

# The Inkling

The News of First Presbyterian Church

April 2016

## EASTERTIDE

In the church year, the period of time between Easter Day and the Day of Pentecost is sometimes referred to as Eastertide. This turn of phrase is not so popular among Presbyterians. We will talk about the 2nd to the 7th Sundays of Easter.

The 50 days between Easter and Pentecost are days for Alleluias and praise. The great Easter events cannot be contained in one day alone. So the Great Fifty Days (or Eastertide) is designed for extended celebration of Easter as well as exploring what Easter means for us, for the whole creation in the here and now. Above all, it is a time search for and welcome joy and hope. It is a time for living in and enjoying the community of the risen Christ.



Try to think of some ways to celebrate Eastertide. We are lucky to be in the northern hemisphere for Easter – so take a walk, look for signs of spring. Celebrate rebirth. This is could easily be a family event!

Or, if you are a thinker, you might try reading or even rereading a book that encourages you toward hope and faith.

Sing! Sing praises to God. Make up your own songs, sing in the shower, open your heart to the power of music to facilitate the coming of joy.

The possibilities are endless. What will you try this Eastertide?

--Pastor Susan



## Please Take the Survey!

The Congregational Study Committee is asking for your help. ALL who are associated with this church in any way are encouraged to take this survey. Many voices will give us a clearer picture. The link for the survey is: [http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/fpcnh\\_survey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/fpcnh_survey)

Should you need to stop answering questions in the middle of the survey, please remember where you left off. While you will not see that your answers have been saved, they have been. Simply begin again where you left off.

So far approximately 80 people have taken the survey. If you are among them, thank you! If you haven't done it yet, please do it by April 10th. Your voice is important to the success of our search. To make this as convenient as possible, some computers and a few paper copies will be available following worship on April 3rd.

## Congregational Study Committee Small Group Meetings

This is your opportunity to give us input that the survey may not capture. Your input is key to the success of our search process. Please sign up for a group at the Welcome table. The dates, and times, locations, dates, and hosts are:

<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Hosts</b>
Thursday, April 21, 2016 7-8 p.m.	Owens Building	Brian Gray and Mary Porterfield
Sunday April 24, 2016 3-4 p.m.	Guilford	Jean and Daniel McCloskey
Thursday, April 28, 2016 7-8 p.m.	Owens Building	Brian Gray and Mary Porterfield
Sunday, May 1 2016 12:15-1:15 p.m.	Owens Building	Jean and Daniel McCloskey
Sunday, May 1 2016 12:15-1:15 p.m.	Owens Building	Sadako Ohki and Elizabeth Williams
Sunday, May 1 2016 12:15-1:15 p.m.	Owens Building- For Children and Youth, ages 6 and up	Mary Beth Decker, Tyler Wadzinski, and Kimberley Fais
Sunday, May 1, 2016 4-5 p.m.	Owens Building	Sadako Ohki and Elizabeth Williams

## Memorial Cairn – Monday, April 4th

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.

## Property Work Day—Saturday, April 9th—9 a.m.-noon

Spring is here and we need your help to spruce up the church grounds by weeding, trimming, and spreading mulch. The Property Committee is starting to implement a landscape design plan to rejuvenate the church grounds, and we will be taking the first steps by catching up on maintenance such as trimming back overgrown vegetation. We'll also be spreading new mulch in the children's play area.

The men from EMERGE will be helping, but there is a lot to do on both the church and manse grounds. Please try to come, even if you only have an hour to spare; your help will make a difference. We will have extra tools and gloves, but if you have your own, please bring them. If you can fit your wheelbarrow in your car, that would be especially useful. Questions or need more info? Check with Property Committee members Robert Williams, Martha Smith, Ralph Jones, Pat Wales or Blake Purnell.

## Upcoming Youth & Children's Activities

Saturday 4/16-Sunday 4/17: Painting Party & Retreat. Youth ages 11-18 are invited to a lock-in from Saturday at 6 p.m. until worship on Sunday. We will provide dinner, breakfast, canvases, painting supplies, and music. RSVP by 4/10 so we can prepare enough materials. You may also opt to share your finished artwork in the church's Art Show on 4/17!

Questions? Email Christian Educator Kimberley at [firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com), or Youth Advisor Tyler at [tyler.wadzinski@yale.edu](mailto:tyler.wadzinski@yale.edu).

## **March Session Report**--Gary Cline

The March 15<sup>th</sup> Session meeting was called to order by Rev. Susan Reisinger at ~7:15 p.m. Rev. Reisinger led the session on reflections on how we experience God's presence in our lives.

The first order of business was the election of Elder Philip Phiri to serve as the President of the Board of Trustees for First Presbyterian Church of New Haven. In his capacity of the President of the Board, Philip will be authorized to investigate the refinancing of our Mortgage on the Owen Community Center. Rev. Reisinger raised the question as to what to do with the manse. The manse has significant financial obligations and could impact upon the terms in recruiting the next pastor. As the pros and cons of the various options for the manse are not straightforward, it was decided that this would best be handled by discussions within a subcommittee of persons with expertise in finance, property management and real estate.

The Christian Education Committee has decided that the best way forward is to take a sabbatical from the traditional structure for Sunday School, and to have activities for the youth revolve around social events. A confirmation class is planned for 2017.

CLOC reported on various activities including farewells to Teddy Hogle, a shortbread baking class led by Liz Copeland, Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt, Art Show in April, Pot-luck in May, Picnic in June, and the possibility of an outing to Killam's Point in July.

The Congregational Study Committee reported that the Church Survey is up and running through mid-April. Steps after that will be small group meetings, and then preparing the Report reflecting our congregation as it currently is, and what we hope for its future.

The Property Committee has plans for landscaping to improve the appearance of the grounds. Volunteer effort will be essential to its success. A workday is planned for April.

The Worship Committee presented the Communion Schedule. Session approved it. Other topics under consideration are to improve the sound system in the sanctuary, and to explore Art in the sanctuary.

Sadly, we bid farewell to Bob Frew as an active member of the Session. Although, he will no longer attend Session meetings, he generously offered to serve as an invaluable resource for us in managing the upkeep and repairs needed for our property.

The Session ended its meeting with prayer.

## **Music at FPCNH This Spring**--Pat McCreless

First, many thanks to our choir for their many contributions in Lent, Holy Week, and Easter! Their hard work and devotion enabled them to sing beautifully and movingly throughout the season.

In the coming Sundays (though the exact dates aren't fixed yet) we will have prelude music from our wonderful cellist, Rachel Daniel, whom most of us heard three times last year; and from Michael Dodds. Michael is a 2015-16 Fellow and Yale's Institute of Sacred Music, completing a book on Baroque music. He is also a violinist, composer, and conductor, who teaches at the North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem. We look forward to hearing him play some of the music that he is studying and writing about.

Another special treat this spring is that for the anthem on Sunday, May 1, the choir will present the second movement of Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, with our own Rory Latham as soloist. Rory will perform the entire work with the New Haven Symphony on the preceding Thursday, April 28, at 7:30 PM in Woolsey Hall. Make your plans now to be both at the symphony concert and at church on the following Sunday!

## **ABRAHAM'S TENT 2 or AT2**

**(a collaboration with Columbus House and AT congregations)**

AT2 is the 2nd step in our work with Columbus House, taking our efforts one step beyond Abraham's Tent to help move people into housing. Here's how it will work. It has evolved over more than a year of discussion and planning by AT2 volunteers and CH staff.

A group of volunteers known as the Housing Support Team (HST) will offer assistance to AT participants who choose to live in a Shared Housing model, where 3-4 people combine their resources in order to afford an apartment in the Greater New Haven area. In this first year, the HST will support at least one such house for 3 to 4 men or women in each. Columbus House staff will help identify people who will be eligible and will help them get "housing ready". The selected men, HST and a CH staff will identify an apartment and CH will manage negotiations with the landlord. Once the apartment is secured, the HST and other volunteers will make the apartment ready, furnishing and equipping as needed. As the men move in, the HST will set up their schedule, visiting the newly housed people to provide various forms of support, which could include cooking classes, money management, keeping a clean apartment, being good neighbors, connecting to local a congregation, and other needs as they arise. On-going training and communication with CH staff will be available to the volunteers, and CH staff will provide emergency back-up when needed. AT2 funds, contributed by AT congregations, will help support the apartment costs.

There are volunteer opportunities in the following areas:

- **Apartment readiness:** Cleaning, painting, fixing-up, getting the place ready for 3-4 people to move in.
- **Furniture collection:** With the clients, identify furniture needs and fulfill those needs through donations or purchase (mattresses in particular). Short-term storage and delivery may be required.
- **Welcome kits:** Through donations, equip the apartment with kitchen goods, cleaning supplies, bed/bath linens, etc.
- **Client support:** Want to help clients manage a household budget? Do you have cooking skills to share? Are you skilled at conflict resolution? These are key to a healthy household, and clients could use help in these areas.
- **Social integration:** The best support for people moving into housing after a period of homelessness and isolation is to get involved in the community. Take someone to the library, to church or temple, to the local coffee shop. Introduce them to ways of healthy engagement.

To volunteer for any one of these areas, please contact at [brian\\_gry@yahoo.com](mailto:brian_gry@yahoo.com) or (203) 543-1191 with your name, area of interest, contact information and the day /time/season of the year when you are most available. Your HST will create teams and identify co-captains for each area of support. That captain will contact you with further information and requests for support.

Thank you all for supporting people who are homeless through AT and now AT2.

--Brian Gray

## Calling all First Pres artists!

On Sunday, April 17th, CLOC will host an Art Show after worship. This is an opportunity to share what you have made with your First Pres family. Drawings, paintings, photography, needlework, crafts, woodwork - if you made it, we want to see it. Contact Elizabeth Gill ([elizabeth.gill@yale.edu](mailto:elizabeth.gill@yale.edu)) or Scott Funston ([sfunston66@gmail.com](mailto:sfunston66@gmail.com)) and let us know what you want to show.

## Not So Churchy in New Haven

People from as far away as Providence gathered on Sunday, February 28th, for a non-traditional, and deeply moving, worship. It was a happy afternoon at First Presbyterian Church, led by Not So Churchy's worship leaders. Not So Churchy worship includes the Word preached, communion, and joyous, moving music, all led by Paul Vasile (Paul had also led the music for our morning worship), Mieke Vandersall and Chanda Rule.

Not So Churchy is one of the PC USA's 1001 New Worshipping Communities. It is based in Brooklyn, and guided by Rev. Mieke Vandersall, who has worked for many years for full equality of LGBTQ persons in the church. Her work now focuses on outreach to people who are not drawn to the church in its traditional expressions and organization.

The time began with chocolate and coloring books for everyone and ended with discussion over a light middle eastern inspired supper. During a time of reflection, someone asked how this might work in congregations that lack the talent exhibited by Not So Churchy. One answer was that the talent is truly there; it just needs to be brought out.

Presbyterian Promise and the Presbytery of Southern New England's Creative Space brought this exciting expression of the church to New Haven, holding it up as one of the ways to reach out to the unchurched and enrich the worship and community experience of the well churchd. People from all over the presbytery responded. It was an exciting afternoon.

--Dick Hasbany

## **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 recovering at home.

For the men and women of Abrahams' Tent: Brook, John, Reggie, Johnny, Nathan, Remell, Tawana, Jessica, Dorothy, Sandra, and Daidra.

Angela Sanders, who had surgery this week.

Libby Hollingsworth, who is hospitalized with multiple health concerns.

Patricia Hart, Becky Cline's aunt, who is gravely ill.

Jeff Miller, brother of David Miller, who is recovering from surgery.

Allyson McKinney, who needs prayers for health and healing.

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.

# April 2016

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

# May 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:30 a.m. Sunday School College Goody Bags 10:45am Worship & Communion 12:00 p.m. Friendship Hour	<b>2</b> 4:00pm Musical Folk 6:00 p.m. Memorial Cairn	<b>3</b> 9:30am & 10:30pm Musical Folk	<b>4</b> 11:30 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Musical Folk	<b>5</b> 9:00am Yoga 1:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm NH Comm Chorus	<b>6</b> 9:30 am Musical Folk 7:30 p.m. CT Folk	<b>7</b> 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA 5:30 pm Columbus House Dinner
<b>8</b> 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45am Worship	<b>9</b> 4:00pm Musical Folk 6:00 p.m. Memorial Cairn	<b>10</b> 9:30am & 10:30pm Musical Folk	<b>11</b> 11:30 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Musical Folk	<b>12</b> 9:00am Yoga 1:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm NH Comm Chorus	<b>13</b> 9:30 am Musical Folk	<b>14</b> 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA
<b>15 Pentecost</b> 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45am Worship 12:00 p.m. Potluck Lunch	<b>16</b> 4:00pm Musical Folk	<b>17</b> 9:00 am- Presbytery Comm Meeting 9:30am & 10:30pm Musical Folk	<b>18</b> 11:30 am Staff Mtg 5:30 pm Musical Folk 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b> 9:00am Yoga 1:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm NH Comm Chorus	<b>20</b> 9:30 am Musical Folk	<b>21</b> 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA
<b>22</b> 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45am Worship 12:00 p.m. Friendship Hour	<b>23</b> 4:00pm Musical Folk	<b>24</b> 9:30am & 10:30pm Musical Folk 7:15 pm Session	<b>25</b> 11:30 am Staff Mtg 5:30 pm Musical Folk 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b> 9:00am Yoga 1:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm NH Comm Chorus	<b>27</b> 9:30 am Musical Folk	<b>28</b> 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA
<b>29</b> 9:30 a.m. Potluck Breakfast 10:45am Worship 12:00 p.m. Friendship Hour	<b>30</b> 4:00pm Musical Folk					

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

First Presbyterian Church

704 Whitney Avenue

New Haven, Connecticut 06511

Phone: (203) 562-5664

Fax: (203) 562-1202

Email: [firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com)

Web site: [www.fpcnh.org](http://www.fpcnh.org)

**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](http://fpcnh.org)!*