

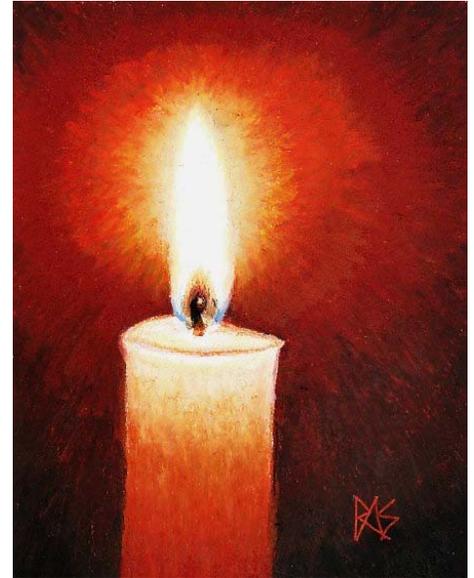
The Inklings

The News of First Presbyterian Church

January 2013

Light Shines in the Darkness

First Presbyterian Church welcomes the New Year mindful of all that occurred in 2012, grateful to God for all of the ways that we have known the movement of God in our lives during the year past. We found ourselves hosts to the men of Abraham's Tent in mid January, meditated on the writings of mystics and theologians during Lent, celebrated 11 new Confirmands in April, began farewells in May, enjoyed a summer of pastoral care and great preaching from our Sabbatical Pastor Steve Jungkeit, welcomed the return of our Co-Pastors and new friends to the community at the end of the summer, experienced another Hurricane and early snow storm in October which caused power outages and schools to close, watched closely during a harsher than ever election season, and sought God's solace in the midst of despair after the shootings of young children at the Sandy Hook Elementary School as Christmas drew near. On Christmas Eve, the sanctuary was filled with worshippers from the youngest of our congregation to the oldest, and at three worship services that evening we eagerly welcomed the light of Christ into our hearts and lives again.



The first Sunday of the New Year brings us to the visit of the three wise ones, magi from the East, who were seeking the new born King. January 6th, Epiphany, reminds us that the light of the world didn't stay in Bethlehem, but reached out to all the world, to offer good news to the poor and a promise unlike any other. Worship on January 6th will begin in the Miller Gathering Hall where we will journey into the sanctuary following a star. What a procession we will make, as we join our voices in song and in prayer, welcoming a new year, and the light of the world into our midst.

We journey aware that Sunday is our last day with the men of Abraham's Tent. With us for the week have been: Javier, Mitch, John, Raymond, Rudolph, Paul, Michael, Michael, Samuel and Simon. All week long we have welcomed these new guests into our community, eaten at tables together, laughed, prayed, played, and become friends. This year, like in past years, we remind ourselves of Jesus' ministry to the stranger and God's wide welcome. Writing on the first night of our friends' arrival, New Year's Eve, Tommie Highwart one of FPC's hosts, tells of her wonder and delight on her Facebook page:

"What a wonderful night. Spent the evening at church with 12 homeless men who will stay overnight. Some of us made dinner, others set up the beds, and still more set out decorations for a New Year's Celebration. This is a time of warmth, good food, and companionship as we recognize our blessings. Came home tired, went to bed and didn't mind missing the ball drop from Times Square. Wonderful way to start the year."

The Sundays in January will invite us to ponder anew how we shine our light to the world, serving as a witness to the new things possible with God. Join us for worship and companionship this year.

Congregational Meeting January 27

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place on Sunday, January 27th, following the Friendship Hour. The Session's Annual Report will be available, summarizing the past year of mission and ministry in this corner of God's world, and the PCUSA. At that meeting you will have a chance to hear about the work of the church from Session Elders, vote on the Co-Pastors' Terms of Call, and delight in the company of friends. You are welcome to ask questions, talk about concerns, and bring new ideas for consideration. Plan to stop by the Friendship Hour for refreshments, and then return to the Sanctuary for the meeting.

New Elders to be Ordained and Installed on January 27

The Service of Ordination and Installation will take place during worship on Sunday, January 27th. Elders being ordained and installed are: Joanna Ali, Scott Funston, Elizabeth Gill, and Tommie Highwart. Join us on this Sunday as we participate in the laying on of hands, and the ordaining of new ruling elders.

Join us for Bible Study!

The Lectionary Bible Study meets on Thursday Mornings at 11:00 a.m. in the Miller Gathering Hall. Each week we read and reflect on the texts for the upcoming Sunday. Bryce Wiebe leads the study.

Please note that Bible Study resumes on January 10th.

The texts for January are:

January 6: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

January 13: Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 20: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

January 27: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21



Christian Education News

Christian Education for all ages will resume on Sunday, January 13th. Children and youth will return to their classrooms where teachers are eager and ready to continue to share the good news of our faith. Sue Balakrishnan, Elizabeth Gill, Betsy Mussmann, Betty Whitney, Bryce Wiebe, and Gary Cline have great lessons planned for 2013! Join them on Sunday mornings.

The Adult Education class on January 13th will invite conversation about New Year's Hopes ... for our world, our nation, our church, and even for ourselves. Remembering that God is always doing a new thing, we will take time to talk about the ways God is moving in and through us, calling us to live faithfully into 2013.

On January 20 and 27th, Co-Pastor Bill Goettler will lead a series on the Presbyterian Church's social witness policy regarding the ongoing struggle for Peace in Israel and Palestine. The class begins at 9:30 a.m. with coffee and tea and meets in the Miller Gathering Hall. All are welcome.

A visit with State Senator Martin Looney

Come out on Sunday, January 13th at 7:00 p.m. to talk with State Senator Martin Looney. Senator Looney returns to First Presbyterian Church to talk with us about the Connecticut Legislative Agenda for 2013. Come with your questions and don't be shy to share your concerns and hopes with this important state leader.

Interested in Joining a Book Group?

Join us for our first book group meeting on January 23! Each month a passionate reader and church leader will join the group in discussion of a book that has been in some way deeply important, personally transformative, or just too much fun. Every month, then, we will look at a book that is beloved and significant to someone we especially care about in our community. If you have questions or would just like to hear more about the group, see Dick Hasbany.



January Potluck – January 13th

Brr... it's cold outside! Come with your favorite hearty winter food for a shared potluck on the second Sunday in January. Please prepare a family sized main dish, side dish, or dessert. During the potluck, bags of baby books will be given to our newest babies. If you'd like to contribute to the Baby Book Bags, please bring new or gently used books to church. There will be a box in the Copeland Room, waiting to receive them. We'll be giving baby bags this year to: Claire McClure, Sam Van Denend Moore, Lily Mecca, Gaia Daniel, Jonathan Mortensen, and Raymond Wallman.

Session to Meet on January 26th

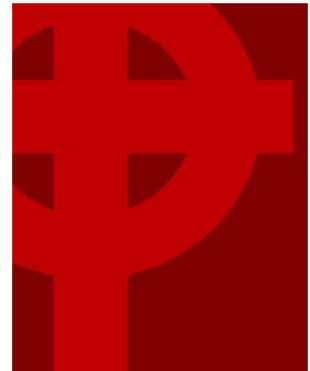
Once a year the Session of First Presbyterian Church gathers for a day long meeting to look ahead to a new year. Newly elected Elders will meet with the Co-Pastors in the morning to talk more deeply of the call to ordained leadership. They will join the current Session over lunch for conversations about the health and life of the congregation, about new mission directives, and about new ways of reaching out to a hurting world. Please keep the members of the Session in your prayers on Saturday, January 26th.

Eve's Daughters

Eve's Daughters will meet on Monday, January 14th at 6 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church to discuss the "Akedah" or "The Binding of Isaac," whose story we find in Genesis 22. Come and hear this text of terror and be ready to offer new ways of understanding what this text says to us today. We'll uncover Sarah's perspective, even though she says nothing in the story. We'll talk about the ways children are still at risk in our culture and the ways violence continues to enter our lives and communities. Is there a good word from God to be found? All women of the congregation are welcome. It's our turn to host the meal. If you'd like to prepare a part of the vegetarian dinner, please indicate whether you will make a main dish, side dish, salad or dessert, when you sign up. The sign up sheet will be on the Welcome Table.

Presbyterian Promise Annual Meeting

Join friends from the Presbytery of Southern New England at the Annual Meeting of Presbyterian Promise. The meeting will take place at 3 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church in West Hartford. Ray Bagnuolo, executive director of That All May Freely Serve will be the guest speaker. Come and hear about the work still yet to be done to make the church the fully inclusive and welcoming church God intends. For more information talk with Dick Hasbany or Jane Hindenlang.



Stewardship 2013 Update

There is good news to share! We have reached our Stewardship Goal for 2013! This year 16 new pledges were received, and increases from nearly two thirds of our member households allowed us to reach this goal. This generosity enables our church community to begin the year without needing to make any cuts in the operating budget. The Session and its committees will be at work planning the ways your financial gifts to the church will be used, shared, and multiplied to bring God's peace, justice, and compassion to those nearby and those far away. Thanks go to the Stewardship Committee members Tim McCloskey, chair; Scott Hamilton, Leah Miller, Martha Smith, Sadako Ohki, and Blake Purnell.

Abraham's Tent

Our host week is just about over in this our fourth year of participating in Abraham's Tent, a program sponsored by Interfaith Cooperative Ministries in cooperation with Columbus House. Again over 24 congregations from the New Haven region joined together to provide a winter's worth of hospitality for twelve men chosen from the Columbus House Shelter. Abraham's Tent began the first week of December and will continue through the end of March, the coldest of Connecticut's winter months. Each week the men will sleep in church and synagogue halls, eat around tables with friends, and share stories, play games, and get a good night's sleep after a long day outside.

This year provided an additional challenge as our week began on New Year's Eve. Many folks from the congregation came out on Monday night to meet our friends, and welcome in the New Year. On Tuesday, New Year's Day, many more from the congregation arrived throughout the day to celebrate and keep each other company on the first day of the new year. Many thanks to all the volunteers who made meals, spent the night, and provided friendship and hospitality to our guests. Special thanks to Brian Gray, who with grace and gentleness, coordinated all our efforts. Well done, good and faithful servants.

Dinner with Friends - January 26

The next Dinner With Friends is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Saturday, January 26. This is an opportunity to spend a relaxed evening getting to know others in the congregation. The host usually makes the main dish with guests supplying everything else. The work is shared by all! You will find a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Table, so please sign up. On April 14 we will try a new idea, Dinner Out With Friends. Hosts will choose the restaurants. Might it be time to try the new Vegan restaurant? Or how about Pizza at one of New Haven's famous restaurants? Chinese, Thai, Indian? For more information, contact Bonnie Sherman: shermanbonnie@att.net or Candice Gray: cmcrepeau@sbcglobal.net.



Connecticut Folk Concert – January 4 at 7:30 p.m.

Come hear singer-songwriter Tracy Grammer when she returns to First Presbyterian Church for an evening of music. First Presbyterian Church receives ten complimentary tickets. Please email the church or call, to reserve yours.

Point in Time – Homeless Count

Once again First Presbyterian Church will be the host site for the New Haven "Point in Time" Homeless Count. On January 29th (snow date January 31), volunteers will go out into the night, searching for homeless women and men, taking note of how many remain without shelter during the coldest season of the year. A training will take place beginning at 6 p.m. and teams will be established for the canvassing. A light dinner will be provided, and hot coffee and tea will be available all evening. If you would like to participate in this year's count, please talk with Co-Pastor Bill Goettler or Gary Cline, Chair of the Mission Committee.

Memorial Cairn

In this new year, as the wars continue, Reclaiming the Prophetic Voice will again be marking the cost of the continuing violence in Iraq and Afghanistan by placing the December stone on the Memorial Cairn at the intersection of Broadway, Elm and Park streets in New Haven on Monday evening, January 7, at 6 p.m. This stone will be inscribed with the December death total of US military personnel and the approximate documented numbers of Iraqi and Afghani civilians killed during that same period of time. The Rev. Shelly Stackhouse of the Church of the Redeemer in New Haven will lead the service.

Noah: Perspectives from Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

The Peace Islands Institute Connecticut will host an Abraham's Table discussion titled "Prophet Noah: Perspectives from Judaism, Christianity, and Islam" on Thursday, January 24 at 195 Church St., 9th floor, New Haven. The panel will feature Rabbi Herb Brockman of Congregation Mishkan Israel, Pastor Bill Goettler of First Presbyterian Church, and Dr. Nazif Muhtaroglu, professor of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University, and will be moderated by Pastor Lisa Hahneman of the Church of the Holy Spirit. The evening begins with a reception and a light dinner, continues with the discussion at 6:40, and concludes with coffee and closing remarks at 7:40. Seating is limited. Please RSVP by Friday January 17, 2013 to infoct@peaceislands.org or 203-691-6179.

Camp Winni

For over 90 years, NNESRE has sponsored 'Camp Winni' - a weeklong non-profit intergenerational conference/camp - in 2013, from Saturday, August 3 through Saturday, August 10 - celebrating family, friendships and community on the beautiful shores of Lake Winnepesaukee at [Geneva Point Center](#). Many four generation families attend. Mary and Art Hunt have attended with their daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren for the past three years and loved it so much they wanted to spread the word.

Camp Winni is casual, educational, and recreational. Nothing is mandatory, everything is exceptional. Ten classes are offered during three periods from Sunday through Friday between about 9 am and noon. Class topics are in the areas of Religion/Spirituality, Social/Political, and Personal Development. There are separate activities for kids in the morning, a lifeguard at the beautiful beach during the afternoon and evening activities.

Lodging options vary from camp sites to rooms with private baths. Scholarships are available. All meals are provided by the Geneva Point Center.

Details are on the Camp Winni web site at <http://www.campwinni.org/home.htm> and the Geneva Point Center web site at <http://www.genevapoint.org/> or see either Mary or Art Hunt, [203-288-3530](tel:203-288-3530) or art@cheswood.com, mary@cheswood.com

--Mary and Art Hunt

Prayers for Our Community

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 ...

The men of Abraham's Tent: Javier, John, Mitch, Milton, Raymond, Rudolph, Paul, Michael G., Michael H., Samuel, and Simon.

Patrick Short, a friend of Bryce Wiebe, who is undergoing chemotherapy.

The people of Syria, and for all across the Middle East, during this time of unrest, violence, and discord.

Joan Wells' daughter-in-law, Annabelle, struggling with illness.

Karla Koll, mission co-worker in Guatemala, who continues treatment for breast cancer.

Blanca Thiebaut and her colleague Montserrat Serra, who work for the Spanish division of Doctors Without Borders, and who have been held captive for over a year.

Bryan McCloskey, Jordan Matos, James Smit, and Dillon LaChance, who are all serving overseas 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.

January 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 4:00pm Abraham's Tent	2 4:00pm Abraham's Tent	3 4:00pm Abraham's Tent	4 4:00pm Abraham's Tent 7:30pm CT Folk	5 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA 4:00pm Abe's Tent
6 9:30am Choir 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Friendship Hour 4:00pm Abe's Tent	7 6:00pm Worship Committee 6:00pm Memorial Cairn	8 9:30am Musical Folk 4:00pm Musical Folk 7:30pm CLOC and Missions Committee	9 9:30am Musical Folk 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal Resumes	10 9:00am Yoga 11:00am Bible Study 4:00pm Musical Folk	11 10:00am Musical Folk	12 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
13 9:30am Choir, Church School Resumes 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Friendship Hour 3pm Presbyterian Promise	14 6pm Eve's Daughters, FPC	15 9:30am Musical Folk 4:00pm Musical Folk	16 9:30am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	17 9:00am Yoga 11:00am Bible Study 4:00pm Musical Folk	18 10:00am Musical Folk	19 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
20 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Friendship Hour	21	22 9:30am Musical Folk 4:00pm Musical Folk	23 9:30am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal Evening: Book Group	24 9:00am Yoga 11:00am Bible Study 4:00pm Musical Folk	25 10:00am Musical Folk	26 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA 10am New Elder Orientation 12pm Session Meeting 6pm Dinner with Friends
27 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Friendship Hour 12pm Congregational Meeting	28	29 9:30am Musical Folk 4:00pm Musical Folk 6pm Point in Time Homeless Count	30 9:30am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	31 9:00am Yoga 11:00am Bible Study 4:00pm Musical Folk		

February 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
3 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Friendship Hour	4 6:00pm Worship Committee 6:00pm Memorial Cairn	5 9:30am Musical Folk 4:00pm Musical Folk 7:30pm CLOC and Missions Committee	6 9:30am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal Resumes	7 9:00am Yoga 11:00am Bible Study 4:00pm Musical Folk	8 10:00am Musical Folk	9 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA 9:30am PSNE at YDS
10 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship, Hannah Dreitcer preaching 12:00pm Pancake lunch and Mardi Gras party	11	12 9:30am Musical Folk 4:00pm Musical Folk	13 9:30am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 6:45pm Ash Wednesday Service	14 9:00am Yoga 11:00am Bible Study 4:00pm Musical Folk	15 10:00am Musical Folk	16 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
17 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Friendship Hour	18	19 9:30am Musical Folk 4:00pm Musical Folk 7:15pm Session	20 9:30am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	21 9:00am Yoga 11:00am Bible Study 4:00pm Musical Folk	22 10:00am Musical Folk	23 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
24 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Friendship Hour	25	26 9:30am Musical Folk 4:00pm Musical Folk	27 9:30am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	28 9:00am Yoga 11:00am Bible Study 4:00pm Musical Folk		

CO-PASTORS: BILL GOETTLER & MARIA LASALA

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: PATRICK McCRELESS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATOR: BRYCE WIEBE

PARISH ASSOCIATE: SUE ASHER

YDS INTERN: HANNAH DREITCER

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: MIRIAM SAMUELSON

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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! We hope to stop printing most copies of the Inkling, moving to an entirely digital format. So take a moment today to check out the newsletter online.