

The Inkling

GIVING UP OR TAKING ON?

Lent is fast approaching. Typically folks might think about what to 'give up' for the season of penitence that is the 40 days (minus the Sundays) before Easter. My mother gave up chocolate, which her children did not appreciate. I could never quite understand why she was doing that, since we were in a church that didn't observe Lent at all.

Instead of giving up chocolate or facebook or whatever, I encourage you to think about what you could take on for Lent. I can hear some of you groaning, "oh no, not more to do!" What if you took on taking even a short walk with your family three or four times a week? You might think about spending 15 minutes a day in contemplative prayer; or perhaps 10 minutes writing out your thoughts to God. How about taking on 5 minutes of prayer for your church?

Of course, the possibilities are many – the question to guide us is this: what will help us grow in love, and deepen our service in Christ?

Other suggestions include:

- spending time in nature each week, allowing the beauty to speak to your soul
- read a passage of scripture each day and take some time to think about it
- pray for reconciliation with someone who has hurt you
- spend time talking with a long-time friend
- do acts of kindness for others, including strangers
- attend special services during Lent

Whatever is right for you, do it prayerfully. The idea is to challenge ourselves to grow spiritually during this time leading up to the great celebration of Easter.

-Pastor Susan



Scripture Readings for Sundays in February

February 7 - Transfiguration Sunday
Exodus 34:29-35, and Luke 9:28-36

February 14 – The First Sunday of Lent
Deuteronomy 26:1-11 and Luke 4:1-13

February 21 – Second Sunday of Lent
Philippians 3:14-4:1 and Luke 13:31-35

February 28 – Third Sunday of Lent
Isaiah 55: 1-13 and Luke 13:1-9

Memorial Cairn – Monday, February 1st

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.

Congregational Meeting—February 7th

The Annual meeting of the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of New Haven has been called for Sunday, February 7, 2016. We will review annual reports and financial statements. Copies of the report will be available sometime before January 31st

Lenten Schedule

Lent begins early this year with an Ash Wednesday service at 7:30 on February 10th. We will have both imposition of ashes as the beginning of our Lenten discipline and communion. The First Sunday of Lent is on February 14th

Weekly Lenten Communion

Each week during Lent, communion will be shared in the sanctuary following the service. Communion will be served after the services on Feb. 14, 21, 28 and March 13 and 20. Various clergy members will preside. Please consider making this part of your Lenten discipline.

Lenten Devotional

Watch your weekly emails for weekly Lenten devotionals from some of our members. They will also be available in the Sunday bulletins.

Abraham's Tent 2016

The seventh year of Abraham's Tent is now underway. From January thru March, congregations in the greater New Haven area will be hosting 10-12 homeless men, and this year for the first time, women.

Save the week of Monday, February 22nd to Monday, February 29th when First Presbyterian will be co-hosting with First and Summerfield Methodist Church in New Haven. Sign-up sheets are now up in the Miller Gathering Hall. Our two main nights will be Tuesday February 23th and Friday February 26th. We will need meal preparers, hosts, overnight volunteers as well as others who want to be involved. Don't hesitate to sign up, even if you see other names already there. We can use your assistance. The other nights of the week can also use a little assistance, especially overnight hosts. Sign up deadline is Wednesday, February 3rd. It is early because of the need to coordinate with First and Summerfield.

Another way to be involved this year will be to bring a snack, breakfast or lunch item to church for the food table that week. Such items would be cereal, oatmeal, juice, soda, cookies, pretzels & chips and fruit. One item per family would be enough. We will have a box out soon to collect these items. See Brian Gray, Pat Wales or Mary Webber for more information, and watch the Bulletin each week for further updates and announcements.

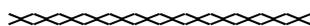
January Session Report

The Session met for its annual retreat on Saturday, January 16. The new ruling elders are: Gary Cline, John Dinkler, Philip Phiri, and Robert Williams. We thanked Jim Duncan, Scott Funston, Elizabeth Gill, and David Miller for their years of active service on the Session.

As is our duty and joy, the Session discussed the practicalities of the ongoing work of the church and the many activities of this congregation. There was also time, however, for broader reflection. The Rev. Susan Reisinger prompted us to discuss *What makes for a strong Session?* And asked us to consider carefully *What does the congregation need from the Session at this point in time?* The answers? There were many. But it's clear that this is a good time to be part of First Pres! We reminded each other of: the deep gifts possessed by this congregation; the many continuities in our worship and community life; the opportunities for service and growth that a time of transition affords; and the deep sense of love and mutual concern that undergirds our worship of God and life together.

Please keep the Session in your prayers, and do share with any or all of us your ideas and concerns!

-Andrew Forsyth



Stewardship 2016 – 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 2016.

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

The Session approved an initial budget of \$347,700 for 2016, challenging the congregation to sustain our increased funding in two specific areas: Christian Education to support for our Christian Educator, Kimberly Fais. Mission discretionary funds to extend our work for justice and peace both locally and around the world. The resulting 2016 Stewardship Pledge Goal was \$302,000. This represented a 4.7% increase over 2015's anticipated \$288,500 pledge income.

Our congregation strove to meet this challenge, responding faithfully with 88 pledges for a total of \$275,541. This is just over 91% of our goal. (For comparison, in 2015 there were 97 pledges for \$289,340. in 2014 - 96 pledges for \$283,620.) Seven of the 88 pledges are new. Of repeat pledges, over 40% increased their pledge from 2015 in response to this year's challenge. Our congregation responded wonderfully and we can be very grateful.

Pledges toward 2016 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

Fossil Fuels and Climate Change

At its upcoming meeting on February 6th our Presbytery of Southern New England will be considering an overture from our Session concerning the role fossil fuels play in climate change. "Overture" is PresbySpeak for "request for action." Actually, our Session is asking our Presbytery to ask (overture) our General Assembly (which meets in Portland OR on June 18-25) to actually do the "something." By the way, at least eight other presbyteries have also overtured the General Assembly on this, making the point that we care.

In this case, the request is to cease investing in fossil fuel companies -- both coal and oil and gas. This is to be done over the next three years. We are to retain enough shares to be in a position to encourage these companies to use their strengths to develop clean energy sources. And there is provision that these changes be made carefully in light of fiduciary responsibility. The overture and details are here: <http://www.fossilfreepcusa.org/>

Climate change is a rapidly developing disaster. The Fossil Free overture puts us on record as caring for our own futures, and more important for the futures of our children, grand children and communities. Leaving a substantial portion of earth's remaining fossil fuels unused is essential if we are to manage the challenge. The Fossil Free overture seeks that end through a combined effort to engage the fossil fuel extraction industry and to join in urgent witness. Our voice needs to be heard by our denomination as it attempts to address this. If we remain silent, how are they to know we care?

-Ralph Jones

First Pres Movie Series

The Mission Committee is hosting a monthly First Pres Movie Series on the third Friday of each month beginning on February 19. Each movie night will start with a pot luck supper in the Miller Community Room at 6 pm with the movie typically starting at 7 pm (some longer movies will start at 6:30 pm).

Our initial film is "Locked In A Box – Immigrant Detention" produced by the PC(USA).

From the PC(USA) - "Locked in a Box" is an award winning short documentary that follows the stories of individuals held in the U.S. Immigration detention system and those who visit them. The film traces the lives of individuals who fled their homelands in search of safety and freedom only to end up in U.S. prisons under a mandatory bed quota system run by Immigration Customs & Enforcement (ICE). Since the 1990's there has been a massive expansion of the immigration detention system up to 34,000 immigrants in detention on any given day in approximately 200 different facilities, many of which are for-profit prisons. "Locked in a Box" helps strip away the political rhetoric to see the human cost of detention.

The film is short – only 24 minutes, which will leave lots of time for discussion.

Our second film, on March 18, is "Cool It" (87 minutes). Due to the length, we will start the movie a half hour earlier, at 6:30 pm. with a short discussion following the film.

From Wikipedia - Based on the book "Cool It: The Skeptical Environmentalist's Guide to Global Warming" by Danish political scientist Bjørn Lomborg. The film focuses on Lomborg lecturing and brainstorming ideas to make the environmental movement less propagandistic and more realistic, which includes de-emphasizing efforts to stop global warming. Interviews include many scientists and activists both supporting and disputing Lomborg.

Adult Education Classes on Peacemaking

Art and Mary Hunt will lead a three-part discussion of peacemaking and being a peacemaker during the adult education hour on the consecutive Sundays of February 7, 14 and 21. What is peacemaking? How do you get started? Why do we need it? What part might you play? What are your questions and concerns? The three sessions will cover Peacemaking, Injustice and Potential Responses with an emphasis on your questions and concerns. Art and Mary hope you find the sessions engaging, challenging, and informative. The second session will include their personal observations from their trip to Palestine with the Tree of Life in March 2015.

We hope you are able to attend.

Upcoming Youth & Children's Activities

Sunday 2/7: Souper Bowl Sunday. Bring your donations of money and nonperishable food to 10:45 a.m. worship. Food and funds will benefit the Food Pantry of Christian Community Action. Let's fill the wheelbarrow! Children and youth, we'll greet people at the doors, collect the donations, and present the gifts as an offering during worship.



Sunday 2/21: Potluck, dancing, and games. During the church potluck after worship, join us for dancing and games in the rooms adjacent to the Gathering Hall. We'll have Bible Taboo, Sushi Go, Uno, We Didn't Playtest This At All, and more. Bring your favorites, too!

Friday 2/26: Help prepare and serve a meal with Abraham's Tent. Tyler will provide updates by email as soon as details are finalized. Tentatively, plan to meet at First Presbyterian by 5 p.m. on Friday and be picked up no later than 8 p.m.

Date TBD: Fun in the snow after worship. Keep an eye on your inbox! If the weather is right, we will have a fun afternoon out in the snow after worship sometime in February or March. Hot cocoa and snacks will be provided in the Owens Community Building to warm up. Plan on 12 noon to 2 p.m.

Questions? Email Christian Educator Kimberley at firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com, or Youth Advisor Tyler at tyler.wadzinski@yale.edu.

A Warm Welcome

In January, some of our children, youth, and adults devoted their time and handiwork to another blanket-making mission project. Candice Gray and Youth Advisor Tyler Wadzinski led the team to produce three double-layered fleece blankets in colorful, vibrant prints. We donated our finished blankets to New Haven's Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services (IRIS). IRIS's gifts of furniture and household items not only meet practical needs, but are also tangible greetings of peace and welcome to our new neighbors. Good work, team!



Connecticut Folk Concert—Friday, February 5th

It will be the Connecticut Artists Showcase featuring Shawn Taylor & Wandering Roots and Shannon McMahon at the February “Folk Fridays” at First Presbyterian Church this Friday, February 5th. The church receives ten complimentary tickets. E-mail firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com to reserve yours.



February 21—A Share the Pot, Share the Luck, A Simple Lenten Potluck Lunch

The CLOC Committee invites you to a simple Lenten sharing meal.

Bring a pot of soup or tray of sandwiches to share with friends.

Bring nonperishable food to share with our neighbors via the CCA wheelbarrow.

Bring breakfast and/or lunch supplies for our Abraham's Tent guests (think fresh fruit, granola bars, home made cookies; consult the bulletin board).

A Not So Churchy Sunday –February 28

On the afternoon of Sunday, February 28th, all are invited to join Presbyterian Promise and the Presbytery of Southern New England's Creative Space for a new worship experience held at the First Presbyterian Church of New Haven: Not So Churchy.

Not So Churchy worship is intimate and music filled and comes from a new Brooklyn-based worshipping community comprised of adults and children, queer and straight folks from a variety of life experiences, religious backgrounds and practices. Not So Churchy is one of PC(USA)'s 1001 Worshipping Communities. For more information, go to www.notsochurchy.org and www.onethousandone.org.

Not So Churchy worship leaders include Chanda Rule, a gospel/soul singer/composer, Paul Vasile, a dynamic worship leader committed to renewing faith communities through music and liturgy, and Mieke Vandersall, a pastor committed to community-building, healing, and the arts.

Explore ways to reach and lift up those disenfranchised by the church; Encourage young people, church leaders, faith seekers, to experience worship in a different way; Engage your creative self in spiritual practice.

All are welcome!

Presbyterian Promise's Annual Meeting – 3 p.m.

Not So Churchy worship – 3:30 p.m.

Light supper – following worship

Do let us know you're coming! www.presbyterianpromise.org

For more information, contact Ralph Jones, Jane Hindenlang or Dick Hasbany.

14th Annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days April 15-18

Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace with Justice (EAD) is an annual interfaith gathering for worship and education centered on a social justice theme. The Presbyterian Church (USA) is one of the many sponsors. This year EAD will be held on April 15 (beginning at 6 pm) – April 18 (Capital Hill advocacy day) at the DoubleTree Crystal City Hotel in Arlington, VA. Early registration (until March 18) is only \$199 and rooms at the DoubleTree are only \$127 per night. Car-pooling to DC may be an option, talk to Art or Mary Hunt.

This year's theme is "Lift Every Voice! – Racism, Class and Power." Sessions will include suppression of political and economic rights, and the corporate undermining of the local voice of ordinary people in the U.S. and around the world.

The PC(USA) holds a Compassion Peace and Justice Training Day on Friday, April 15. The cost is only \$55 if you are registered for EAD.

For attendees who are interested in advocacy, EAD schedules visits for them with their Senators and Representatives on Capital Hill on Monday, April 18.

If you think you might need a few days away that are uplifting, challenging, educational and spiritual, you should attend.

Save the Date! Saturday, August 27: Children's Summer Program

Thank you to everyone who has spoken with the Christian Education Committee or responded to our survey about the possibility of Vacation Bible School. We now have a special one-day Children's Summer Program in the works, to be designed with our church children's ages and availability in mind. If you are interested in shaping this program in any way, please email Kimberley at firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com or speak with any of the CE members.

You're also welcome to meet with us at the church on Tuesday, February 2nd, between 6:30-7:30 p.m. We envision a dynamic program that will kick off our new year and serve as a welcoming event for new and visiting families, and we'd love for you to be a part of it.

Goody Bag THANK-YOU!

A BIG thank you to everyone that contributed and assembled the semester-end goodie bags for students at Yale University. As one student said when receiving it, "I know I don't show up every Sunday, but it's so nice to know that you all still think of us as part of the family." For those that didn't receive their bags following worship, they were delivered during our weekly gathering at Wall Street Pizza. Pictured in the photo are graduate students Margret Erlendsdottir, Chamilla Fenja Justesen, and Katrina Manzi.



FPCNH Communication Card Coordinator



Caring Ministry is pleased to share that Betsy Mussmann will be coordinating all of the cards we send out from FPCNH. These cards send our love and best wishes around the world! If you know of anyone you would like FPCNH to share love and support through a card, please let Betsy Mussman (bmussmann@snet.net), Beth Aura Miller (dbmiller@optonline.net), or the church office (firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com) know.

The cards will be found on the Welcome Table and available for all to sign.

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.

Jeff Miller, brother of David Miller, who continues his recovery from cancer surgery.

P. Ed Miller, father of David Miller, who is recovering from cataract surgery.

Bob Smith, Suzanne Giddings brother, who recently had knee surgery.

Allyson McKinney, who needs prayers for health and healing.

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

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

The people of Kenya, Turkey, Syria, South Sudan, Egypt, Israel and Palestine, Iraq, and
for those all around the world experiencing unrest, violence, and discord.

David Meeske, serving with the Peace Corps in Mongolia.

Andrew McCloskey, serving with the Peace Corps in Mozambique.

Christopher Woodington, serving with the Grinnell Corps in Namibia.

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

February 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>1</p> <p>4:00pm Musical Folk</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Memorial Cairn</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:30am & 10:30pm Musical Folk</p> <p>6:30 pm CE Committee</p> <p>7:15pm Mission Comm</p> <p>7:30pmCLOC Committee</p>	<p>3</p> <p>11:30 am Staff Mtg</p> <p>1:00 pm Bible Study</p> <p>5:30 pm Musical Folk</p> <p>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00am Yoga</p> <p>6:30 pm NH Comm Chorus</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:30 am Musical Folk</p> <p>7:30 p.m. CT Folk</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:00 am Yoga</p> <p>9:30 am Women's AA</p> <p>5:30 pm Columbus House Dinner</p>
<p>7</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>10:45am Worship</p> <p>12:00 p.m. Annual Congregational Meeting</p>	<p>8</p> <p>4:00pm Musical Folk</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:30am & 10:30pm Musical Folk</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:30 am Presbytery Comm Mtg</p> <p>1:00 pm Bible Study</p> <p>5:30 pm Musical Folk</p> <p>7:30 pm Ash Wed Service</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:00am Yoga</p> <p>6:30 pm NH Comm Chorus</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:30 am Musical Folk</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:00 am Yoga</p> <p>9:30 am Women's AA</p>
<p>14</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>10:45am Worship</p> <p>12:00 p.m. Friendship Hour</p>	<p>15</p> <p>4:00pm Musical Folk</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:30am & 10:30pm Musical Folk</p> <p>7:15 pm Session</p>	<p>17</p> <p>11:30 am Staff Mtg</p> <p>1:00 pm Bible Study</p> <p>5:30 pm Musical Folk</p> <p>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:00am Yoga</p> <p>6:30 pm NH Comm Chorus</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:30 am Musical Folk</p> <p>7:00 p.m. First Pres Movie Series</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:00 am Yoga</p> <p>9:30 am Women's AA</p>
<p>21</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>10:45am Worship</p> <p>12:00 p.m. Friendship Hour</p>	<p>22</p> <p>4:00pm Musical Folk</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9:30am & 10:30pm Musical Folk</p>	<p>24</p> <p>11:30 am Staff Mtg</p> <p>1:00 pm Bible Study</p> <p>5:30 pm Musical Folk</p> <p>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:00am Yoga</p> <p>6:30 pm NH Comm Chorus</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:30 am Musical Folk</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:00 am Yoga</p> <p>9:30 am Women's AA</p>
<p>28</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>10:45am Worship</p> <p>12:00 p.m. Friendship Hour</p> <p>2:00 pm Presby Promise Mtg</p>	<p>29</p> <p>4:00pm Musical Folk</p>					

March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:30am & 10:30pm Musical Folk 7:15pm Mission Committee 7:30pm CLOC Committee	2 11:30 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Musical Folk 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	3 9:00am Yoga 6:30 pm NH Comm Chorus	4 9:30 am Musical Folk 7:30 p.m. CT Folk	5 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA 5:30 pm Columbus House Dinner
6 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45am Worship 12:00 p.m. Annual Congregational Meeting	7 4:00pm Musical Folk 6:00 p.m. Memorial Cairn	8 9:30am & 10:30pm Musical Folk	9 11:30 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Musical Folk 7:00 pm Ash Wed Service	10 9:00am Yoga 6:30 pm NH Comm Chorus	11 9:30 am Musical Folk	12 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA
13 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45am Worship 12:00 p.m. Friendship Hour	14 4:00pm Musical Folk	15 9:30am & 10:30pm Musical Folk 7:15 pm Session	16 11:30 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Musical Folk 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	17 9:00am Yoga 6:30 pm NH Comm Chorus	18 9:30 am Musical Folk 6:30 p.m. First Pres Movie Series	19 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA
20 Palm Sunday 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45am Worship 12:00 p.m. Friendship Hour	21 4:00pm Musical Folk	22 9:30am & 10:30pm Musical Folk	23 11:30 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Musical Folk 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	24 9:00am Yoga 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service	25 9:30 am Musical Folk 7:00 pm Good Friday Service	26 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA
27 Easter 9:30 a.m. Potluck Breakfast 10:45am Worship 12:00 p.m. Friendship Hour	28 4:00pm Musical Folk	29	30	31		

INTERIM PASTOR: SUSAN DEE REISINGER

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: PATRICK McCRELESS

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: MARTHA SMITH

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR
CHILDREN AND YOUTH: KIMBERLEY FAIS

CAMPUS CHAPLAIN AT YALE: JACKIE SPYCHER

NURSERY CARE PROVIDER: NAOMI BRINTON

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Christian Education for all ages

9:30 a.m.

Worship

10:45 a.m.

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

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