

The Inkling

THOUGHTS ON NOVEMBER

For me, the month of November is hard. Light is constantly diminishing – and we turn our clocks back (on November 6th). So many activities lie in our immediate future – national and local elections, stewardship, Thanksgiving celebrations in church and in our homes, and the beginning of Advent. Somehow November feels to me like the start of the avalanche that is the last two months of our calendar year. So much lies ahead, there is so much to be done!

In all our preparations this year, let us not forget to prepare ourselves. Perhaps dealing with our own outlooks and state of mind is the most pivotal thing we can do as we walk toward the end of this year. Some things to help us survive November (and December):

- Don't forget to make time to take care for yourself. Spend some quiet time in nature, get a massage, write out your thoughts and feelings.
- Remember to spend time with the people you love – whether that is friends or family. Spending time with people who know you is crucial. Sometimes we surrender that time in order to “do” something. But a quiet evening with loved ones is precious too.
- Pray, worship, spend time reading something inspirational. Cultivate your relationship with God. You will find strength there that you won't find anywhere else.
- Our family of faith can sometimes be demanding – but it is also uplifting and willing to help. Make some time to worship and play with your church family.
- Serve. Get outside of yourself even if it is for an hour a week. Care for someone who has much less than you do – tutor, cook, feed, tend, open your heart – and discover that you still have much to learn!

Take Care of Yourselves!

--Pastor Susan

A Stewardship Thought

In the Holy Land are two ancient bodies of water. Both are fed by the Jordan River. In one, fish play and roots find sustenance. In the other, there is no splash of fish, no sound of bird, no leaf around. The difference is not in the Jordan, for it empties into both, but in the Sea of Galilee: for every drop taken in one goes out. It gives and lives. The other gives nothing. And it is called the Dead Sea.

(William Sloane Coffin)

Advent is Coming

This year, the Season of Advent begins on November 27th. We are pleased to have guest writers for our liturgy for the season of Advent. Sarah Harris Wallman and Miranda Hall have been thinking and writing about Advent since late August. We are looking forward to sharing the fruits of their labor of love during Advent.

SCRIPTURES FOR NOVEMBER



NOVEMBER 6—All Saints Sunday

Dean Greg Sterling from Yale Divinity School will be preaching.

His texts will be Haggai 1:15- 2:9, Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21, and Luke 20:27-28

NOVEMBER 13 – Stewardship Commitment Sunday

Texts are: I Corinthians 9:24-27, Psalm 30 and II Timothy 4:6-8

NOVEMBER 20 – Thanksgiving Celebration

Texts are: Isaiah 51:1-5, Psalm 94, Philippians 4:1-7

NOVEMBER 27 –First Sunday of Advent

Texts are Romans 13: 8-14, Psalm 122, Isaiah 2:1-5

CT FOLK Concert on November 4th

CT Folk's First Friday Folk Concert, will be held November 4th at 7:30 p.m. in First Presbyterian Church's Miller Hall. This month's concert will feature the duo of Terry Robb and Lauren Sheehan. Their music explores country blues traditions from the deep south to the Pacific NW with combinations of guitars, slide and lap slide, mandolin and vocals.

The church receives ten complimentary tickets. E-mail or call the church office to reserve yours.



November 6th—All Saints Sunday

All Saints Sunday invites us to remember those from our congregation as well as others we have loved who have died in the year past. It is a time to celebrate their return to God. During worship, we will take time to read their names. If you would like to submit a name to be included in the litany of remembrance, please call (203-562-5664) or email (firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com) the church office no later than Wednesday, November 2nd.

November 6th--Daylight Savings Time Ends

Don't forget to "fall back" and turn your clocks back an hour!

Memorial Cairn Prayer Service on Monday November 7th

Reclaiming the Prophetic Voice will mark the cost of the continuing violence in Iraq and Afghanistan and elsewhere in the Mid-East with a 15 minute prayer service at the intersection of Broadway, Elm and Park streets in New Haven on Monday evening, November 7th, at 6 p.m.

Election Eve Ecumenical Prayer Service at Church of the Redeemer November 7, 7pm

Join friends and neighbors in a time of prayer and reflection as we prepare for a pivotal time in our nation. In song, in silence, in prayer, in readings we will join in lifting our concerns to god and finding support in one another.

Church Of The Redeemer UCC
185 Cold Spring St at Whitney Ave
New Haven

Pastor Nominating Committee Elected

On October 16th, the congregation elected the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). This group will have the tough but rewarding job of finding our church's next pastor. This task has a number of steps and will take a while. Every time you wonder what is taking them so long - say a prayer for them - and support their hard work. What they do is largely confidential, but we will get updates on the process from time to time.

The members of the PNC are:

Jenn Ballew
Brian Gray
Jane Hindenlang
Bruce Peabody

Scott Funston
Dick Hasbany
Beth Aura Miller
Sarah Wallman

Welcome to our New Members!

Three people joined the church on Sunday, October 16th. Here's a little bit about them, but please introduce yourselves if you haven't already.

Bryce Libby moved to the New Haven area from Maine, where he grew up, though he was familiar with the area since he had lived in New Haven about 15 years ago. He works in the social work field and is a certified addictions counselor. You'll see him now on Sundays, singing bass in the choir.

Kathy Milligan recently moved to Hamden from Kansas, where she was a teacher for many years and active in the Presbyterian Church of Stanley in Overland Park, KS. She moved here to be closer to her daughter and son-in-law and is now ecstatically expecting her first grandchild in April. She is enjoying the diversity, friendliness, and welcoming nature of our congregation.

Jacqueline Van De Velde is a third year law student at Yale Law School and has been attending church at FPCNH for the past two years while in New Haven. This is the first Presbyterian Church in which she has been a part. She grew up in Saint Simons Island, Georgia, and loves to cook, babysit, and learn more about community activities in New Haven.

Music at FPCNH in November



For the third and final Sunday (November 13) of stewardship season this year, the choir is contributing the anthem "Order My Steps," which complements the theme this year of "Stepping Up." The anthem is by Glenn Burleigh, an African-American composer well-known for his upbeat gospel music. We will all sing the refrain of the anthem as a response for the first two Sundays of stewardship, and then the choir will sing the whole piece on November 13.

Looking ahead, we'll sing Bach's arrangement of "Now Thank We All Our God" on Sunday, November 20—the Sunday on which we celebrate Thanksgiving. And make plans now to come to our annual Advent-Christmas choral service (and the church's Christmas dinner) on the Third Sunday of Advent, December 11.

Pat McCreless

Thanksgiving Special Offering

As in the past, our thanksgiving Special Offering will be shared with three local organizations. Christian Community Action, the Connecticut Food Bank and Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen each work to create a season of genuine thanksgiving for those who could not otherwise afford it. This is an opportunity to give thanks by contributing directly to the well being of our neighbors.



Christian Community Action's thanksgiving basket program provides holiday abundance to over 2,000 families each year. Financial contributions support food purchases at wholesale costs. In kind donations are also needed. Suggested items: Cereal – hot or cold, Vegetables, Yams, Fruit or dessert, Starch – rice, mashed potato, Pasta & Sauce, Soup, Gravy, Juice, Cranberries, Stuffing, Protein – beans, tuna, peanuts, Jelly. Each basket will include a frozen turkey or whole chicken and is designed to provide a family food for three days. Notes: Nothing in glass containers. Remember that CCA needs our collected items by Wednesday, November 16th.

As in past years, we will be helping sort and prepare the baskets. Volunteers are needed for the afternoon on Saturday, Nov. 19. Come for an hour or more. Speak with Ralph Jones to sign up. [rcjmhs@gmail.com or 203-248-7386]

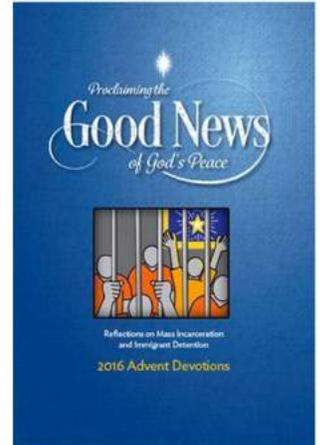
The **Connecticut Food Bank** supports many Thanksgiving efforts by providing food and resources to approximately 600 community-based programs in six of the state's eight counties: Fairfield, Litchfield, Middlesex, New Haven, New London and Windham. Donations make all this possible.

DESK – Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen – has been serving meals to New Haven's homeless throughout the week for many years, adding an extra special meal for Thanksgiving Day.

2016 Advent Devotions: Not the Usual Shepherds and Magi

The Presbyterian Mission Agency is offering a booklet of Advent devotions, "Proclaiming the Good News of God's Peace," centered on the subjects of mass incarceration and immigrant detention. Both are currently hot political topics—and they are likely to be of concern for many years to come. As a church and a nation we must work toward a course of action leading to equitable treatment for all, even in a world that seems Let us remember the injunction to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.

Copies of the Advent devotions will be available by November 27, Advent I.



Prison and Children



One route to our house in France passes by the regional detention center. John and I are always struck by the playground equipment and the picnic tables that sit outside the prison. Clearly, family visits to inmates are expected and even normal. In Connecticut, however, family visits to loved ones in prison are rare, in part because of lack of transport. The not-for-profit agency Families in Crisis sponsors a van, recently the victim of state budget cuts, to take families for such visits, and the

Mission Committee has gladly contributed to keeping this service alive.

--Nancy Woodington

Interested in Planning an Adult Ed Series on Gender and Scripture?

Following up on the thought provoking and eye-opening workshop with J Mase III during September, I'm trying to get a sense of folks' interest in an Adult Ed series for late January/February 2017 on Gender and Scripture. In particular, I'd love folks to email me (jl.herbst74@gmail.com) if they're interested in: (1) helping with planning the series overall, i.e., trying to identify 4-5 discrete questions for reflection and discussion, (2) researching and identifying the most relevant Scriptural passages given the identified questions, (3) leading/facilitating one or more sessions, (4) putting together summary blurbs for the Inkling, and/or (5) attending with gusto, thoughts, and questions.

-Jen Herbst



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.

Anita Shaffer, who is recovering from hip replacement surgery.

Jeanette Murphy, for healing and strength.

Jesse Cooper, who is recovering from spinal surgery.

Joan Wells, who is undergoing chemotherapy.

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

Prayers for those who have had to flee their homes, that they may be safe.

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.

November 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:30 a.m. Musical Folk 7:30 p.m. CLOC Committee meeting	2 5:30 p.m. Musical Folk 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	3 8:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 9:00am Yoga 1:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 p.m. GNHCC rehearsal	4 9:30 a.m. Musical Folk 7:30 p.m. Folk Concert	5 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA 5:30 pm Columbus House Dinner
6 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages 10:45 a.m. Worship & Communion. Rev Sterling preaching 12:00 p.m. Friendship Hour	7 4:15 p.m. Musical Folk 6:00 p.m. Memorial Cairn 7:00 p.m. Election Eve Worship at Church of the Redeemer	8 9:30 a.m. Musical Folk 7:15 p.m. Mission Committee meeting	9 5:30 p.m. Musical Folk 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	10 8:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 9:00am Yoga 1:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 p.m. GNHCC rehearsal	11 9:30 a.m. Musical Folk 7:30 pm Ben Ehrenreich Book Talk	12 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA
13 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages 10:45 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Stewardship Lunch	14 4:15 p.m. Musical Folk 6:00 p.m. Worship Committee	15 9:30 a.m. Musical Folk 7:15 p.m. Session	16 5:30 p.m. Musical Folk 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Survivors of Homicide	17 8:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 9:00am Yoga 1:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 p.m. GNHCC rehearsal	18 9:30 a.m. Musical Folk	19 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA
20 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages 10:45 a.m. Worship 11:45 a.m. Friendship Hour	21 4:15 p.m. Musical Folk	22 9:30 a.m. Musical Folk 7:00 p.m. GNHCC rehearsal	23 5:30 p.m. Musical Folk	24 THANKSGIVING	25	26 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA
27 9:30 a.m. Intergenerational Advent Program 10:45 a.m. Worship 11:45 a.m. Friendship Hour	28 4:15 p.m. Musical Folk	29 9:30 a.m. Musical Folk	30 5:30 p.m. Musical Folk 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal			

December 2016

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				1 8:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 9:00am Yoga 1:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 p.m. GNHCC rehearsal	2 9:30 a.m. Musical Folk 7:30 p.m. Folk Concert	3 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA 5:30 pm Columbus House Dinner
4 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages 10:45 a.m. Worship & Communion. 12:00 p.m. Friendship Hour	5 6:00 p.m. Memorial Cairn	6 6:30 p.m. CE Committee 7:00 p.m. CLOC Committee meeting	7 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	8 8:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 9:00am Yoga 1:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 p.m. GNHCC rehearsal	9	10 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
11 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages 10:45 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Christmas Potluck	12 6:00 p.m. Worship Committee	13 7:15 p.m. Mission Committee meeting	14	15 8:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 9:00am Yoga 1:00 pm Bible Study	16	17 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA
18 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages 10:45 a.m. Worship 11:45 a.m. Friendship Hour	19	20 7:15 p.m. Session	21 7:00 p.m. Survivors of Homicide	22 8:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 9:00am Yoga 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:00 p.m. Hollingsworth Memorial Service	23	24 9:30 am Women's AA 7:30 pm Service of Lessons and Carols 11:00 pm Communion Service
25 CHRISTMAS 10:45 a.m. Worship 11:45 a.m. Friendship Hour	26	27	28	29 9:00am Yoga	30	31 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA

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

704 Whitney Avenue

New Haven, Connecticut 06511

Phone: (203) 562-5664

Email: firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com

Web site: 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!