce to local hunger relief organizations like CCA. Our share adds to this and helps reduce food insecurity in New Haven.



Let's Read *On the Run: Fugitive Life in an American City*

Twenty copies of *On the Run* are available for church members to read this summer. Alice Goffman's compassionate chronicle of families caught inside a justice system that has gone awry will be the focal point of a fall 2015 book discussion, and another in the Mission Committee's series of events on the topic of mass incarceration. Be prepared to engage these provocative and challenging ideas as you borrow and read a copy (and don't forget to return it so someone else can read it). Books can be found on the table in the Miller Gathering Hall.

June 28th Summer Evening Recital with Baritone Nigel Smith

At 7:30 PM on June 28, the last Sunday of the month, Nigel Smith, son of our Eugene and Margaret Smith, will present a recital in the church sanctuary, accompanied by Patrick McCreless. He will sing sets of Italian, German, and French songs--all of them lovely, and probably new to most of us. This is a rare treat, so make plans now to come hear Nigel in what will be a festive summer concert. Read on to learn more about Nigel and his career.

Nigel Smith is a Canadian-born baritone, who has enjoyed a successful performing career, principally in France but also in opera productions in Italy, Germany, Norway, Russia and Kazakhstan. Among his many performances, he's sung roles in *Faust*, *Carmen*, *The Marriage of Figaro* and *Rigoletto*, along with more modern works when collaborating with the composer, Philippe Manoury. Nigel can be heard on the DVDs of the Paris National Opera's *Les contes d'Hoffmann* in the role of Schlemil and the Atelier Lyrique to Tourcoing's *Agrippina*, singing the role of Claudio.

Summer Events for All Ages: Picnic & Parachute in the Park

Calling all youth and children! You're invited to join our summer activities from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., following Friendship Hour on three Sundays. Children under age 10 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Bring your own bag lunch, and we'll provide the parachute. You're also welcome to bring other toys and activities, sunscreen, and picnic blankets. We'll enjoy the warmth of the season and each other's company and perhaps welcome the public to join our games.

Weather permitting, here's where we'll gather at 11 a.m.:

June 21 – Edgerton Park

July 19 – College Woods in East Rock Park

August 2 – Summit of East Rock Park

See Kimberley or email firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com for further contact information and/or to arrange carpools.

Note: Other plans can easily be added to our summer calendar! You are welcome and encouraged to host events or to suggest activities at the church or in the community, suitable for a particular age range or for all. Kimberley will gladly coordinate additional volunteers and manage communications and publicity as needed.

The Welcome Table needs volunteers!

Every Sunday, volunteers at the Welcome Table warmly welcome new visitors to our church, greet old friends, and provide everyone with information about our church's ongoing work and activities. Please consider joining our Welcome Table team. Talk to Pat Wales (patwales@att.net) or Cressida Lui (luicressida@yahoo.com) for more information.

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, and Ned Castner, recovering at home.

Shaleen Camery-Hoggatt, Michal Beth Dinkler's mother, who is undergoing chemotherapy.

Sarah Malone, Anita Shaffer's relative, who is undergoing chemotherapy.

London Poole, Caty Poole's daughter.

The people of Kenya, Turkey, Syria, South Sudan, Egypt, Israel and Palestine, Iraq, 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 and Patrick Copeland, 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.

June 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 4:00pm Musical Folk 7:00 pm Lemonade with Bill & Maria	2 9:30am Musical Folk 7:30pm Mission and CLOC	3 10:00am and 5:30 Musical Folk 12:00 pm Lemonade with Bill & Maria	4 9:00am Yoga 11:00 am Lemonade with Bill & Maria 12:00 pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Musical Folk 6:30 pm Choir Picnic 6:30pm GNHCC	5	6 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA 6:00pm Columbus House Dinner
7 9:30am Choir 10:45am Worship and Communion 12:00pm Celebration of Co-Pastors 1:00pm Church Picnic	8 4:00pm Musical Folk	9 9:30am Musical Folk	10 10:00am and 5:30 Musical Folk	11 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk 6:30pm GNHCC	12	13 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
14 9:30 am Worship; The Rev Sue Asher preaching Killam's Point picnic	15 4:00pm Musical Folk	16 9:30am Musical Folk 7:15pm Session	17 10:00am and 5:30 Musical Folk	18 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk	19	20 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
21 9:30am Worship in Sanctuary; The Rev Maria LaSala preaching 10:30 am Friendship Hour 11:00am Youth in Park	22 4:00pm Musical Folk	23 9:30am Musical Folk	24 10:00am and 5:30 Musical Folk	25 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk	26	27 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
28 9:30 am Worship; Miller Gathering Hall 10:30am Frndshp Hour 11:00 am Karla Koll Conversa. 11:00am Playground Cleanup 7:30pm Nigel Smith recital	29 4:00pm Musical Folk	30 9:30am Musical Folk				

July 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA 6:00pm Columbus House Dinner
5 9:30 am Worship & Communion; The Rev. Arthur Shippee preaching 10:30 a.m. Friendship Hour	6 4:00pm Musical Folk	7 9:30am Musical Folk 7:30pm Mission and CLOC	8 10:00am and 5:30 Musical Folk	9 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk	10	11 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
12 9:30am Worship; The Rev. Mary Thies preaching 10:30 a.m. Friendship Hour	13 4:00pm Musical Folk	14 9:30am Musical Folk	15 10:00am and 5:30 Musical Folk	16 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk	17	18 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
19 9:30am Worship; Elder Andrew Forsyth preaching 10:30 a.m. Friendship Hour 11:00am Youth in Park	20 4:00pm Musical Folk	21 9:30am Musical Folk 7:15pm Session	22 10:00am and 5:30 Musical Folk	23 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk	24	25 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
26 9:30am Worship; Christopher McCloskey preaching. 10:30 a.m. Friendship Hour	27 4:00pm Musical Folk	28 9:30am Musical Folk	29 10:00am and 5:30 Musical Folk	30 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk	31	

CO-PASTORS: BILL GOETTLER & MARIA LASALA
SUMMER INTERIM PASTOR: JOHN SANDEL

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: PATRICK McCRELESS

PARISH ASSOCIATE: SUE ASHER

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: MARTHA SMITH

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR
CHILDREN AND YOUTH: KIMBERLEY FAIS

NURSERY CARE PROVIDER: NAOMI BRINTON

First Presbyterian Church
704 Whitney Avenue
New Haven, Connecticut 06511
Phone: (203) 562-5664
Fax: (203) 562-1202
Email: firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com
Web site: www.fpcnh.org

Worship

10:45 a.m. on June 7

Beginning on June 14th Worship is at 9:30 a.m.
(through Labor Day)

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

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