

# The Inkling

The News of First Presbyterian Church

June 2016

## QUIET SERVICES TO PUNCTUATE A BUSY SUMMER

Ah, graduation is in the past – or nearly so – and summer is on the horizon. You can almost hear the collective sigh of relief as we find a bit more time for the things we love and enjoy the lengthening of days. Yet even summer can get busy. I already have a list of large projects to get done over the summer, and perhaps you do too. Wouldn't it be nice to have some time to be quiet and prayerful with your church family?

The worship committee will be sponsoring four (4) such quiet services. These will be held on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 P.M. and will last 30-40 minutes. Although each of the services will be somewhat different in nature, there will be quiet reflection, singing, communal consideration of scripture and time for prayer in each service. The dates for these services are:

**June 22**

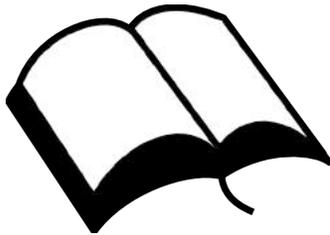
**July 13**

**August 3**

**August 24**

The Aug 24th service will be looking forward to the upcoming school year and, if the way be clear, will include the Lord's Supper.

--Pastor Susan



## Preaching Texts for Sundays in June

June 5 – I Timothy 1:1-14, Psalm 13, and Lamentations 3:19-26

June 12 – I Kings 21:1-10, Psalm 5, Luke 7:36 - 8:3

June 19 – We will move to the Miller Gathering Hall for 9:30 a.m. worship. The youth of our Church will lead the worship, Daniel McCloskey will preach

June 26 – TBA

## SUMMER PREACHING

Summertime is on the way and with it comes the summer preaching series with a number of quite talented preachers. The series begins on June 26th and runs through August 14th. The topic for this summer is "Unsung Characters of the Bible." You may hear about some obscure folks and perhaps even about some who simply have a bad reputation in some circles. Mary Theis, Steve Latham, Mary Beth Dinkler and others are preaching this summer. Come join the fun!

Pastor Susan will be taking some vacation over the summer but will be in town (and at worship) for part of the summer as well. She will be back in the pulpit beginning August 21st as we begin to gear up for a new school year, welcoming new visitors and greeting folks we haven't seen for a while.

## **Memorial Cairn – Monday, June 6th**

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.



## **Potluck Picnic –Sunday June 5th after worship.**

This is our annual end of school year and welcome-to-summer picnic. Bring a side dish or dessert to share: burgers (meat & veggie), hot dogs, condiments and drinks will be provided.

## **May Session Report**

At its May meeting, Session approved a gift for books to go to our own Jackie Spycher and to Carolyn Rolleston, both of whom graduated from YDS on May 23 with Reformed Studies certificates in addition to their degrees. CLOC noted that thirty-six goody bags and boxes had been given/sent out. We wish all our students well in their endeavours.

The Congregational Study Committee, which has met every Sunday since January, except for Easter, has so far designed and executed the survey that many of us took, has held a number of focus group meeting, has crunched the data from the survey, has interviewed non-church groups (for example, Columbus House) for their input, has begun writing the report that, after all the approvals are in, will allow us to start work on actually selecting a new pastor or pastors. Writing the report and getting it approved are now the big hurdles for the committee, but members are hoping to send it to the next meeting of Presbytery in September.

The Property Committee noted that there are some problems with our furnace that are being addressed. On a happier note, given the success of the first property workday, a second one is being planned. In addition to our normal lush crop of weeds, this year has seen an unusual profusion of young maples behind the manse, which should be dealt with.

The Worship Committee is working to develop some time-limited activities to encourage those who may not have the time or the desire to participate in traditional committees, and the Mission Committee is exploring ways to help with the refugee crisis locally other than by sponsoring a family.

-Nancy Woodington

## **Bernie and Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta visit, June 12**

Bernie and Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta, whose work in Indonesia FPCNH supports, will visit us on June 12. They will lead adult education together before church, he will preach, and there will be a light lunch (not potluck) after the service for those who are interested in talking to the couple. Several books about Indonesia, the largest Muslim country in the world, are available from the book cart, as is a copy of a newly published article by Bernie, "Traditional, Islamic and National Law in the Experience of Indonesian Muslim Women."

Come find out what Presbyterians are doing in this part of the Muslim world.

## Highlights of the Congregation Study Committee (CSC) Survey--March-April 2016

The CSC would like to thank all of the people who took the survey. In all 131 people took all or part of the survey. We understand that is an outstanding response. So thank you for taking the time and having the interest to help us in this journey to a new pastor.

That said, we need to define the demographics that informs the survey answers. Of everyone who took the survey, the majority are female (58%) and here the CSC apologizes for only having 2 categories. 50% are age 45 or older and 5% are under 25. 93% are White, 3% are Black, and 3% are Asian. 69% are married, 16% single never married, 7% widowed, and 6% divorced. 10.5% are not members of the congregation, 52% have been members for 10 or more years, and 27% have been members for 20 or more years. A very important fact is that 17% have a college degree and 77% are post-grad, or have an advanced degree. 60% have an income of \$100,000 or above per household. 44% were raised Presbyterian, 14% came to us from the Methodist Church and 14% were Roman Catholic. Members mostly consider themselves to be liberal or very liberal in religious matters, but 15% are middle of the road and 7% are conservative. While 36% of the people do not have their closest friends in the congregation, 23% have 1 or 2 and 40% have 3 or more close friends attending here.

A large section of the survey dealt with how we see our congregation: what we do well and what we need to improve. Half of the respondents feel that one of the things our church does best is to offer meaningful worship. 100% agree that our church is progressive, diverse, and welcoming. We all feel that being part of it has made a difference in our spiritual lives. 75% think that the church feels like one large family. Among the most popular reasons for attending are the minister, the style of worship and the denominational ties. In addition, one of the highest rated reasons for staying is that our friends are here.

As for things we need to change or improve, 80% of the respondents think we need to improve our outreach to new members, but few want to get involved in this effort. We need to work on advertising ourselves and our activities in the surrounding community and make sure our members also know the activities we are having. We need to strengthen our Christian education program. Parking needs some creative attention. We would like to create partnerships with other local churches and do more social justice advocacy in the community and the world. We also feel the need for a long term planning committee.

We also asked a lot of questions about participation. One surprising result was that while a few people attend church one or twice every 3 months, 12% attend once a month, 36% attend 2 to 3 times a month and 48% attend 4 or more times a month. As far as worship leadership, many have been liturgists, ushers, friendship hour hosts and choir members. 67% do not attend Bible study or book discussion groups. 65% have attended one or more social programs in the past 2 years. 64% have been involved in at least one mission activity. 63% participate in volunteer activities outside the church. By far the best day for coming to a church program is Sunday, morning and evening, followed by Wednesday evening.

Finally, let's talk about what we value in a pastor. The top 5 essential traits are preaching and worship, compassion, spiritual maturity, interpersonal engagement and strategy and vision. And the top 6 additional desired traits are teaching, organizational ability, lifelong learner, motivation, initiative, and hopeful.

We want a pastor who will preach a good sermon--challenging, thought provoking and including everyday life and issues in the community. We want someone who will hold social justice issues before the congregation, who will consider new approaches and ideas, and who will encourage lay leadership. Our new pastor will help people figure out what to do when they are troubled, who is outgoing and engaging, and who will maintain a private life. Two things that are least important to us are witness/evangelist and a community chaplain.

So, these are some of the highlights of the survey. Again, thanks to those who took time to share their views with us. The Congregational Study Committee is grateful for your help.

-Lynn Autry

# UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUTH AND CHILDREN

## End-of-the-Year Celebration

On **Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.** in the Gathering Hall, we'll share a light breakfast and celebrate the end of the Sunday school year. We will present students with personal letters and teachers with gifts of gratitude. We will also acknowledge our nursery caregivers, and Emily will once again wear her professional photographer hat to capture the morning. All are welcome to attend!

## Play & Pray – New!

A monthly small group for and by families with young children! No curriculum – just an on-going opportunity to share informal friendship and intentional community. Currently, the participating children include infants through age 7, and the age range is flexible according to interest.



Gatherings may vary from in-home meals to visits to the park. The church building is also available for the group's use. Each month's hosting family chooses their location and activity.

Keith and Sarah will host our first dinner on **Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.** Meeting dates are determined among the group via Doodle poll (online) and then announced each month in the Inking and bulletin. For more information about this or future Play & Pray events or to gain access to the scheduling polls, please email [firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com).

## Youth Group Art Night

On **Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 p.m.**, all youth ages 11-18 are welcome to Art Night. We will meet for dinner and paint masterpieces to take home or decorate the Miller Gathering Hall. We'll provide brushes, paints, and canvases. You provide the creativity!

## Nurturing Joy and Flourishing in the Midst of Adversity

Youth Advisor, Tyler Wadzinski, Director of Christian Education for Children & Youth, Kimberley Fais, and Sandra Malan-Bowles will participate in this weeklong course at Yale Divinity School's Youth Ministry Institute. 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.

## Youth & Adults to Hear Malala Yousafzai in Providence

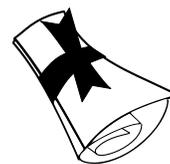
This July, youth ambassadors Riley and Molly will lead a small brigade of adults to Providence, Rhode Island to hear a speech from youth activist and Nobel winner Malala Yousafzai. If you'd like to know more about Malala Yousafzai and why some of our youth respect her as a role model in peace and justice work, check out the Young Readers' Edition of Malala's autobiography in our church library.

## **Save the Date: Sunday July 17 after Sunday Service until 6 pm.**

Killam's Point, a beautiful shoreline property owned by the First Congregational Church of Branford, (and only twenty minutes from FPCNH!) is the location where First Presbyterian Church friends are invited to spend the day picnicking (there will be a hot grill), swimming, tide pooling paddling, hiking, playing lawn games, taking a nature walk, visiting and joining together for vespers. Plan to bring: food and drinks, and something to share, your own plates and eating utensils, plus of course, your bathing suits, lawn chairs and sunscreen! Come for some of the day or for all of it. This year we are asking folks to sign up in advance to make sure we'll have a critical mass. Look for the sign up sheet on the welcome table.

## It's The Season For Graduations

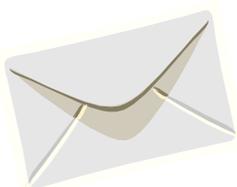
This month we celebrate our recent college and university graduates (next month we'll mention the high school graduates)!



Evanleigh Davis who graduated from Smith College with a degree in art.  
Anna Balakrisnan received a Master in Social Work from Columbia University.  
Christopher McCloskey his Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary.  
Allyson McKinney graduated with a Master of Divinity from Yale University.  
Scott Mussman graduated from Quinnipiac University with Master in Business Administration.  
Jackie Spycher graduated with a Master of Divinity from Yale University.

## BREAD FOR THE WORLD : OUR ANNUAL LETTER WRITING JUNE 19th

Each year, thousands of churches from many different faith traditions take part in Bread for the World's Offering of Letters. We will join the collective voice on Sunday, June 19th, Father's Day, following the morning worship service in the Miller Gathering Hall.



Let us work together to urge Congress to support measures that help mothers and children get the nutrition they need for healthy and active lives. This year's letters will ask Congress to support at least \$230 million for international maternal and child nutrition programs in the Department of State foreign operations appropriations bill's global health account.

Letter writing materials and addresses of our legislators will be available at the tables set up for letter writing. Folk are also encouraged to write from home, ahead of time, and bring their letters on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Sample letters will be available on June 12<sup>th</sup> at the Welcome Table for folk who prefer to write ahead of time. Last year we garnered 75 letters—a record for us.

Questions? See Brian Gray, Cressida Lui, or Nancy Rupp. Please be sure to indicate to one of these how many letters you've written (ahead of time or on June 19th), so we have an accurate count.

## **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, at Benchmark Senior Living in Hamden.

Libby Hollingsworth, who is hospitalized with multiple health concerns.

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.

# June 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> <b>11:30 am</b> Staff Mtg <b>5:30 pm</b> Musical Folk	<b>2</b> <b>9:00am</b> Yoga  <b>1:00 pm</b> Bible Study  <b>6:30 pm</b> NH Comm Chorus	<b>3</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Musical Folk	<b>4</b> <b>9:00 am</b> Yoga <b>9:30 am</b> Women's AA  <b>5:30 pm</b> Columbus House Dinner
<b>5</b> <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Sunday School Celebration <b>10:45am</b> Worship & Communion <b>12:00 p.m.</b> Potluck Picnic	<b>6</b> <b>4:00pm</b> Musical Folk <b>6:00 p.m.</b> Memorial Cairn	<b>7</b> <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Musical Folk	<b>8</b> <b>11:30 am</b> Staff Mtg <b>5:30 pm</b> Musical Folk	<b>9</b> <b>9:00am</b> Yoga  <b>1:00 pm</b> Bible Study  <b>6:30 pm</b> NH Comm Chorus	<b>10</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Musical Folk  <b>6:00 p.m.</b> Play & Pray	<b>11</b> <b>9:00 am</b> Yoga <b>9:30 am</b> Women's AA
<b>12</b> <b>9:30 a.m.</b> Mission Co-Worker Program <b>10:45am</b> Worship <b>12:00 p.m.</b> Friendship Hour/Mission Lunch	<b>13</b> <b>4:00pm</b> Musical Folk	<b>14</b> <b>9:00 am-</b> Presbytery Comm Meeting <b>10:00 am</b> Musical Folk	<b>15</b> <b>11:30 am</b> Staff Mtg <b>5:30 pm</b> Musical Folk	<b>16</b> <b>9:00am</b> Yoga  <b>1:00 pm</b> Bible Study	<b>17</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Musical Folk	<b>18</b> <b>9:00 am</b> Yoga <b>9:30 am</b> Women's AA
<b>19</b> <b>9:30 a.m.</b> Worship  <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Friendship Hour <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Letter Writing	<b>20</b> <b>4:00pm</b> Musical Folk	<b>21</b> <b>10:00am</b> Musical Folk <b>7:15 pm</b> Session	<b>22</b> <b>11:30 am</b> Staff Mtg <b>5:30 pm</b> Musical Folk <b>7:30 p.m.</b> Summer Evening Worship	<b>23</b> <b>9:00am</b> Yoga  <b>1:00 pm</b> Bible Study	<b>24</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Musical Folk	<b>25</b> <b>9:00 am</b> Yoga <b>9:30 am</b> Women's AA  <b>5:00 p.m.</b> Youth Art Night
<b>26</b> <b>9:30 a.m.</b> Worship <b>10:30 p.m.</b> Friendship Hour	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>11:30 am</b> Staff Mtg	<b>30</b> <b>9:00am</b> Yoga		

# July 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA 5:30 pm Columbus House Dinner
3 9:30 a.m. Worship & Communion 10:30 a.m. Friendship Hour	4 <b>Independence Day</b>  6:00 p.m. Memorial Cairn	5	6 11:30 am Staff Mtg	7 9:00am Yoga  1:00 pm Bible Study	8	9 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA
10 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Friendship Hour	11	12	13 11:30 am Staff Mtg	14 9:00am Yoga  1:00 pm Bible Study	15	16 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA
17 9:30 a.m. Worship  11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Killiam's Pt. Picnic	18	19	20 11:30 am Staff Mtg  7:30 p.m. Summer Evening Worship	21 9:00am Yoga  1:00 pm Bible Study	22	23 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA
24 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 p.m. Friendship Hour	25	26	27 11:30 am Staff Mtg	28 9:00am Yoga  1:00 pm Bible Study	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

NURSERY CARE PROVIDER: NAOMI BRINTON

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**Worship**

10:45 a.m. on June 5th and 12th

Beginning on June 19th Worship is at 9:30 a.m.  
(through Labor Day)

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**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)!*