

The Inkling

The News of First Presbyterian Church

July-August 2016

SABBATH

Sabbath is not a word we hear very often, except from some of our Jewish brothers and sisters. We are too busy for Sabbath, for rest or re-creation. But perhaps we are too busy NOT to observe a time of rest. Sabbath is meant to be a gift to restore us. And many of us need to be restored! When one day looks very much like the next, we end up forgetting the importance of self-care and care for family and friends.

There is a rhythm to much in our lives – the sun rises and sets, the tides come and go, we wake and we sleep. The Sabbath rest is meant to help us keep all our other rhythms in their place – it is meant to remind us that we need rest and restoration and time to be re-created.

If we don't get caught up in rules, but rather allow time for us to be re-created and to solidify our important relationships we will find we are fed, energized and even equipped for a new week of work. It might be worth a try – not just for the week(s) of vacation, but on a regular basis.

--Pastor Susan



SUMMER CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP

Our first summer worship was held on June 22nd, in the style of Taizé. A small but willing group gathered and enjoyed the quiet time together. We invite you to join us as we continue

July 13 at 7 P.M. – This service will provide a quiet time centered on a scripture having to do with justice.

August 3 at 7 P.M. – This service will be contemplative and center on a scripture passage.

August 24 at 7 P.M. – We will recognize the beginning of the school year with a thoughtful meditation and with the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

SUMMER PREACHERS

The task set for our summer preachers was to choose an unsung character. Here is what we know at this point about who is preaching and their topic.

July 3	Christopher McCloskey	Judges 4:1-9 and Luke 2:21-22, 36-29	Deborah
July 10	Bruce Gordon	2 Kings 5 and Luke 17: 11-19	the story of Naaman
July 17	Steve Latham		Paul
July 24	Michal Beth Dinkler	Acts 8	Ethiopian Eunuch
July 31	Mary Thies	Judges 11	story of Jephthah and his daughter
Aug 7	Danielle Chapman		
Aug 14	Diane Goudreau	Numbers 22:1-35 and II Peter 1:1-3, 13b-16	Balaam's Donkey
Aug 21	Susan Reisinger	Isaiah 50:4-5 and Mark 9:14-27	The Man with a Sick Son
Aug 28	Susan Reisinger	Romans 12:1-3, Exodus 1:10-20	The Jewish Midwives

PASTOR SUSAN'S VACATION

Pastor Susan will be on vacation from July 2 – 9, July 17-19 and July 25 – August 3. Please call the Elder of the Week if there is an issue with which Martha in the church office can't help. Ernie Bodenweber will be covering hospital visitation during these times.



ELDERS OF THE WEEK

June 26 – Jane Hindenlang
July 3 – Lynn Autry
July 10 – Betty Whitney
July 17 – Phillip Phiri
July 24 – Candice Gray
July 31 – Bruce Peabody
August 7 – Robert Williams
August 14 – Gary Cline
August 21 – Andrew Forsyth
August 28 – John Dinkler
September 4 - Nancy Woodington

Memorial Cairn – Monday, July 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.

June Session Report

The Session has responsibility for many important practical details of our life together at First Presbyterian, but its primary responsibilities remain to make sure that: the word of God is truly preached; the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper are rightly celebrated; and that as a community of Christ's disciples in New Haven we're challenged and nurtured. Accordingly at its June meeting, the Session: discussed the summer contemplative services; approved a baptism and Holy Communion date; and heard about the new *Play and Pray Group* for parents and young children.

During the interim time at the church, Session is charged with making sure that as a congregation we're on top of the practices and procedures that help things run properly. So far this has included updating our roll of members and putting together a manual of operations. (This is not glamorous work, but it's necessary to make sure that everything is done "decently and in order.") Session's personnel committee, together with a liaison from Presbytery, met with Pastor Susan for a review discussion of her work with us. Session was pleased to thank Susan for all that she's done to date. Both Susan and Session urge you to speak with her with any compliments or concerns as she continues her ministry with us!

Session also received an update from the Congregational Study Committee. It continues to meet weekly to write and edit the report that will form the basis for our pastor search. The Session hopes to approve this report in August and to send it to Presbytery's September meeting for final approval.

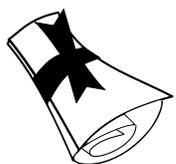
--Elder Andrew Forsyth

Congregational Study Committee June Update

The CSC is continuing to meet regardless of holidays and vacations. Most of the Study Report has been written at least in draft form and we are reviewing it section by section, modifying and commenting as needed. We are hoping to have a few of our members working soon to pull all the parts into a cohesive whole. Once that has been accomplished, we will present it to the Session for approval. It is possible this will happen by the end of August.



Please be assured that we are all working hard and continually to accomplish this task as well and as soon as we can. If you have questions, Lynn Autry and Dick Hasbany are the co-chairs and will be happy to talk to you.



Graduations and New Challenges

Congratulations to our recent High School Graduates, who are soon moving on to exciting new college challenges. We're so proud of you!

Rowyn Davis graduated from New Haven Co-op High School. In September Rowyn will be attending the American University in Paris. This is a small, four-year liberal arts college located right near the Eiffel Tower.

Kirsten Duncan graduated from Daniel Hand High School in Madison, CT. Kirsten will attend Ohio University in the Fall in the Patton College of Education to study towards a B.S. in Early Childhood Education (she wants to be a teacher !)

Charlotte Gordon graduated from Emma Willard School in Troy, New York. In the fall, she will study Humanities at the University of Toronto as a member of Trinity College, and currently has a particular interest in Ethics and German.

Sophie Latham graduated from Choate Rosemary Hall and will be moving just about a mile downtown to attend Yale College in the fall.

Daniel McCloskey graduated from Guilford High School and will be attending the University of Connecticut.

Alex Rupp-Coppi graduated from Choate Rosemary Hall and will be studying at Columbia University in September.

A Day of Fun, Fellowship and Rejuvenation at Killam's Point in Branford

Sunday July 17 after Sunday Service until 6 pm.



Killam's Point, an ecological treasure owned by the First Congregational Church of Branford, (and only twenty minutes from FPCNH!), has healthy forests, secluded beaches, wide salt marshes, granite bluffs and a fascinating array of flora and fauna. It is one of the largest, privately-owned undeveloped tracts on Long Island Sound. 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. 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. Check with Beth Aura Miller or Candice Gray if you have any questions.

Upcoming Events For Youth And Children (and for those who care for them)

Teacher Training

Whether you're a seasoned teacher or looking forward to your first year as a volunteer, we're ready to equip you and help you hone your skills.

Or—are you not a volunteer with us, but just curious about what it means to work with children and youth at FPC? Would some of our training prepare you for other roles elsewhere in your life? These events will be open to non-teachers with the advance permission of the CE Director. Appropriate for adults of all ages and youth ages 14+.



CRASH COURSE FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Sunday, July 31st, 11 a.m.-12 noon

This is an everything-you-MOST-need-to-know session held immediately after worship. We will draw from the most essential training topics mentioned below.

BOUNDARIES 101: WHAT LEADERS NEED TO KNOW

Sunday, August 28th, 11 a.m.-12 noon

Boundary training is mandatory for anyone working with children or youth at FPC. If you cannot make it to at least one of our two sessions (August 28th and September 11th) please notify the CE Director. This session will prepare teachers to make the most of the second session, which will be student-inclusive, as well as address some of the additional responsibilities of being a leader or teacher.

RALLY DAY / BOUNDARIES 201: NAVIGATING BOUNDARIES TOGETHER

Sunday, September 11, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

This session will be specially designed for inter-generational participants ages 3-adult, with plenty of opportunities for interactive learning and creativity. Children ages 3-5 must be accompanied by their parent or guardian this time, but may attend Sunday School without them going forward.

We will talk about how friends, family, neighbors, students, and teachers have personal boundaries in all different situations, from deciding whether we would like to share hugs to choosing the name we prefer to be called. Learning to communicate more effectively and respect others' boundaries can help us in each and every social context, even beyond our church's groups and classrooms.

All youth and children registering for Sunday School, Children in Worship, and Youth Group must complete this training or an alternative session before participating in these programs. If you cannot attend on September 11th, please make arrangements with the CE Director.

Training sessions on the following topics will be placed on the calendar in the coming year. Several topics may be grouped together in the interest of time and participants' convenience.

Leaders' Self-Care & Supervision
Classroom & Time Management
Fielding Student Questions
Curriculum & Lesson Prep
Teaching Skills Beyond Content
Games 101: Icebreakers & Just for Fun

Games 201: Adapting Games for Bible Ed
Resourcing Your Lessons
Student-Led Activities
Prayer, Ritual, & Spiritual Disciplines
Letter-Writing Workshop: Writing to Youth & Children

Play & Pray

All Play & Pray events, offered on a flexible monthly schedule, are open to infants through children age 8 (-ish), their families, and expectant parents.

Join the families of our youngest worshipers for monthly home visits, meals, and days in the park. This gathering functions as an open small group—a network of parents raising their children together and building intentional community within and beyond FPC. Each month, a different hosting family chooses the activity and location for their event. Email firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com for more information, or speak to the following hosts of our upcoming events.



June Hosts: Cassy and Forrest Gulden

July Hosts: John and Michal Beth Dinkler

Summer break for our Choir

The summer is a time when our choir can take a well-deserved rest—except, of course, for all those who volunteer to sing solos for us during these months! We should take a moment to thank them for sharing their talents so faithfully, September through mid-June, every year. Preparing music for every week, and special music for the major celebrations of the church year, requires time, discipline, and commitment, as well as musical gifts—all of which make possible the meaningful music that the choir offers for our worship services.

We always welcome new voices in the choir, so, as you come to church over the summer months, think about whether you'd like to join us. Like our congregation as a whole, the choir has a strong core membership, but members do retire, and student members do sing for a few years and then move on, so we always need to bring new singers aboard. We hope you see that the choir is a lovely community within a larger lovely community, and that singing together is challenging, fun, and rewarding for all. It's an art, a communal endeavor, and a spiritual discipline, all wrapped into one. If you have a desire to join us, or you hear someone in the congregation this summer who you think would enjoy singing with us, by all means introduce him or her to a choir member, or to Pat McCreless.

Hear about Life in Mongolia—August 14th

David Meeske, one of our members who has spent the last three years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Mongolia, will give a presentation about Mongolia and his experiences there after church on August 14th. For two years David was the sole Westerner in a remote Mongolian village, living in a *ger*, or yurt, drawing his own water from a well, lighting his own fires, and enjoying all the benefits of no running water, intermittent electricity, and nonexistent Internet. He taught English to students aged 10 to 17 at the local school and was fortunate to be sharing a compound with a very caring family.

For his third year, he lived in the city of Erdenet in central Mongolia, working at local branch of the United Nations Population Fund as a social worker. While there he worked with orphans in a local orphanage, laid the foundations for greater programming for children with disabilities, and taught English from time to time to various community groups. He also served as the Peace Corps Volunteer Leader, providing liaison between volunteers in the field and the permanent staff in Mongolia's capital, Ulaanbaatar.

In September he heads to Turkey to teach at Yıldırım Beyazıt University in Ankara on a Fulbright fellowship. This is David's first trip home since May 2013; be sure to welcome him.

BREAD FOR THE WORLD : OUR 2016 LETTER WRITING



Thanks to everyone who wrote letters after morning worship on June 19th in support of US legislation to fund and, in some cases, make permanent effective support for child and maternal food and nutrition programs, both in the USA and globally. We wrote at least 66 letters all together, 20 to Senator Richard Blumenthal, 22 to Senator Chris Murphy, 20 to Representative Rosa DeLauro, and 4 to Representative Jim Himes. These letters have all been delivered and will inform our legislators when they return from the Fourth of July recess to a busy session.

The Peace and Justice Action Group recommends two books for your summer reading.

We plan to schedule times to discuss both books in the fall.

Writing My Wrongs, by Shaka Senghor

Recently Dan Jusino, the Executive Director at EmergeCT shared *Writing My Wrongs* with some of the folks who volunteer as tutors. It's worth reading. Senghor is a terrific writer? The book, helps us understand the people most troubled in our society. He goes places neither Michelle Alexander (*The New Jim Crow*) nor Alice Goffman (*On The Run*) can -- he spent 19 years in prison. And he ends in a hopeful place. The EmergeCT tutors encounter much of what he describes - both the challenges they are facing and the supports they need to more on - as we meet with the folks at Emerge.

From the dust cover:

"In 1991, Shaka Senghor was sent to prison for second-degree murder. Today, he lectures at many universities, is a leading voice on criminal justice reform, and an inspiration to thousands.

Shaka Senghor was raised in a middle class neighborhood on Detroit's east side during the height of the 1980s crack epidemic. An honor roll student and a natural leader, he dreamed of becoming a doctor--but at age 11, his parents' marriage began to unravel and the beatings from his mother worsened, sending him on a downward spiral that saw him run away from home, turn to drug dealing to survive, and end up in prison for murder at the age of 19, fuming with anger and despair.

Writing My Wrongs is a redemption story told through a stunningly human portrait of what it's like to grow up in the gravitational pull of poverty, violence, fear, and hopelessness.

Faithful Resistance: Gospel Visions For The Church In A Time Of Empire by Rick Ufford Chase.

Rick is a dear Friend of First Pres, a past Moderator and the leader of both Presbyterian Peace Fellowship and Stony Pint Center. He and the contributing writers are writing on how to transform the Church.

From the Introduction: The Presbyterian Church (USA) has less than half the membership that our predecessor denominations had when my father took his first call at First Presbyterian Church in York, Pennsylvania in 1968, the last year Presbyterians experienced numerical growth as a national church. In spite of our best intentions, and the faithful witness of African American, Latino, Korean and many new immigrant churches, the reality of the Presbyterian Church in the United States is shared by most of our sister, Protestant denominations. We are overwhelmingly white, both culturally and demographically. We are aging fast, and the next generation shows little interest in rescuing our institution for its own sake. Many of those who once could be found in our pews on Sunday morning have opted out. We have built an elegant corporate church structure for the church of yesterday that no longer effectively serves the church of today, and actually impedes our ability to create the church of tomorrow. Our functions of providing a sense of shared identity and connecting us for a common mission seem almost trivial in the face of a world now dominated by the internet, social media, and the ability to connect with others with shared interests around the world at the push of a button or the upload of a photo or video.

Our Welcome Table at First Presbyterian Church

by Sadako Ohki



The Congregational Life and Outreach Committee (CLOC) established the **Welcome Table** at the First Presbyterian Church in New Haven (FPCNH) in 2007 to support the Evangelical work and our community life of our congregation. The Welcome Table Greeters/Volunteers provide a central point of welcome and invitation to our community life and encourage, promote, and make connections in the life of our congregation and beyond.

The most important mission is to welcome people particularly new members and visitors. We know how much a welcoming smile means to new visitors when they step into the door of a church for the first time. Sadako shares, "I remember how much I learned by just watching what our previous Co-Pastor Maria La Sala used to do. There is no way I can memorize newcomers' names like she did for sure, but she went right to the person who just walked in with shining eyes and a genuine smile of welcome. I write new comers' names on a piece of paper right away so that I do not forget to report to the pastor/s and appropriate members of the church to make them feel comfortable and connect them to the people at this church."

Our Welcome Table is Over Flowing with information

Evangelical work:

1. Information about FPCNH's mission and current activities
2. Relevant activities of PCUSA as well as other local, national, and global organizations
3. PCUSA Mission Yearbooks and newsletters
4. Updates about individual PCUSA mission workers
5. News about relevant religious, social Justice, and community activities.

Congregational communications:

1. Printed version of Inkling (FPCNH monthly newsletter)
2. New Membership Directory for 2016
3. Stewardship envelopes
4. Information on special worships, concerts, lectures, films, church picnics, and others.

Sign-up sheets for:

Monthly Columbus House participation: Every first Saturday of the month FPCNH members cook meals for the homeless shelter; Pat Wales has been in charge of this program for many years.

Two ushers for each Sunday: The newly revised instruction will be sent to new volunteers. Come half an hour early before the service and stay for ten minutes to tidy up the sanctuary.

Friendship Hour volunteers each Sunday after worship: CLOC members will help if you are new. Contact Candace Gray or Jennifer Ballew.

Our Community Connections with Cards - Coordinated by Betsy Mussman

1. Thanking missionaries around the world.
2. Note of encouragement for those who are sick and unable to worship with us.
3. Congratulations on graduates and other good news in the Congregation.

Church Library:

Next to the Welcome Table is a portable book shelf for church library books. You may check out a book by signing the name and the date of the loan and the return.

Welcome Table Volunteers:

We have 10 Greeters/Volunteers that rotate in supporting the Welcome Table throughout the year. They arrive a half an hour early before the worship service at 10:45 AM. During the summer worship from mid-June through August starting at 9:30, there is no regular duty, but we have a table available to our church family of relevant information.

Currently a team of two people who are assigned for each week in the month.

Week 1: Cressida Lui (Coordinator) and we are looking for one more **person to Greet/volunteer**;

Week 2: Sadako Ohki and Jim Whitney;

Week 3: Dick Hasbany and Paula Burkhard;

Week 4: Anita Shaffer and Linda and Steve Burian;

Week 5: Pat Wales and Lynn Autry.

Our Welcoming Community depends on all of us to greet new and regular members of our FPC Family with a smile. If you are so moved to join our Welcoming Team, please contact Cressida Lui, our Coordinator. Stop by the Welcome Table to chat, better yet to sign up!



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 receiving hospice care at her home in Mississippi.

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

Prayers for those whose lives have been shattered by gun violence.

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.

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 Christopher McCloskey preaching 10:30 a.m. Friendship Hour	4 Independence Day 6:00 p.m. Memorial Cairn	5	6	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, Bruce Gordon preaching 10:30 a.m. Friendship Hour	11	12	13 7:00 p.m. Summer Evening Worship	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, Steve Latham preaching 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Killiam's Pt. Picnic	18	19	20	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, Michal Beth Dinkler preaching 10:30 p.m. Friendship Hour	25	26	27	28 9:00am Yoga 1:00 pm Bible Study	29	30 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA
31 9:30 a.m. Worship, Mary Thies preaching 10:30 p.m. Friendship Hour 11:00 a.m. Sunday School teacher training			10			

August 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:00 p.m. Memorial Cairn	2	3 7:00 p.m. Summer Evening Worship	4	5	6 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA 5:30 pm Columbus House Dinner
7 9:30 a.m. Worship & Communion, Danielle Chapman preaching 10:30 a.m. Friendship Hour	8	9	10	11 9:00am Yoga 1:00 pm Bible Study	12	13 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA
14 9:30 a.m. Worship, Diane Goudreau preaching 10:30 a.m. Friendship Hour 10:45 a.m. Mongolia talk	15	16 7:15 p.m. Session	17	18 9:00am Yoga 1:00 pm Bible Study	19	20 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA
21 9:30 a.m. Worship, Susan Reisinger preaching 10:30 a.m. Friendship Hour	22	23	24 7:00 p.m. Summer Evening Worship	25 9:00am Yoga 1:00 pm Bible Study	26	27 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA
28 9:30 a.m. Worship, Susan Reisinger preaching 10:30 p.m. Friendship Hour 11:00 a.m. Boundary Training for teachers	29	30	31			

INTERIM PASTOR: SUSAN DEE REISINGER

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: PATRICK McCRELESS

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: MARTHA SMITH

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR
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NURSERY CARE PROVIDER: NAOMI BRINTON

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Worship

Summer 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!