

The Inkling

Interim Pastor to Start on September 20th

The Reverend Susan Dee Reisinger has been hired by the Session to serve as interim pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of New Haven, beginning on Sunday, September 20. As interim pastor, Susan will have two main sets of responsibilities. The first is the familiar ministry of the Presbyterian pastor: Susan will lead worship, celebrate the sacraments, moderate the Session, lead the staff, and provide pastoral care. The second is particular to interim ministry: Susan will help prepare the congregation for the future, challenging us to reflect on our past, think deeply about our current needs, and, God-willing, see visions and dream dreams as we search for a new pastor.

“Much of my professional life has been dedicated to interim ministry,” says Susan. “The threshold between what has been and what might be can be a rich time. This richness lies in saying goodbye to some of what was, and beginning the process of welcoming what is to come. For me it is a great privilege to walk with a congregation during such a pivotal time. I am looking forward to partnering with First Presbyterian Church for the next part of this journey.”

Susan has extensive experience as an interim pastor. She has served eleven congregations in an interim role—some with 100 or 200 members, some with 1000s, in small towns, in college towns, in suburban and rural and urban settings—most recently the Presbyterian Church at Hammonton, New Jersey. A philosophy graduate of Franklin & Marshall College, she attended Princeton Seminary and was ordained in 1979. She received a further master's degree from the Seminary, in pastoral care, in 1988.

“We conducted a wide-ranging search,” says Andrew Forsyth, chair of the Session's interim pastor nominating committee. “Scott Funston, Elizabeth Gill, Candice Gray, David Miller, and John Sandel have spent their summer months reading applications, meeting together, and thinking about First Presbyterian Church's needs and opportunities. We had nearly thirty applications, and interviewed five. Several of the applications were very strong, but Susan stood out because of her commitment to interim ministry, her desire to work in a diverse and welcoming congregation like our own, her warm personality, and her passion for worship, preaching, and pastoral care.”

The Reverend John Sandel, who has served as the *interim* interim over the summer, adds “Susan impressed us with her sure grasp of the nature of interim ministry, her embrace of the progressive character of our congregation, and the grounding of her ministry in spiritual practice and discipline. Her references were uniform in praising her pastoral skills and her gifts for interim ministry.”

This is an important and exciting time for First Presbyterian Church. Come to adult education at 9:30 am on Sunday, September 20 to welcome and learn more about Susan.



September Sunday Worship—Change is in the Air!

Summer weather may linger, but begins to shift to a new season in September. So it will be for our worship schedule as we ease ourselves into the fall schedule continuing for a few more weeks with a preaching rotation. Then at the end of the month, we welcome our new interim pastor, The Reverend Susan Reisinger to the pulpit.

Here's what to expect during September Sundays:

Sept. 6, 2015

- 9:30 a.m. Worship and Communion in the Miller Gathering Hall
The Reverend John Sandel leading worship, The Reverend Dr. Arthur Shippee preaching
- 10:30 a.m. Friendship Hour in the Miller Gathering Hall

Sept. 13, 2015

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Rally Day
- 10:45 a.m. **Worship in the Sanctuary**
The Reverend John Sandel preaching with the FPCHN choir singing Special Thank-you to the Reverend John Sandel for his service as the Interim Pastor this summer
- 12:00 p.m. Rally Day Barbecue and Potluck picnic

Sept. 20, 2015

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for Children and Youth
Introduction to new Interim Pastor, The Reverend Susan Reisinger
- 10:45 a.m. Elder Andrew Forsyth preaching with the Elm City Girls Choir singing.
- 12:00 p.m. Friendship Hour in the Miller Gathering Hall

Sept. 27, 2015

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for Children and Youth
- 10:45 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
The Reverend Susan Reisinger preaching with FPCNH choir singing
- 12:00 p.m. Friendship Hour in the Miller Gathering Hall

Texts for the Sundays in September:

September 6: Proverbs 22:1–2, 8–9, 22–23; Psalm 125;
James 2:1–10, 14–17

September 13: Proverbs 1:20–33; Psalm 19; James 3:1–12

September 20: Proverbs 31:10–31; Psalm 1; James 3:13–
4:3, 7–8a

September 27: Esther 7:1–6, 9–10; 9:20–22 Psalm 124
James 5:13–20



A Note from Session's August Meeting

When Session met for the last time before the summer on June 16th, moves were newly afoot by the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee to find a pastor; when Session met again at the end of the summer on August 25th, that committee's work was done. It fell to Session at its August meeting to discuss and approve the contract for Rev. Reisinger, who will be called to First Pres on September 20, to plan work on the manse before her arrival, and to discuss how to welcome her to this community. Sessions' collective delight (and relief) at having reached this stage quickly and with such a positive outcome was very evident.

And the regular work of the church continues as seen in the committee reports. Plans for the September BBQ were discussed, along with the practicalities of accommodating the Elm City Girls Choir for their lock-in the night before they sing at worship. Christian Education reported on the "movement" theme for the children of the congregation, and Mission reminded Session of the upcoming discussions of Alice Goffmann's, *On the Run: Fugitive Life in an American City*. And Property has plans to tackle the weeds.

Every meeting of Session is framed by prayer and introduced with a devotion. This month Elder Candice Gray talked of how we can find God in elements of our daily life that seem at first so minor, perhaps even unwanted. Her personal account surely struck echoes in the lives of all of us present.

Rona Johnston Gordon, Clerk of Session

Rally Day is September 13th

Join us at 9:30 a.m. in the Owens Community Building for an inter-generational celebration kicking off our 2015-2016 year of Christian Education! Gather with Elizabeth Gill, John Dinkler, and Sue Balakrishnan, who will serve as educators and co-learners in scripture and church history while our guest specialists help us all apply what we learn to collaborative projects, service partnerships, and creative arts workshops. (We are still seeking guest specialists to lead us at some point in hands-on gardening, theatre, and visual arts. If this might be you, please let us know.)

Our multi-age approach this year aims to honor friendships we've seen forming across standard grade levels, to foster a growth mindset in all learners regardless of prior ability or experience, and to nurture the various passions and learning styles of participants of every age.

Throughout the year, Senior Youth (ages 13-18) are invited to participate in either the Children & Youth program or the Adult Education program. We have incredible adult education opportunities that will equip you and challenge you in new ways for a mature faith life and the world beyond FPC. Whether or not you have already made your confirmation, you are of age to be considered an adult in much of the life of the church. Those who wish to continue on with the Children & Youth will likewise be considered not only co-learners but potential co-leaders, with opportunities to lead and guide according to skill and interest.

If you are age 13+ and interested in making your confirmation in the near future, please speak with Kimberley Fais or the pastoral staff.

FPCNH Music News

As summer winds down and fall approaches, I want to share news of our music program—both what we have been doing in the summer, and what our plans are for the fall. First, I want to offer hearty thanks to all of our soloists who contributed their talents in the summer months. Our singers have been especially wonderful this year, and we offer our congratulations and thanks to them: Ken Balakrishnan, Jesse Cooper, Margret Erlendsdottir, Mattie Long (who will sing this Sunday, August 30), Beth Aura Miller, Bruce Peabody, Christy Purnell, Angela Sanders, and Eugene Smith. Thanks also to Christy and Margret, who filled in ably on the piano when I was out of town.

Our choir will resume its regular rehearsals beginning on Wednesday, September 9, at 7:00 PM, and continuing with the Sunday rehearsal at 9:30, and service at the usual time of 10:45, on September 13. On Sunday, September 20, we will welcome the Elm City Girls' Choir, as we have done in September for many years now. They will have a retreat and sleepover in our spaces on the previous day. Make special plans to come hear them on the 20th—they're extraordinary! (Our choir will neither rehearse nor sing that day.)

The choir, in addition to singing in our worship services every Sunday, will be preparing for a concert with the choir of Bethesda Lutheran Church, and a small orchestra, on Reformation Sunday. This year we will sing J. S. Bach's Cantata No. 80, "*Ein feste Burg*" ("A Mighty Fortress"), as well as a selection of anthems in the first part of the program. This will be our third collaboration with Bethesda: we performed the Mozart *Requiem* with them at Bethesda in the spring of 2013, and a Jazz/Gospel Vespers at our church in the spring of 2014. This year the concert will be at Bethesda, at 4:00 PM on October 25.

Our choir has been thriving in recent years, and we love to welcome new members. Two new singers have spoken with me late this summer about joining the choir, and we hope there will be more of you. Please get in touch with me, or with a choir member, if you love to sing and would like to join us.

Patrick McCreless
Director of Music

Memorial Cairn – September 7 (Labor Day)

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!

A few of the Massaro Farm Tuesday afternoon pickups are still looking for volunteers. Check out the sign-up sheet on the Welcome Table or the bulletin board in the Miller Gathering Hall, along with directions. Sign up for a Tuesday to help us help others have more fresh fruit and vegetables.



In addition, Christian Community Action reminds us that they are happy to accept donations of fresh produce. Contact a Mission Committee member if you would like to donate excess bounty from your home garden.



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

Copies of *On the Run* are available for church members to read. Alice Goffman's chronicle of families caught inside a justice system that has gone awry will be the focal point of our fall 2015 book discussion. Books are on the table in the Miller Gathering Hall. We plan to hold several small-group discussions at various times during the fall to accommodate the greatest number of people possible.

Lost and Found?

We have a number of clothing items left behind from church and other events. They're now hanging on the coat rack in the Miller Gathering Hall.

Why not take a look and see if you recognize something you forgot and might need as the weather cools off?

These items include:

- Ladies Brown/Gray Knit Long Belted Sweater (Medium)
- Adult Blue Nylon Rain Jacket with snap closures (Small)
- Adult "Yak Trax" (winter ice cleats for boots)
- Woman's Black Knit Hat
- Men's Grey Tweed Cap (Medium)
- Black Folding Umbrellas (2)
- Blue/Purple woven Plaid Scarf
- Red Bordered Christmas Design Scarf
- Grey Down Jacket (Adult Small)
- Men's Leather Jacket (Ex Large)
- Women's Purple Sweater with sequin decoration (2X Large)
- Pink Smilow Cancer Center Baseball Cap

Introducing: Educators of FPCNH, an online forum on Facebook.com

Calling all (past, present, and future) educators!

Whether you're a volunteer involved in Christian Education at FPC, a teacher or administrator at a local school district or university, or a lay person with a love of learning, you are invited to join "Educators of FPCNH," an online forum. This is a closed Facebook group, which means posts are not public and can only be viewed by members. The group name shows up in search results and members are added by request.

We will share resources, links, and ideas as they apply to our developing educational ministries and anywhere we engage in education in our communities and careers.

What Are Our Youth & Children's Programs Really About?

Compiled by Kimberley Fais, Director of Christian Education for Children & Youth

Based on both the wisdom of the Yale Youth Ministry Initiative's June 2015 intensive course and the words and works of education reformer Ken Robinson, the Christian Education Committee would like to begin this year by explicitly stating our concrete goals in each of our program areas. What kind of learning and growth do we expect at a given time—especially when the programming is or appears unstructured? Why do we differentiate these four areas at all, and what purposes do they serve for the members and visitors of our church?

Goals of the NURSERY are for children (ages 0-5) to...

1. Sense they belong in the community
2. Build interpersonal and conflict-resolution skills
3. Practice listening to stories and reading solo
4. Explore at will without a set curriculum
5. Play outdoors on a safe and supervised playground
6. Share time with or experience time away from parents/guardians, at the adults' discretion
7. Develop a connection with Naomi and Emily as their consistent caregivers and with volunteers

Goals of SUNDAY SCHOOL are for children and youth (ages 5-18) to...

1. Learn scripture, church history, and faith/life skills
2. Cultivate friendships and learning partnerships regardless of age
3. Collaborate for group learning
4. Apply lessons to projects with meaningful real-world applications
5. Use curriculum as their starting point to explore particular questions and interests
6. Receive yearly personalized letters detailing key strengths and growing edges or recommended areas of interest
7. Develop a connection with educators and volunteers

Goals of CHILDREN IN WORSHIP are for children (ages 5-11) to...

1. Learn to participate in worship and, with time, take on various responsibilities of worship leadership
2. Recognize and apply their spiritual gifts and talents
3. Practice prayer, mindfulness, and spiritual disciplines
4. Learn the meanings of rites and sacraments
5. Encounter scripture in age-appropriate language and interactive formats
6. Have adequate time to ask questions and explore answers
7. Develop a connection with volunteers and the worshiping community

Goals of YOUTH GROUP are for preteens and teens (ages 11-18) to...

1. Cultivate friendships with peers and welcome non-church friends to events and activities
2. Meet on-site and off-site to bridge the church and the greater community
3. Lead times of prayer and serve in outreach and missions
4. Recognize and apply their spiritual gifts and talents
5. Celebrate and support each other's extracurricular endeavors and personal achievements
6. Visit/support each other in times of crisis and healing
7. Develop a connection with youth leaders and volunteers

"As I see it, the aims of education are to enable students to understand the world around them and the talents within them so that they can become fulfilled individuals and active, compassionate citizens."
-Ken Robinson, *Creative Schools*

Registration Form for All Youth & Children's Programs

Please email this information to firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com or see Kimberley Fais for a printed copy to return on Rally Day: Sunday, September 13, 2015.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Child A

Name _____

Birthdate _____

Interests _____

Allergies/Medical Notes _____

Desired Programs

Sunday School Children in Worship Youth Group Nursery

Child B

Name _____

Birthdate _____

Interests _____

Allergies/Medical Notes _____

Desired Programs

Sunday School Children in Worship Youth Group Nursery

Child C

Name _____

Birthdate _____

Interests _____

Allergies/Medical Notes _____

Desired Programs

Sunday School Children in Worship Youth Group Nursery

Child D

Name _____

Birthdate _____

Interests _____

Allergies/Medical Notes _____

Desired Programs

Sunday School Children in Worship Youth Group Nursery

A New FPCNH Record For *Bread For the World* Letter Writing!

On Sunday, August 16 our church conducted an “Offering of Letters” during the Friendship Hour, writing to our federal senators and representatives, urging them to support federal food aid programs

Federal programs supply 95% of the funds that help feed hungry Americans. These funds have to be re-authorized every five years, and currently expire on September 30, 2015. Thus we wrote in the summer, so our letters would arrive before the deadline.

We urged Senator Blumenthal and Senator Murphy to support re-authorization of full funding of federal programs for the next five years. New Haven area representative Rosa DeLauro has a bill (HR2660) that would raise eligibility from age 5 to age 6 for “women, infants and children” (WIC) food program. We thanked her for her initiative and asked her to continue to advocate for full financial support in re-authorizing feeding programs for another 5 years.

Congratulations and thanks to everyone who took time to write. We set a new record for FPCNH letters written—73 letters—13 more than last year!



Presbyterian Church (USA) Ministry Notes

During this interim period in the life of our church, it seems especially appropriate to be aware of news and developments within our wider denomination.

Early in August, the moderator of the 2014 General Assembly, Heath Rada, posted a letter highlighting some good news and developments concerning ongoing issues.

He starts out reporting the good news that two South Sudanese Presbyterian ministers who were arrested for their faithfulness have been released by the Sudanese government. Then he mentions how the denomination is addressing issues of racism. Funding for global mission, youth education, and denominational structure are among other topics addressed.

The letter is only two pages but makes for thoughtful reading. It may be found in its entirety at <https://www.pcusa.org/news/2015/8/9/reasons-celebrate/>.

Youth Group Activities for September & October

Senior Youth (grades 9-12): A Night at the Symphony

Enjoy the Yale Philharmonia in Woolsey Hall. Two concerts are on the calendar in the coming months – come to one or both: Friday, September 25, 7:30 p.m., and Friday, October 16, 7:30 p.m. Bring a friend!

All Youth (grades 5-12): Apple-Picking at Bishop's Orchards

A perennial favorite, bring a friend to enjoy apples at Bishop's Orchards. We will leave from church after worship on Sunday, October 4 and return by 4 p.m. Transportation, a walk through the maze, and one bag of apples per youth will all be provided.

All Youth (grades 5-12): Halloween Pumpkin-Carving

Stay after worship on October 25 for lunch and pumpkin-carving. We'll bring the pumpkins and the carving tools – you bring the creativity!

Looking Ahead on the Mission Committee Calendar

We will receive the Peace and Global Witness Offering on Worldwide Communion Sunday, October 4. This special offering supports peace initiatives both around the world and in our local community. More details next month.

ABRAHAM'S TENT 2016: Save the week of Monday February 22 to Monday February 28th for Abraham's Tent this coming 2016. This year we are going to be co-hosting with First and Summerfield Methodist Church in New Haven. This should be an exciting and enriching opportunity. More details to follow in the October Inking.

See Brian Gray or email at brian_gry@yahoo.com if you are interested in being on a small committee to plan the week with First and Summerfield Church.

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, and Eugene Smith recovering at home.

Arianna Burkeen, Mattie Long's grand-daughter, who needs prayers for healing.

Libby Hollingsworth, who is recovering from surgery.

Joan Wells, who is undergoing chemotherapy.

Peter Bollier, son of Trudy Bollier, who is undergoing chemotherapy.

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

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

Catherine and Elizabeth Warner, twin daughters of Jen Herbst's friends, who are hospitalized with multiple health difficulties.

For people who do not have enough to eat or are food insecure.

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.

Christopher Woodington, serving with the Grinnell Corps in Namibia.

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.

September 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:30 p.m. CLOC & Mission Committee	2	3 9:00am Yoga	4	5 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA 5:30 pm Columbus House Dinner
6 9:30 am Worship & Communion; The Rev. Arthur Shippee preaching 10:30 a.m. Friendship Hour	7 6:00 p.m. Memorial Cairn	8 9-3pm:PSNE Comm Meeting 1:00pm Dancing w / Parkinson's	9 9-3pm:PSNE Comm Meeting 1:30 & 5:30 pm Musical Folk 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	10 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk 6:30 pm NH Comm Chorus	11 9:30 am Musical Folk	12 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
13 9:30 am- Rally Day program 10:45 am Worship; The Rev. John Sandel preaching 12:00 p.m. Potluck Picnic	14 4:00pm Musical Folk	15 9:30am & 1:30pm Musical Folk 7:15 pm Session	16 1:30 & 5:30 pm Musical Folk 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	17 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk 6:30 pm NH Comm Chorus	18 9:30 am Musical Folk	19 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
20 9:30 am Sunday School & Adult Ed 10:45 am Worship; Elder Andrew Forsyth preaching 12:00 p.m. Friendship Hour	21 4:00pm Musical Folk	22 9:30am & 1:30pm Musical Folk 1:00pm Dancing w / Parkinson's	23 1:30 & 5:30 pm Musical Folk 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	24 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk 6:30 pm NH Comm Chorus	25 9:30 am Musical Folk 7:30 p.m. Sr Youth to Symphony	26 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
27 9:30am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship; Rev. Susan Reisinger preaching. 12:00 p.m. Friendship Hour	28 4:00pm Musical Folk	29 9:30am & 1:30pm Musical Folk	30 1:30 & 5:30 pm Musical Folk 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal			

October 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk 6:30 pm NH Comm Chorus	2 9:30 am Musical Folk 7:30 p.m. CT Folk	3 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA 5:30 pm Columbus House Dinner
4 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship & Communion; 12:00 p.m. Friendship Hour 12:30 pm youth Apple Picking	5 4:00pm Musical Folk 6:00 p.m. Memorial Cairn	6 9:30am & 1:30pm Musical Folk 1:00pm Dancing w/Parkinson's 7:30 p.m. CLOC & Mission Committee	7 1:30 & 5:30 pm Musical Folk 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	8 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk 6:30 pm NH Comm Chorus	9 9:30 am Musical Folk	10 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
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18 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45am Worship 12:00 p.m. Friendship Hour	19 4:00pm Musical Folk	20 9:30am & 1:30pm Musical Folk 1:00pm Dancing w/Parkinson's 7:15pm Session	21 1:30 & 5:30 pm Musical Folk 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	22 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk 6:30 pm NH Comm Chorus	23 9:30 am Musical Folk	24 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
25 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45am Worship 12:00 p.m. Friendship Hour 12:30 pm youth pumpkin carving 4:00 pm Choir Concert	26 4:00pm Musical Folk	27 9:30am & 1:30pm Musical Folk	28 1:30 & 5:30 pm Musical Folk 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	29 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk 6:30 pm NH Comm Chorus	30 9:30 am Musical Folk	31 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA

SUMMER INTERIM PASTOR: JOHN SANDEL

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: PATRICK McCRELESS

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: MARTHA SMITH

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR
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Worship

Summer Worship is at 9:30 a.m.
(through Labor Day)

**First Presbyterian Church
704 Whitney Avenue
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06511**

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