

The Inkling

The News of First Presbyterian Church

September 2016

TAKE A DEEP BREATH

I was facing a new undertaking, something that would stretch my abilities and knowledge. Someone, perhaps my mother, told me to take a deep breath and dive right in. I didn't know it until later, but that was my introduction to breath prayer.

Robert William Service's poem *Breath is Enough* begins this way:

*I draw sweet air
Deeply and long,
As pure as prayer,
As sweet as song*

Breath prayer is to draw a conscious breath – a breath as pure as prayer. It is to take a minute pause before we begin, or when we are stuck, or after we have ended a great endeavor. Each breath IS a prayer – we often don't recognize it. But when we take a deep breath, when we sigh – letting out our breath, we are speaking the language of the great Breath. For it is the Spirit of God who gives us each breath.



So as the school year begins, as new endeavors get underway, as life goes on from day to day, take a deep breath. Let the wind of the Spirit move in you as prayer, as song, as wisdom as courage. Walk into the day with a prayer and a song and a hope.

WORSHIP REMINDER

We will continue to worship in the Owens building at 9:30 through Sunday September 4, 2016. For Rally Day on Sept. 11th we will move back to the sanctuary and the service will be at 10:45 a.m.

PREACHING TEXTS for September

Sunday September 4, 2016 – Texts for the day are: Luke 14:25-33 and Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Sunday September 11, 2016 – Rally Day – First Day back in the Sanctuary
Texts for the day are: Deuteronomy 6:1-9, Psalm 146 and Mark 12:28-34

Sunday September 18, 2016 --
Texts for the day are: Jeremiah 8:18-19:1, Psalm 79:1-9, Luke 16:1-13

Sunday September 25, 2016
Guest Preacher: Rick Ufford Chase

Mid-Week Bible Study Resumes on September 15th

Come, bring your Bible, bag lunch and preview Sunday's scripture readings with Pastor Susan. We meet on Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Miller Hall.

AN INVITATION

First Presbyterian Church members and friends have been invited to a Community Foundation for Greater New Haven "Convening", to be held on Thursday, September 8th from 4-6 pm at the Omni New Haven Hotel. This gathering will recognize the important work that EMERGE CT is doing for the people of New Haven, and we understand our FPCNH tutors will also be recognized. In addition, Shaka Senghor, the keynote speaker, brings important experience and insight to issues of incarceration. We will be using his book, Writing My Wrongs, in Sunday morning adult ed later this month.

This will be an exciting event for FPCNH and for the New Haven community. We've heard that the Mayor and other electeds are expected. This is one of those "be there" events!

Please note: you *must* RSVP by **Friday, September 2nd** to the Community Foundation at www.cfgnh.org/convening

Memorial Cairn-Monday, September 5th

Art and Mary Hunt will be leading the short Memorial Cairn service at the New Haven War Memorial (at the intersection of Broadway, Elm and Park streets) on Monday, Sept 5 at 6 p.m. Please join them to remember the lives lost in the Iraq and Afghan wars.



CHURCH PICNIC – Sunday, September 11th:

Join us on Sunday, September 11th for our Rally Day church picnic immediately following the 10:45 a.m. service. Hot dogs, burgers and veggie burgers, along with condiments, chips, water, soda and coffee, will be ready for you to enjoy. Please bring a family size salad / side dish or desert to share.

Would You Like To Donate Flowers On Communion Sundays?

*Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
let the field exult, and everything in it.
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy.*

Psalm 96:11-12

Sanctuary flowers were on the agenda of the Worship Committee in August. We'd really like to have flowers back on a regular basis, above all on Communion Sundays.

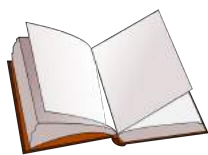
Would you consider donating flowers? If your offering marks a specific event, it will give the congregation a chance to rejoice or celebrate with you, or to join you in mourning or commemoration.

It's easy to do. Put your name on the flower list on the Welcome Table, get a check to the church for what you can afford up to \$50, and email the church a note of how you would like the donation to be recorded in the Bulletin.

We are working with "Flowers from the Farm" in Hamden to provide these flowers at the cost of \$50 per Sunday, and they will bill the church directly. In September the Worship Committee will be responsible for the flowers.



Adult Education Classes on Faithful Resistance and Writings My Wrongs



The discussion of our two summer reading recommendations will take place during four consecutive adult education classes beginning on September 25. Please plan to attend these informative and thought provoking discussions even if you have not had a chance to read the books. Copies of the two books - Writing My Wrongs, by Shaka Senghor and Faithful Resistance: Gospel Visions For The Church In A Time Of Empire by Rick Ufford Chase are available on the Welcome Table.

On September 25 and October 2, we will discuss the lessons in Faithful Resistance. Rick Ufford Chase will lead the discussion on September 25.

On October 9 and October 16, we will discuss the lessons in Writing My Wrongs. Dan Jusino, Executive Director of Emerge CT will participate on October 9 and October 16. You can hear Shaka Senghor, the author of Writing my Wrongs, speak in New Haven on September 8th if you RSVP by Sept 2 to www.cfgnh.org/convening Please mark your calendars.

SESSION ACTIVITIES:

While August is traditionally the final month of summer relaxation before hectic schedules begin, FPCNH's Session returned to business on Tuesday, August 16th with a full agenda.

Member statistics were reviewed and the Baptism of Davis Barr Williams, son of Elizabeth and Robert Williams was acknowledged.

Session VOTED to accept the FPCNH Mission Statement for 2016–2017:

First Presbyterian Church is a worshipping community of progressive Christian believers in the greater New Haven region. We are a broadly diverse and welcoming congregation, and include people from the city of New Haven and many of the surrounding towns, as well as many from the university communities.

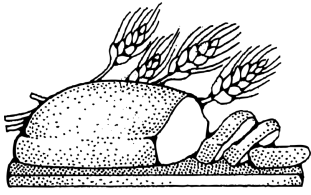
We gather on Sunday morning to worship God, and throughout the week to be about the work of God in the world. We are a part of the Reformed tradition, which means that we value the Word of God in Scripture, and as we understand it in the midst of today's world. In the Word of God read and proclaimed, in music which stirs the soul, in the nurture of children and adults alike, we seek to serve God together.

We also voted to accept the Congregational Study Committee's Report, with minor amendments. The Session unanimously expressed great gratitude to the committee for their time, efforts and dedication throughout the past six months.

Other business included discussion of employees contracts, up coming events, Nominating Committee's search for new Session members, the purchased of the new refrigerator in the Miller Gathering Hall (THANK YOU DAVID MILLER!!!), the upcoming Stewardship Campaign, Elm City Girls Choir (September 25th), and the success of this summer's preaching theme "Little-Known Characters of the Bible".

Session closed with prayer for guidance and strength as we move forward in the 2016-2017 church year.

--Elder Candice Gray



ARE YOU WILLING TO BAKE BREAD?

Looking ahead to World Communion Sunday

Do you bake bread from Scotland? Do you know how to make pita? Lend us your skills for World Communion Sunday on October 2nd. We would love to have bread from around the world that day. If you can help out, please email Pastor Susan at pastorsusan@fpcnh.org.

We could also use some scarves and cloths from other countries to help decorate the sanctuary. If you have something you are willing to share for the day, let Pastor Susan know at the email above, or bring it in one Sunday before October 2nd.

Come Sing With the Choir!



Having enjoyed the singing of splendid soloists all summer, we now are approaching the beginning of the fall season, and thus the beginning of the choir year. The choir is an integral part of our community, and we always welcome new singers.

We sing at the 10:45 service from the second Sunday of September through the second Sunday of June every year. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at 7:00, and/or Sunday mornings at 9:30. If you are new to the church and are thinking about joining us, ask around you to find a choir member, or e-mail patrick.mccreless@yale.edu. It's a lot of fun to contribute musically to our worship services and we sing a wide variety of music styles.

Our first rehearsal will be held on Wednesday, September 7th at 7:00 p.m., to welcome new and old back, rehearse for Rally Day Sunday, and take a quick look at the fall and Christmas music. If you can't come to the Wednesday rehearsals, you can come to the 9:30 a.m. Sunday rehearsals only. Come join us and get the choir year off to a good start!

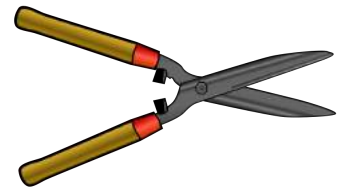
--Patrick McCreless

A Gift In Memory of Jim Tenney

Those who come to church this Sunday, September 4th—our last summer worship in the Miller Building--you'll see and hear something surprising and wonderful: a grand piano! Debbie Tenney has generously donated to the church her August Förster German piano, which is 25 years old, and in perfect condition. She is giving the piano in memory of her husband Jim, who devoted many years of service to the church as a bass in our choir. Come to our worship service this Sunday, and hear the new piano in its new home!

Property Day Cleanup—Sunday, Sept 18

Our church property could use a couple of hours of your help to spruce up the outdoor grounds after the summer heat. Plan to stay for an hour or two after worship on Sunday, September 18th to help. A sign-up sheet is on the Welcome Table.



Here are a few of the places that need our attention.

- The children's play area will be an even more fun place for play if we pull the weeds and spread new mulch.
- Our buildings' exteriors have clean lines; removing weeds from the gravel areas really improves the whole buildings' appearance.
- Shrubs were pruned in the spring, markedly improving the property's appearance. But they could use some touch up pruning.
- Norway Maple seedlings are growing into saplings along the property edges and need to be cut back or pulled.
- Our lawn has some bare spots that need compost and reseeded.
- A native plant & butterfly garden is underway next to the parking area. A few drought tolerant plants were planted this summer and most of them survived the dry weather! The Forsythia needs to be cut back, weeds pulled and a few new perennials planted.

The Property Committee envisions a rejuvenated church property, cutting out some of the old, tired plantings and replanting with more native plants. Part of this long term effort began last year with a preliminary landscape plan. It will not be finalized until after the new pastor is hired and manse projects resolved. If you want to take a look at the initial suggestions, the preliminary plan is posted on the Bulletin Board in the Miller Hall.

The landscape architect noted that keeping up with the weeding and pruning were probably the biggest projects. We're not ready to undertake expensive changes at this time, but with our own labor (and help from EMERGE), we can make the most of what we have.

For more information, contact Property Committee Chair, Robert Williams.



Christian Education (CE)—A New Year With New Programs!

Sunday School for Ages 3-18

Registration forms are available at the Welcome Table.

Our Rally Day celebration is Sunday, September 11th from 9:30-10:30 a.m. We will meet in the Owens Community Building. Come share in a light breakfast, meet our teachers and students, and participate in a communication workshop to begin our year by learning plenty of practical, concrete ways we can respect each other.

The full 2016-2017 year of Sunday school consists of three blocks, during which time we meet in our usual age-level classes. We are off from CE over the summer and for three Sundays at Christmas and New Year's to observe Sabbath and devote ourselves more fully to worship. During the rest of the off-season weeks, we celebrate God as a creative and collaborative community with inter-generational events and special projects.

Blocks (Age-Level Classes)

Block 1: September 18th – October 30th

Block 2: January 15th – February 26th

Block 3: April 23rd – May 28th

Ages 3-5: Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the first classroom just past the Library on the north end of the Sanctuary Building.

Teachers: Sandra Malan-Bowles and Cassy Gulden.

Ages 6-10: Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the middle classroom on the north end of the Sanctuary Building. Teachers: Sophie House and Lynn Autry.

Ages 11-18: Meet at 11 a.m. in the classroom at the end of the hall on the north end of the Sanctuary Building.

Teachers: Kathy Rupp and Jenn Ballew. During the 9:30 a.m. hour, youth ages 11-18 are welcome to attend the Adult class in the Miller Gathering Hall, whether you are already confirmed or still discerning whether you wish to make your confirmation. Interested youth may also seek permission in advance to assist in one of the two younger classes or in the nursery.

Inter-generational CE Days (All Ages Together)

Vacation Bible School: August 27th

Rally Day: September 11th

Advent/Thanksgiving: November 27th

Palm Sunday: April 9th

Closing Celebration: June 4th

Special Projects (According to Interest)

Prep for Youth Service & Children's Play: November 6th – December 18th

Youth Service & Children's Play: December 18th

Prep for Easter Play/Breakfast: March 5th – April 2nd

Easter Play/Breakfast: April 16th

New: Intro to Worship Music

Our Intro to Worship Music class is open to all ages from infant to adult. The group does not rehearse for performance purposes – only for congregational singing. This is a helpful introduction for adults, youth, and children who would like to learn more about how to sing from the sheet music of a hymnal and follow along with lyrics in a bulletin, or simply to familiarize themselves with the tunes to be sung in worship that day. The class meets in the sanctuary from 10:30 – 10:45 a.m. on most Sundays from September to June, under the leadership of John Dinkler, beginning September 11th.



Youth Group for Ages 11-18

Can we count you in for **Seconds**? We will meet for lunch after worship on the second Sunday of every month from September to June. We celebrate the sacrament of Communion as a congregation on first Sundays here at First, so second Sundays are a chance for youth to share in a more informal table fellowship. Please sign up at the Welcome Table or by email to firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com to help us in our planning.

All other trips, workshops, service projects, and events will be announced in advance in the worship bulletins and *The Inkling*. You may also let us know if you'd like to join our email list.

Under the leadership of Tyler Wadzinski, our Youth Group's gatherings encourage healthy and safe church relationships essential to the spiritual lives of our pre-teens and teenagers. Whether we are apple-picking, playing games, or sharing a meal, we seek to connect to one another as children of God, across grades, niches, and cliques. By participating in service projects in New Haven and beyond, we make sense of how our faith shapes our daily lives and connects us to the needs and strengths of our city and our world. We will gather together for the first time during the Rally Day picnic.

Confirmation

A semester of confirmation class is available upon request for interested youth ages 13-18. The class invites these young people to learn more about Christian faith and the Presbyterian Church tradition as they seek to confirm their baptism or to be baptized into church membership. The class, when offered, meets weekly over dinner for conversation and study. Participants are asked to read a scripture lesson in worship on one week and to offer a personal reflection on the passage. In addition, each confirmand writes their own statement of faith to present to the Session upon their desire to be confirmed. The class is confirmed during a worship service which includes a special prayer and the bestowing of a stole.

The Nursery is open throughout the morning from 9 a.m. to noon. Our professional caregivers, Naomi Brinton and Emily Landino, welcome infants, toddlers, and young children at any time during the morning.

We do not adhere quite as strictly to age groups and grade levels as a school system might.

We trust children and their families to help us gauge the child's readiness to move on from one stage to the next — not by aptitude but by their own comfort with a given group's space, pace, content, and leadership. Many children naturally sense the fluidity of finding their place(s) in this community, and we want to assure our visitors and new members that this is something our Christian Education leaders intentionally support.



Teacher Training Opportunity

On Sunday, September 18th we will meet from 12-1 p.m. on the topic of "Curriculum Prep & Resourcing Your Lessons." You'll find us with Kimberley Fais in the Community Building. Send your questions to firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com in advance and we may address them during the session. This is an optional training session designed with Sunday school teachers in mind and open to all others who are interested.

The Bible: The Queerest Book I Ever Read - A Workshop with Poet and Educator J Mase III

On Sunday, September 25th, poet and educator J Mase III will facilitate a workshop from 1-4 p.m. Come learn about trans/queerness in scripture across the Abrahamic traditions. Pick up some tools for organizing with secular groups and creating safe(r) spaces for trans/queer folks within faith communities. This workshop comes to us shortly before an October visit from a local group for LGBTQ+ youth in New Haven called Youth Kickback. The event is open to the local community.

GOOD NEWS! OUR BREAD FOR THE WORLD LETTER WRITING HAS SUCCESS!

This past June members of our congregation wrote and sent to our legislators 72 letters as part of Bread for the World's campaign to help end hunger at home and abroad.

CONGRESS TAKES ACTION. THEN OBAMA SIGNS BILL INTO LAW: THE GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY ACT OF 2016:

One of the bills we wrote about, S 1252 known as the Global Food Security Act of 2016, had already passed the US House of Representatives in April by a vote of 370-33

About two weeks after we wrote our legislators, on July 6 this same legislation, S 1252, came to the floor of the US Senate. The bill passed on a voice vote, without amendment. (Quite amazing, given the discord in Washington of late!)

Bread for the World staff and advocates like us were a major factor in gaining Congressional support for this bill. All together, the Global Food Security Act of 2016 (S 1252) had 130 co-sponsors in the House and Senate.

President Obama signed the legislation into law on July 20th. He released the following statement when he signed the bill:

Seven years ago, just a few months into my presidency, I came together with counterparts from some of the world's most powerful nations and committed to improving the lives of rural poor people around the globe through investments in more productive agriculture and better nutrition. Today, I'm proud to see that Congress has passed S 1252, The Global Food Security Act of 2016, an overwhelmingly bipartisan piece of legislation that will put Feed the Future, our global hunger and food security act, into law.

I know that with the continued effort and support that this legislation provides, we can achieve what was just a few years ago the unimaginable: We can end global poverty and hunger within our lifetimes.

THE IMPROVING CHILD NUTRITION AND EDUCATION ACT OF 2016

The second piece of legislation that we wrote about, HR 5003, called The Improving Child Nutrition and Education Act of 2016, would make it more difficult for hungry American children to access nutritious meals both during the school year and during the summer months. We asked that this bill not come out of committee to the House floor, because, in spite of its appealing title, it is unhelpful legislation that places new barriers to many needy Americans as they try to access meals. So far, the bill is still among the 75% of legislation that never comes up for a vote.

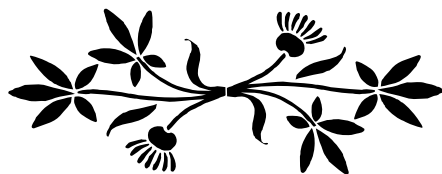
Together our letters and those from many like-minded people from all over the United States enabled our often contentious representatives and senators to come together (1) to pass important legislation that helps nourish people at home and around the world and (2) to block legislation that would disadvantage many needy American children and families.

We can be thankful that we helped make a difference!

--Nancy Rupp, Mission Committee

A few more dates ahead on the church calendar:

- Sunday, September 25, 2016—Elm City Girls Choir will sing during worship.
- Saturday, October 1, 2016, 3:00 p.m. – Christopher McCloskey ordination
- Thursday, Dec 22, 2016, 5:00 p.m.--Libby Hollingsworth memorial service
- Monday January 16- Monday January 23, 2017.--First Presbyterian will be hosting Abraham's Tent in our Owens' Building. Watch the Inkling and Bulletin in the coming months. Questions and /to serve on Organizing Committee, Contact Brian Gray brian_gry@yahoo.com.



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.

Gretchen Sherman (Bonnie's daughter), who is recovering from hip replacement surgery.

Jesse Cooper, who is recovering from spinal surgery.

Joan Wells, who is undergoing chemotherapy.

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

Prayers for those whose lives have been shattered by natural disaster, war or famine.

Prayers for all refugees, that they may find a home.

Andrew McCloskey, serving with the Peace Corps in Mozambique.

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 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA 5:30 pm Columbus House Dinner
4 9:30 a.m. Worship & Communion Rev Susan Reisinger preaching 10:30 a.m. Friendship Hour	5 Labor Day 6:00 p.m. Memorial Cairn	6 7:15 pm. Mission Committee meeting 7:30 p.m. CLOC Committee meeting	7 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	8 9:00am Yoga 10:00 a.m. Presbytery Workshop 7:00 p.m. GNHCC rehearsal	9	10 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA
11 9:30 a.m. Rally Day program for all ages 10:30 a.m. Worship, Rev Susan Reisinger preaching 11:45 a.m. Potluck Picnic	12 4:15 p.m. Musical Folk 6:00 p.m. Worship Committee	13 9:15 a.m. Presbytery Comm Meeting 9:30 & 10:30 a.m. Musical Folk	14 9:00 a.m. Presbytery Comm Meeting 5:30 p.m. Musical Folk 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	15 9:00am Yoga 1:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 p.m. GNHCC rehearsal	16 9:30 a.m. Musical Folk	17 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA
18 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for youth 10:30 a.m. Worship, Rev Susan Reisinger preaching; 11:45 a.m. Friendship Hour 12:00 p.m. Property Cleanup, CE Workshop	19 4:15 p.m. Musical Folk	20 9:30 & 10:30 a.m. Musical Folk 7:15 p.m. Session	21 5:30 p.m. Musical Folk 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	22 9:00am Yoga 1:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 p.m. GNHCC rehearsal	23 9:30 a.m. Musical Folk	24 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA
25 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages 10:45 a.m. Worship, Rick Ufford Chase preaching, Elm City Girls Choir 11:45 p.m. Friendship Hour 1:00 p.m. LGBTQ Bible Workshop	26 4:15 p.m. Musical Folk	27 9:30 & 10:30 a.m. Musical Folk	28 5:30 p.m. Musical Folk 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	29 9:00am Yoga 1:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 p.m. GNHCC rehearsal	30 9:30 a.m. Musical Folk	

October 2016

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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: EMILY THEUS

NURSERY CARE PROVIDER: NAOMI BRINTON

First Presbyterian Church

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Phone: (203) 562-5664

Email: firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com

Web site: www.fpcnh.org

Christian Education

9:30 a.m., starting September 11th

Worship

Summer Worship is at 9:30 a.m.

Starting September 11th,

Worship is at 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!