

The Inklings

The News of First Presbyterian Church

February 2013

Pancakes, Ashes and Prayer! The Lenten Journey Begins This Month

A winter chill has been in the air for weeks, now. But that hasn't stopped the people at First Presbyterian Church from stepping out in faith. The sanctuary is filled on Sunday mornings as we gather to give thanks to God from whom all blessings flow.

The season of Lent begins in February. Perhaps it is fitting that we should enter the season of the dark night of the soul while the nights are still long and the air, still cold. For the season of Lent invites us to journey with Jesus all the way to the cross.

Ash Wednesday Worship will take place on Wednesday, February 13th. We will gather at 6:45 p.m. in the quiet of the sanctuary to hear words of scripture, lift up prayers for ourselves, one another and our world, and remember anew the promise that God will never forsake us. During the service those who wish to receive ashes will be invited to come forward.

During the six weeks of Lent the congregation will be invited to reflect on prayer. Sunday sermons will be focused on The Lord's Prayer. This prayer, taught to us by Jesus, is prayed each week. We memorize this prayer, teach it to our children, know it on our hearts. It is the prayer of the faithful of every generation. We'll spend five weeks looking at its words, its promises, its commands.

Each week you will be invited to give thought to the prayers of your heart. A prayer flag will be created throughout the Lenten season. Working with material, you will be encouraged to write a prayer on the flag fabric. Each week members of the Worship Committee will take the prayers and hang them across the sanctuary, filling our space with the yearnings and longings of our hearts. Come and see what God is doing!



All-Church Mission Conversation, Sunday, Feb. 10

First Presbyterian Church has a long and faithful commitment to mission work. We support mission co-workers around the world with our offerings, our friendship, and our prayers. Here at home, we provide meals and shelter for those in need and advocate for social justice in New Haven, Hartford, and Washington D.C.

The Mission Committee invites you to a church wide conversation about what news ways God might be calling us to do mission, the work of justice and peace, in the year to come. Do you see an unmet need where we could make a difference? Do you imagine working closely with a church in Cuba or Zambia, or finding ways to become better stewards of our Earth, or a new congregational initiative to promote peace and justice?

The Mission Committee has reserved seed money for a new First Presbyterian mission initiative, right now, in the winter and spring of 2013. We invite you to share your ideas and to listen to the ideas of others as we make way this new mission initiative, be it local or worldwide. This won't be a long range study... this will be an action meeting. And we will get to work immediately to implement whatever it is that we decide together.

So join us after the deliriously fantastic pancake lunch on Sunday, February 10, and bring your ideas about mission, your practical suggestions and your wide-eyed dreams. We want to know your answer to the question, "What is the mission of the First Presbyterian Church of New Haven, Connecticut, and how shall we live into that Mission now?"

Pancakes for Lunch! – Sunday, February 10th

This year's Pancake supper and Mardi Gras Party will be held on Sunday, February 10th, following worship. Plan now to stay for a feast of pancakes, sausages (meat and meatless), coffee and tea. David Miller will be heading up a crew of pancake chefs who will be cooking and grilling throughout the morning so that after Patrick McCreless hits the final notes of the Postlude and you make your way to the Owens Community Building, a delicious feast will be ready for you! Mmm good.



YDS Intern Hannah Dreitcer to Preach on February 10

Hannah Dreitcer, our YDS intern will be the preacher on Transfiguration Sunday, February 10th. Come and hear Hannah share the good news of a God made flesh, who becomes transfigured on a mountaintop. Jesus' disciples then stood in awe. Might we do the same and be moved from awe to action.

Adult Education Programs

The Adult Education hour offers a sensory experience this month. On February 3rd and 10th, Dr. David Stowe, visiting ISM fellow, will be our guest. Can you imagine an ongoing experience of religion that doesn't include music? Or a lifetime of listening to music that doesn't involve musical works inspired by the sacred? In a two-part adult education series, David Stowe explores the intriguing interconnections between sacred sound and religious experience. Part 1, "Sacred Soundscape: Music and Chant in World Religions," takes a very broad look at the dynamic interplay between music and religion. Part 2, "Babylon Revisited: Psalm 137 as America's First Protest Song," zeros in on a particularly rich text from the Hebrew Bible. Both talks will include musical examples and film clips.

David W. Stowe is a 2012-13 research fellow at Yale's Institute of Sacred Music," where he is researching and writing a cultural history of Psalm 137. He is the author of several books on American music, most recently *No Sympathy for the Devil: Christian Pop Music and the Transformation of American Evangelicalism* (2011). He is professor of English and Religious Studies at Michigan State University.

Beginning on Sunday, February 17th and continuing through March 17th, the Adult Education class will focus on Prayer. Co-Pastor Maria LaSala will begin the series with an exploration of why the faithful lift prayers to God. Looking at scripture and at the prayers written through the ages, we will have a chance to talk about our own understanding of the power of prayer.

February 24th will take us into the practice of *Lectio Divina*, an intentional way of reading scripture. This prayerful practice of scripture reading might deepen our own prayers.

As we look ahead to March we will have a chance to explore Dance as Prayer as our Intern Hannah Dreitcer helps us to see how prayer is embodied. Steve Davis will talk with us about Monastic prayer. And we will close our series exploring the Benedictine Prayer practice of Centering Prayer.

The Adult Ed Class takes place in the Miller Gathering Hall at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Coffee and tea are always ready. Join us for one class or for all.

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.



The texts for February are:

February 3: Jer. 1:4-10; Ps. 71:1-6; 1 Cor. 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

February 10: Ex. 34:29-35; Ps. 99; 2 Cor. 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

February 17: Deut. 26:1-11; Ps. 91:1-, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

February 24: Gen. 15:1-12, 17-18; Ps. 27; Phil. 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

“The Four Holy Gospels and the Golden Sea:” An Art Tour

The Yale Institute of Music is showcasing the work of international artist Makoto Fujimura. The First Presbyterian Church congregation will have our own guided tour of this exhibit on Sunday, February 17th following the Friendship Hour. The tour will last one hour. You might want to bring a bag lunch to church that day. We'll eat and then share rides up to Yale Divinity School's Gallery. For more information about Fujimura's art work, please visit <http://www.makotofujimura.com/works/the-four-gospels-frontpieces/>. Micah and Katharine Luce will be our hosts for this event.



Makoto Fujimura, *The Golden Sea*

New Member Lunch February 24

Thinking about membership at First Presbyterian Church of New Haven? Co-Pastors Bill Goettler and Maria LaSala invite you to join them for lunch on Sunday, February 24th. We'll gather at the Manse around 12:30 p.m. (at the close of the Friendship Hour). A light lunch will be served and we will talk first about the meaning of Christian faith, then explain a bit about what it means to be Presbyterian, and finally discuss the unique ministry of this church, First Presbyterian Church of New Haven.

We warmly encourage you to join us for this lunch, if church membership is something that you are even considering. Attending the lunch by no means obligates you to join the church, but it is a good next step if that is something that you might consider. Please let Bill and/or Maria know if you'd like to attend.

Afghanistan Memorial Stone, Monday, February 4

Reclaiming the Prophetic Voice will again be marking the cost of the continuing violence in Iraq and Afghanistan by placing the stone on the Memorial Cairn at the intersection of Broadway, Elm and Park streets in New Haven on Monday evening, February 4, at 6 p.m. This stone will be inscribed with the January death toll of US military personnel and the approximate documented numbers of Iraqi and Afghani civilians killed during that same period of time. The Rev. Ian Oliver of the University Church at Yale will lead the service.

The Rev. Allan Boesak to Speak at YDS

Yale Divinity School is delighted to welcome the Reverend Dr. Allan Boesak to its campus February 5-6. Dr. Boesak was a leading liberation theologian and activist in the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa, and was President of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches when that body declared apartheid a "heresy" in 1982. His own brand of radical Calvinism countered the Calvinism of the Dutch Reformed Church of South Africa which often supported and justified apartheid. In more recent years Boesak has been an outspoken proponent of gay rights and gay marriage. His books include: *Black and Reformed: Apartheid, Liberation and the Calvinist Tradition*, *If this is Treason, Then I am Guilty*, and (most recently) *The Tenderness of Conscience: African Renaissance and the Spirituality of Politics*. He is also an internationally acclaimed preacher, who has published several volumes of sermons including *The Finger of God: Sermons on Faith and Socio-Political Responsibility* and *The Fire Within: Sermons from the Edge of Exile*. Dr. Boesak will give a public lecture in Marquand Chapel at Yale Divinity School on Tuesday, February 5 at 5:30 p.m. which the public is cordially invited to attend. The title of the lecture is "Reconciliation, Justice, and the Spirit of Ubuntu." A reception held in his honor will follow.

Music During Lent

During the season of Lent, in keeping with our Lenten theme of prayer, the choir's anthems will all be prayers set to music. We will begin with a 14th-century prayer, "Prayer to Jesus," set to music by the 19th-century British composer George Oldroyd, followed by Thomas Tallis's "Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem." On other Sundays we will sing the "Kyrie eleison" (Lord, Have Mercy) and the "Agnus Dei" (Lamb of God") from Mozart's *Requiem*. (Remember that our choir will join with that of Bethesda Lutheran Church on the afternoon of Sunday, June 2, to perform Mozart's entire *Requiem* with orchestra.) On Palm Sunday the adult choir will join with the Children's and Youth Choir in musical "Hosannas"!



Eve's Daughters February 11

Eve's Daughters is the Women's Interfaith Bible Study which brings together women from First Presbyterian Church and Congregation Mishkan Israel, will meet on Monday, February 11th at Congregation Mishkan Israel on Ridge Road in Hamden. This month we will explore the stories of the wives of Noah and Lot. Neither has been given a name. The story of Noah's wife begins in Genesis, chapter 6. Lot's wife's story can be found in Genesis 19. She is perhaps best known as the woman who turned to salt. And there is nothing written about Noah's wife, but we can surely imagine what her life was like living on an ark for 40 days! Then we will take a look at a few of the nameless women of the Christian New Testament. What do their lives tell us about the role of women in the religious community? Co-Pastor Maria LaSala and Kinneret Chiel from CMI will lead the study and then invite all who have gathered to write a Midrash and tell the remarkable tale of these nameless women. A vegetarian supper will be provided by the women from CMI. The program begins at 6 with dinner, the teaching begins at 6:45 and the evening concludes by 8:30 p.m. All women of the congregation are welcome. If you have questions, please talk with Maria LaSala. A sign up sheet will be on the Welcome Table.

March Against Gun Violence February 14



Mark Valentine's Day this year by coming out to stand with Connecticut residents and legislators as we call for more gun restrictions and an end to gun violence. **March for Change will host a rally against gun violence** on Thursday, February 14 at the State Capitol in Hartford; the march will begin at 11 a.m. on the steps of the Capitol. March for Change is a bi-partisan, action-driven grassroots efforts established in response to the December shootings in Newtown, CT. The rally will be held in partnership with CT Against Gun Violence. For more information about the rally and to take action in other ways, see www.marchforchange.org or speak with Mary Hunt today.

Just Food Conference at Yale Divinity School, Friday Feb. 22

Yale Divinity School will host Just Food, a conference on local food justice and sustainability on February 22 for Yale University and Greater-New Haven community members to connect, learn, eat, and celebrate. Friday evening will include an introductory welcome by John Elder, Middlebury College professor emeritus of English and Environmental Studies, film screenings of *Fresh* and *Soul Food Junkies*, and a panel discussing the local food system. Saturday will offer a community fair, multiple workshop sessions, a panel with New Haven Food Policy Council members, and a community lunch. All events are free and open to the public, and registration is required. For more information, register at: <http://ydsustainability.yale.edu/events/just-food>.

Presbytery of Southern New England to Meet February 9

The Presbytery of Southern New England returns to New Haven for its February meeting. The meeting will take place at Yale Divinity School on Saturday, February 9th, beginning at 9:30 a.m. The Presbytery continues to explore possibilities for new church development and will be working closely with Jud Hendrix from the Ecclesia Project in the months to come. Elders Gary Cline, Teddy Hogle, and Mary Webber will serve as Commissioners to this meeting.



Healthcare Reform in the Post-Reform World

On Thursday, February 7, Ted Kennedy Jr. will speak on healthcare reform at the Whitney Center, 200 Leeder Hill Rd, Hamden, from 8:30-10:00 a.m. Sponsored by the Hamden Chamber of Commerce and the SCSU Alumni Association, this talk will focus on healthcare legislation signed into law in March 2010, and will highlight important features of the bill that will affect small businesses beginning in January 2014. The cost is \$10, and a continental breakfast is provided. RSVP to hcc@hamdenchamber.com or call 203-288-6431 to reserve your seat.

Calling All Knitters!

By the end of February, I plan to take the baby hats that we have been working on to Waterbury Hospital. If you have any or would like to make one, please bring them to church in the next few weeks. If any one would like a pattern, see me.

--Liz Copeland

Volunteers Needed for Columbus House

Abraham's Tent has passed and it was a wonderful experience. You can continue that 'good feeling' by signing up to help cook and/or serve a meal the first Saturday evening of the month. It only takes a couple hours and you'll be finished by 7 p.m. What a great way to be part of an important mission of the church! Please sign up on the sheet at the Welcome Table in the Copeland Room. Any questions, please contact Pat Wales (203-645-9747). Many thanks.

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 ...

Jeff Miller, David Miller's brother, who was recently diagnosed with a recurrence of cancer.

Bruce Gordon, recovering from surgery.

The men of Abraham's Tent and the congregations who host them.

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

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.

Jordan Matos, James Smit, and Dillon LaChance, who are all serving overseas in the armed forces.

Joe Bradley's mother, who has been diagnosed with lung cancer.

Those who are unable to worship with us on a regular basis.

Prayers for other people and situations in need of our supplications.

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 Committee	6 9:30am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	7 9:00am Yoga 11:00am Bible Study 4:00pm Musical Folk 7:30pm Mission Committee	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 All-Church Mission Conversation	11 6:00pm Eve's Daughters, CMI	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 11:00am March Against Gun Violence, Hartford 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 12:30pm ISM Gallery Tour	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 Just Food Conference at YDS	23 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA Just Food Conference at YDS
24 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Friendship Hour 12:30pm New Member Lun	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		

March 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 Mission Committee	6 9:30am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	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
10 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship, Hannah Dreitzer preaching 12:00pm Church Potluck	11 6:00pm Eve's Daughters	12 9:30am Musical Folk 4:00pm Musical Folk	13 9:30am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting	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 6:00pm Worship Committee	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 Maundy Thursday 9:00am Yoga 11:00am Bible Study 4:00pm Musical Folk 7:30pm Maundy Thursday service	29 Good Friday 7:30pm Good Friday service	30
31 Easter Sunday 6:45am Sunrise Service 9:30am Easter Breakfast 10:45am Worship						

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

First Presbyterian Church

704 Whitney Avenue

New Haven, Connecticut 06511

Phone: (203) 562-5664

Fax: (203) 562-1202

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