

The Inklings

The News of First Presbyterian Church

March 2013

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter

The good news of Easter rejoicing falls on the final day of March this year. But much happens before the good news of Easter morning can be proclaimed. The season of Lent continues to offer us a chance to reflect on our lives, to find places for prayer and renewal and service. In worship we will continue to sing God's praises and meditate on God's word and be in prayer together for our community and God's world.

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, March 24th. Come and wave palm branches as we sing Hosanna to the One who comes in the name of God. Maundy Thursday worship will take place in the Miller Gathering Hall. The service will begin at 7:30 p.m. and will include the sacrament of Holy Communion. The Good Friday Tenebrae service, on March 29, will be a time to hear again the story of Jesus' Passion, leading to his death on a cross. That service will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.



The Good News of Easter Joy will be proclaimed from the mountaintops and along Whitney Avenue! Join us for a sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. at the summit of East Rock Park. We will be joined by friends from First and Summerfield United Methodist Church and Hamden Plains United Methodist Church. Co-Pastor Bill Goettler will offer the Easter meditation. Breakfast follows at 9:30 a.m. in the Owens Community Building. Strata of all kinds, muffins, bagels, and yogurt and fruit will be set out for a delicious breakfast buffet. Then join friends around tables to delight in the wonder of this day. Easter Rejoicing worship will begin at 10:30 a.m. with a musical prelude for strings. Co-Pastor Maria LaSala will be the preacher for the morning, as we hear the good news of Christ's resurrection. We will sing Easter hymns, and lift prayers of thanksgiving to a God for whom nothing is impossible. The service will end with the singing of Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus* from *Messiah*. Let us rejoice that Jesus Christ is Risen Today!

All-Church Mission Conversation, Sunday, March 3

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?

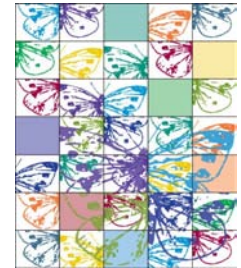
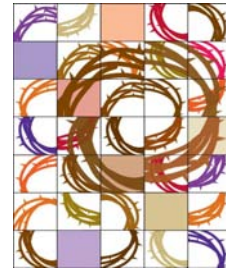
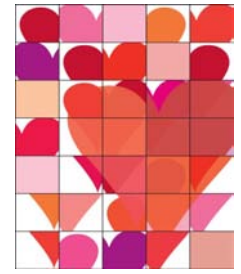
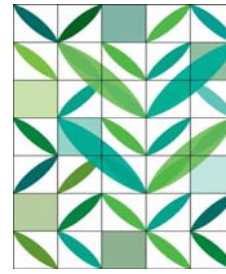
The Mission Committee has reserved seed money for a new First Presbyterian mission initiative, right now, in the winter and spring of 2013. We invite you to share your ideas and to listen to the ideas of others as we make way this new mission initiative, be it local or worldwide. This won't be a long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

This conversation will begin around 12:30 p.m. after the Friendship Hour. 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?"

Please note this is the conversation originally scheduled for February 10th but rescheduled because of the Blizzard of 2013.

Choir Music During Lent, Holy Week, and Easter

In Lent, Holy Week, and Easter, 2013, we honor many of the wonderful sacred music traditions that have grown up around these seasons. The choir continues, each Sunday of Lent, to sing a setting of a prayer, acknowledging our theme of prayer in general, and the Lord's Prayer in particular, this year. On Palm Sunday the adult choir will join together with the children's and youth choir in celebratory "Hosanna!"—an arrangement of a South African Hosanna. Our Maundy Thursday service will feature an African-American spiritual, and on Good Friday we'll hear again the haunting "Were You There?" On Easter Sunday we will welcome string players from the Yale Department of Music, who will play our prelude music. The choir will sing two joyous choruses for Easter Day, and we'll all celebrate together by singing the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's Messiah at the end of the service. Come to any and all our services, and let music be a meaningful part of your Lent, Holy Week, and Easter.



Artwork for Holy Week 2010 at Christ Church, New York City: Palm Sunday / Maundy Thursday / Good Friday / Easter

Lenten Communion

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be offered every Sunday during Lent. On March 3rd, we will celebrate the sacrament during worship. On March 10 and 17th, you are welcome to gather around the Communion Table at the end of the Postlude for a brief service. The Rev. Diane Goudreau will lead the service on March 10th and The Rev. Justin Ray, on March 17th. All are welcome.

Eve's Daughters – March 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, March 11th at First Presbyterian Church. The Blizzard of 2013 forced us to cancel our February gathering so 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 First Presbyterian Church. 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. The main dish will be provided. Please indicate if you can bring a side dish, salad or dessert.

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 March are:

March 3: Isa. 55:1-9; Ps. 63:1-8; 1 Cor. 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

March 10: Josh. 5:9-12; Ps. 32; 2 Cor. 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

March 17: Isa. 43:16-21; Ps. 126; Phil. 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

March 24: Luke 19:28-40; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Isa. 50:4-9a; Phil. 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56

Easter Sunday: Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Cor 15:19-26; John 20:1-18



Adult Education Class to Explore Prayer Practices

On March 3, 10, and 17th, the Adult Education Class will continue the opportunity to learn about and to practice praying. On March 3rd, YDS Intern Hannah Dreitcer will introduce us to the ways dance is prayer. Hannah, a dancer her whole life long, will talk with us about how dance is an important part of her daily prayer practice and spirituality. Hannah will dance for us ... and then invite us to explore the ways our bodies can express thanksgiving, joy, and even despair. On March 10th, Steve Davis will talk with us about monastic prayer, inviting us into the world of the early church leaders. Finally on March 17th, we will explore how music is prayer. The class begins at 9:30 a.m. in the Miller Gathering Hall. Coffee and tea will be available.



Iraq/Afghanistan Memorial, February Stone – Monday, March 4

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



March Pot Luck – A Simple Lenten Lunch

Join friends around the table following worship on Sunday, March 10th for a lunch of soups and simple sandwiches. Pots of homemade soups, meat and meatless, and sandwiches enough to share are needed for this lunch.

Midweek Lenten Program: Lenten Dinner, A Community Prayer

The next Midweek Lenten Program will be Thursday, March 14 at 6 p.m. We will each bring an ingredient and make a meal together. There is a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Table. For more information, please see Bryce Wiebe.

An Offering of Letters in support of better gun control laws – March 10

During the Lunch, members of the Mission Committee invite and encourage you to write letters to your State representative and members of Congress asking them to consider passing stricter gun control laws. Paper, pens, and the addresses of Connecticut legislators will be available. Make your voices heard and your opinions known! Let's keep the Connecticut Effect going.

All for One Photography Exhibit Opens March 2

Mark your calendar for the opening reception of the "All for One" photography exhibit, featuring First Presbyterian Church member Deborah Tenney. Displayed in the Keyes Gallery at the Willoughby Wallace Memorial Library in Branford, the exhibit will be up from March 2 to March 27. The opening reception is this Saturday, March 2, from 2 to 4 p.m. For more information, please see Debbie Tenney.



Feinstein Anti-Hunger Challenge



For the 10th year in a row, Christian Community Action (CCA) will be participating in the nationwide \$1-million Alan Shawn Feinstein Foundation Anti-Hunger Challenge. This means that the Feinstein Foundation (www.feinsteinfoundation.org) will make a financial donation for each food item/cash donation made to the CCA Food Pantry during March and April. The more donations received from March 1st to April 30th, the bigger the donation from the Feinstein Foundation. These donations can include cash, checks and food items (valued at \$1.00 per item or pound) or pledges.

CCA's food pantry is one of the largest in the region, serving more than 600 people a month, 50 percent of them children. It is available to families with children, senior citizens and people with disabilities in the Hill section of New Haven, and over the years the agency has served more than 40,000 people. Starting in 2001, they have offered a "Client Choice" program. Food pantry participants are given the opportunity to "shop" for their food items rather than receiving a pre-made bag. CCA maintains membership with the Connecticut Food Bank but relies on others for donations.

First Presbyterian Church has a green wheel barrow parked in the Copeland Room to collect food items for CCA. On the last Sunday of each month, a volunteer packs up the bags and delivers them to the CCA food pantry at Davenport and Asylum Streets. If you would like to join in this effort, please contact Jane Hindenlang at jane.hindenlang@gmail.com.

March and April are traditionally periods when donations to food pantries are low, which is why the Feinstein Foundation picked these months for their campaign. Please consider making an extra effort to fill the green wheelbarrow during this time.

Be a Friendship Hour Host!

Almost every Sunday following worship, our congregation moves to the Miller Gathering Hall for Friendship Hour. Each Friendship Hour is usually hosted by two or three people. Preparatory work for hosting Friendship Hour is rather flexible: the hosts may choose to serve participants using the treats and drinks purchased by our church, or they can bake or shop for the treats and the church is happy to reimburse for the purchases. The church also supplies coffee, tea, paper goods, etc. Sign up to host a Friendship Hour.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering – March 24

Sharing brings joy. To others, to God, and to us. That is the theme of this year's One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering. Catastrophic storms and wildfires throughout the United States. War and political uprisings in the Middle East. Stories of disaster, hunger, poverty, and other tragedies filled our newspapers and television screens throughout 2012. Hearing such stories it is easy to become disheartened. But it is in the midst of times like these that the prophet Isaiah's words remind us that we are called to be "the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in." We are called to make God's community livable for all.

Through our generous gifts to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, we can help Presbyterian Disaster Assistance restore communities around the world affected by disaster, including those still recovering from Hurricane Sandy. The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program was immediately on the ground in Sandy Hook, working with families and community leaders after the Newtown school shootings. The OGHS offering also supports the Presbyterian Hunger Program and the Self Development of People program. Our gifts have gone to support New Haven's Teach Our Children program provides resources for non English speaking parents in the New Haven Public Schools, and to Mothers For Justice, a transitional housing program for women and children sponsored by Christian Community Action.

We will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering on Palm Sunday, March 24th. Our simple acts of sharing lead to great transformation. Envelopes for this special offering can be found in the pews. Please give generously.

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 12:00pm Simple Lenten 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 6:00pm Midweek Lenten Program	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 6:30am Sunrise Service 9:30am Easter Breakfast 10:30am Worship						

April 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:00pm Worship Committee 6:00pm Memorial Cairn	2 9:30am Musical Folk 4:00pm Musical Folk 7:30pm CLOC and Mission Committee	3 9:30am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	4 9:00am Yoga 11:00am Bible Study 4:00pm Musical Folk	5 10:00am Musical Folk	6 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
7 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Friendship Hour	8 6:00pm Eve's Daughters	9 9:30am Musical Folk 4:00pm Musical Folk	10 9:30am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	11 9:00am Yoga 11:00am Bible Study 4:00pm Musical Folk	12 10:00am Musical Folk	13 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
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28 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Friendship Hour	29	30 9:30am Musical Folk 4:00pm Musical Folk				

Holy Week and Easter Sunday Schedule

Sunday, March 24:
Palm Sunday Worship
10:30 a.m.
Sanctuary

Thursday, March 28:
Maundy Thursday Worship
7:30 p.m.
Miller Gathering Hall

Friday, March 29:
Good Friday Tenebrae Service
7:30 p.m.
Sanctuary

Sunday, March 31, Easter Sunday:

Sunrise Service
6:30 a.m.
Summit of East Rock Park

Easter Breakfast
9:30 a.m.
Owens Community Building

Easter Rejoicing Worship
10:30 a.m.
Sanctuary

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 ...

Ed Miller, David Miller's father, who is hospitalized.

Stewart Fritts, who is hospitalized.

Jeff Miller, David Miller's brother, who is being treated for cancer.

Joe Bradley's mother, who is being treated for lung cancer.

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

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

Benedict XVI, as he enters retirement, and the Roman Catholic Church as they await a new leader.

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.

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

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

Easter Flowers and Lilies!

Orders for Easter lilies and plants are now being accepted by the church office. The cost is \$15 each.

Plants may be taken home after worship on Easter morning, or given to the church to be planted outside or given to homebound members. Please leave this form and a check at the Welcome Table by March 24.

Donated by: _____

___ In memory of _____

___ In thanksgiving for _____

___ I would like to take the plant home



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.