

# The Inkling

The News of First Presbyterian Church

June 2013

## A Summer of Sundays...

Join us for worship, for celebrations, for gatherings big and small this month.

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will mark the end of another wonderful year of learning and growing in faith. At 9:30 a.m. the Miller Hall will be the place to give thanks ... to church school teachers and their students, to youth group leaders, to the members of the Christian Education Committee, and to all who have chosen to spend some time sitting with and talking to others about the love of God. Certificates will be given to all church school children and youth, Bibles will be presented to our 4<sup>th</sup> graders, and each Sunday school class will talk about what they learned this year. Delicious breakfast treats will be served. Come one, come all ...

Worship will begin at 10:45 a.m. and will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Co-Pastor Bill Goettler will preach, the choir will sing and prayers will be lifted to God. Following the worship service, a brief service of healing and wholeness will be offered. Co-Pastor Maria LaSala will lead that service.

All are welcome to stay for the church picnic, rain or shine! Burgers (meatless and meat) will be cooking on the grill. If you bring a family sized side dish, salad or dessert, there will be plenty for everybody. This is always a delightful afternoon ... when friends come together to eat and laugh and visit.

At 4 p.m. the First Presbyterian Church Choir will join voices with the choir of Bethesda Lutheran Church for a performance of Mozart's *Requiem*. The choir has been rehearsing for months to prepare for this full scale performance with orchestra and soloists. The concert will take place at Bethesda Lutheran Church on Whitney Avenue. A free will offering will be received and a reception will follow. Come out and support our choir!

Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup> will be our final Sunday worshiping in the Sanctuary and worshiping at 10:45 a.m. It is also the Choir's final Sunday singing as a choir until the fall. But don't despair! Beginning on Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, we will move our worship hour to 9:30 a.m. in the air-conditioned Owens Community Building. Each Sunday, music will continue to fill the air, as choir members offer musical selections each week. We will continue to worship at 9:30 a.m. through Labor Day Sunday, September 1.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!



### Mozart's Requiem June 2

The choir of First Presbyterian Church and the choir of Bethesda Lutheran Church invite the community to a performance of Mozart's *Requiem* (completed by R. Levin) and other choral and instrumental music, on Sunday, June 2, at 4 p.m. The hour-long program will take place at Bethesda Lutheran Church, 450 Whitney Avenue, New Haven. The Bethesda Choir and the First Presbyterian Church choir will perform, as will soloists and orchestra, under the direction of Lars Gjerde and Patrick McCreless. We promise an afternoon of inspiring and beautiful music making! Mozart died before completing his *Requiem*. Mozart scholar and performer Robert Levin recently made a rarely heard completion of the work. Join us for this special event! The event is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be collected to support the next season of the Bethesda Music Series. A reception will follow the concert.

## A Special Thanks to Church School Teachers

Each week a group of adult volunteers come early to church to ready their Sunday school classrooms for a morning of learning and growing in faith. We are blessed to have a dedicated team of teachers eager to share the good news of God with our children and youth. Special thanks to Sue Balakrishnan, Elizabeth Gill, Betsy Mussmann and Betty Whitney, Gary Cline, and Bryce Wiebe for their devotion and love. Thanks go to Anna and Joel Hamaguchi, youth group advisors, for creating so many opportunities for the youth of our church to become good friends and faithful companions. And thanks to Naomi Brinton who lovingly watches over our littlest ones.



## Congratulations to a few more grads!

Scott Duncan will graduate this month from Daniel Hand High School in Madison. He will attend Miami University of Ohio in the fall. Scott is the son of Jim and Kathy Duncan and brother of Allie and Kirsten. Congratulations Scott.

Khelen Kuzmovich, a member of First Presbyterian Church who served as a ruling elder and on the Mission Committee, has just completed her MDIV degree at Wake Forest Divinity School. Khelen will begin a year long CPE residency at Wake Forest Baptist Hospital in Winston Salem, and plans to be ordained as a teaching elder. Hooray Khelen!

## Bibles Presented to 4<sup>th</sup> Graders

During the Church School Celebration, Bibles will be presented to our youngsters in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. They are: Lizamischel Boateng Rory Latham, Jonah Matos, Sam Purnell, and Sadie Turner. Please keep these youngsters in your prayers as they get to know how God's story as told in the Bible is "a lamp to their feet and a light unto their path."

## Walk Against Hunger Update

Thanks to those who gathered on May 5<sup>th</sup> to walk against hunger, and to all who supported our team by making financial contributions to the Connecticut Food Bank. Our team raised \$1500! Thanks to Brian Gray, who coordinated our efforts and to the following who walked that afternoon. It was a beautiful Sunday afternoon and a fun time was had by all. Thanks to Brian Gray, Nancy Rupp, Cressida Lui, Greg Greenberg, Betsy Mussmann, George Rupp, Ken Haynam, Rona Johnston Gordon, Bruce Gordon, Sadako Ohki, Jane Hindenlang, Leah Miller, Nathanael Matos, Jonah Matos, and Maria LaSala



## Friendship Hour Hosts needed!

The summer friendship hour is simple ... lemonade and cookies. As soon as worship ends and the chairs are stacked, a table of simple treats is set. Please sign up to host one this summer.

## "Learning to Love the Bible: A Journey from Genesis to Revelation"

This summer's preaching theme will explore the Bible ... from its beginnings to its end. Each Sunday the sermons will speak to the history and theology of God's people as we went from no people to God's people. Beginning with the book of Genesis, each preacher will choose a scripture passage, set it in the context of the story of God and God's people, and offer good news to the church. Co-Pastors Bill Goettler and Maria LaSala will begin the series, followed by guest preachers from the congregation throughout the summer.

## The Lectionary Bible Study

Each week we read and reflect on the texts for the upcoming Sunday.

**June 6:** 1 Kings 17:8-16, (17-24), Psalm 146, Galatians 1:11-24, Luke 7:11-17

**June 13:** 1 Kings 21:1-10, (11-14), 15-21a, Psalm 5:1-8, Galatians 2:15-21, Luke 7:36 - 8:3

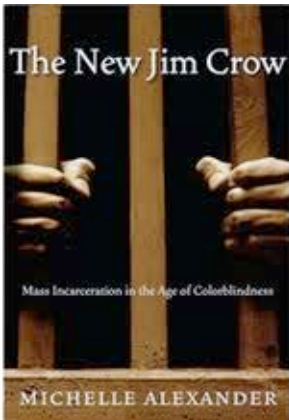
**June 20:** 1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a, Psalm 42 and 43, Galatians 3:23-29, Luke 8:26-39

**June 27:** 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14, Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20, Galatians 5:1, 13-25, Luke 9:51-62



## Covenant Network Regional Conference

Seven members of First Presbyterian Church journeyed to New York City for the Covenant Network's May 11 regional conference, "What Now? Marriage Equality for Presbyterians and Everyone Else." Same-gender marriage remains a divisive and disputed issue in our society and our denomination. The conference featured Attorney David Boies, who brought the landmark civil rights case before the U.S. Supreme Court challenging California's Proposition 8, and Attorney Doug Nave, who has argued numerous cases related to same-gender marriages and LGBT equality in Presbyterian Church courts. This "discipline" season in our denomination continues. A good deal of church case law on same-gender marriage has been established, and cases continue to be initiated, possibly including one in our presbytery. The Covenant Network of Presbyterians is an organization of moderate churches committed to LGBT equality in the denomination and has played important roles in the struggles relating to LGBT ordination and marriage. For more information about the conference and marriage equality feel free to ask Maria LaSala, Teddy Hogle, Bryce Wiebe, Mary Webber, Ralph Jones, or Dick Hasbany.



## Let's Read The New Jim Crow

Ten copies of the book, *The New Jim Crow* are available for church members to read this summer. Michelle Alexander's compelling narrative about the incarceration of African American men, and the systems of oppression that disenfranchise African Americans, will be the focal point of a fall 2013 book conversation. Now is the time to borrow one of the copies, and to engage these provocative and challenging ideas. Books can be found on the table in the Miller Gathering Hall. Please plan to read the book and then to return it to the table for another church member to borrow.

Co-Pastor Maria LaSala moderates an Inter-Faith discussion at the Peace Islands Institute event, "How Do We Understand Peace?" on May 30<sup>th</sup>.



## Iraq/Afghanistan Memorial Cairn

Reclaiming the Prophetic Voice will again be marking the cost of the continuing violence in Iraq and Afghanistan by placing the April stone on the Memorial Cairn at the intersection of Broadway, Elm and Park streets in New Haven on Monday evening, June 3, at 6 p.m. This stone will be inscribed with the April death toll of US military personnel and the approximate documented numbers of Iraqi and Afghani civilians killed during that same period of time. Emily Melcher of the Unitarian Society of New Haven will be leading the vigil.



## Film Series on Sunday evenings in June

Beginning on June 9<sup>th</sup>, First Presbyterian Church's Miller Gathering Hall will become a theater space on summer Sunday nights. Come at 6:30 p.m. and join friends to watch recently released documentaries and films covering current justice issues. Cool Drinks and Popcorn will be served.



June 9<sup>th</sup> – *A Place at the Table*, 50 million people in the U.S.-one in four children-don't know where their next meal is coming from, despite our having the means to provide nutritious, affordable food for all Americans. Directors Kristi Jacobson and Lori Silverbush examine this issue through the lens of three people who are struggling with food insecurity: Barbie, a single Philadelphia mother who grew up in poverty and is trying to provide a better life for her two kids; Rosie, a Colorado fifth-grader who often has to depend on friends and neighbors to feed her and has trouble concentrating in school; and Tremonica, a Mississippi second-grader whose asthma and health issues are exacerbated by the largely empty calories her hardworking mother can afford.



June 16<sup>th</sup> – *Where Do We Go Now?*, Is an all-encompassing comic allegory about religious intolerance and male belligerence. The film tells the story of a remote, isolated unnamed Lebanese village inhabited by both Muslims and Christians, who coexist in an uneasy peace. The village is surrounded by land mines and only reachable by a small bridge, and its cemetery is filled with the bodies of young men who have died in sectarian warfare. As civil strife engulfed the country, the women in the village learn of this fact and try, by various means and to varying success, to keep their men in the dark, sabotaging the village radio, then destroying the village TV. As the village is slowly drawn into greater violence, the women get along beautifully and conspire together to keep their men from fighting.



June 23<sup>rd</sup> – *King Corn*, is a feature documentary about two friends, one acre of corn, and the subsidized crop that drives our fast-food nation. In the film, Ian Cheney and Curt Ellis, best friends from college on the east coast, move to the heartland to learn where their food comes from. With the help of friendly neighbors, genetically modified seeds, and powerful herbicides, they plant and grow a bumper crop of America's most-productive, most-subsidized grain on one acre of Iowa soil. But when they try to follow their pile of corn into the food system, what they find raises troubling questions about how we eat—and how we farm.



June 30<sup>th</sup> - *Money and Life*, is a passionate and inspirational essay-style documentary that asks a provocative question: can we see the economic crisis not as a disaster, but as a tremendous opportunity? This cinematic odyssey connects the dots on our current economic pains and offers a new story of money based on an emerging paradigm of planetary well-being that understands all of life as profoundly interconnected.

**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 ...

David Meeske as he begins his two-year term in Mongolia with the Peace Corps

The people of Syria, Egypt, 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 and James Smit, 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.



## Vacation Bible School August 19 – 22: Register Now!

This summer's Vacation Bible School, "Come Aboard the VBS Friend-ship" will take place from Monday, August 19 through Thursday, August 22 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the Miller Gathering Hall of First Presbyterian Church. Once again we will be joined by our friends from Church of the Redeemer (UCC), First and Summerfield UMC, and Bethesda Lutheran Church for a fun filled week of songs, crafts, and field trips as we hear stories from the Bible about friendship. VBS is open to children rising to Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The cost for the four day program, which includes snacks, is \$25, with a discounted price for families with more than one child. Registration forms are on the Welcome Table. If you'd like more information, please talk with Co-Pastor Maria LaSala.

### Mission Committee Report

Earlier this year, the Mission Committee sought input from the Congregation for your ideas on how we should approach our mission work. Specifically, could we build upon the commitment and involvement that is so evident each winter in our mission work with Abraham's Tent? The response was overwhelmingly positive for expanding our work in the New Haven area with a focus on promoting peace in our community, and to expand upon our hunger relief efforts while recognizing our role as stewards of God's creation. Since that meeting in February, the Mission Committee has been working to find the best ways to implement your ideas. The result is a multifaceted initiative that we hope reflects the commitment of our church to mission.

**Your Place Youth Center** is a ministry of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church with the mission to prevent youth violence by providing a safe, socially and academically enriching atmosphere for the youth of Newhallville and greater New Haven. The Kid's Summer Program serves youth from ages of 5 to 12 and meets in July and August. The Teen Program meets in the Fall, Spring, and Summer and serves teens ages 13-17. We recently met with Rev. Tracy Johnson Russell of St. Andrew's to explore the possibility of more hands-on involvement with the summer program. She expressed her appreciation to our past and on-going financial support, and was very happy to hear of our interest in expanding our involvement, from being a mentor to being a chaperon on summer field trips. If you are so moved, the staff and kids at Your Place Youth Center would welcome your help.

**Emerge, CT** is a re-entry, transitional work program for ex-offenders with low educational levels and limited work experience. Emerge, CT's goal is to help these men and women re-enter the world by helping to refocus their lives in positive ways. Many of the participants are reading at the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grade level which impedes their ability to escape the cycle of poverty. After completing the literacy component of this program, they are boosted to the 10<sup>th</sup> grade level, which helps them access training and support programs that require higher levels of proficiency. Drawing on Henry Dynia's insight and experience, we can best support of the folks in Emerge, CT by helping with its literacy program.

The third component of our expanding mission work addresses the difficulty faced by many inner city residents of putting healthy and fresh food on the table. In response to this problem, Caty Poole proposed a creative solution by tapping into the benefits of Community Supported Agriculture. On your behalf, we are now shareholders of **Massaro Farms, CSA** of Woodbridge, CT. Our weekly share will be donated to families that are helped by **Christian Community Action (CCA), Inc.** The result will be a steady, reliable supply of fresh vegetables and fruit for these families. Help is also needed with the weekly pickup of the food on Tuesday and delivery to CCA. If you have a green thumb, or an interest is having that thumb turn green, you are welcome to pitch in on our behalf at the farm.

# June 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
2 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Church Picnic 4pm Mozart Requiem	3  6:00pm Memorial Cairn 6:00pm Worship committee	4 9:30am Musical Folk 4:00pm Musical Folk 6:30pm CE Committee 7:30pm CLOC and Mission Committees	5 9:30am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting	6 9:00am Yoga 11:00am Bible Study 4:00pm Musical Folk	7 10:00am Musical Folk	8 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
9 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Friendship Hour 6:30pm Film Series	10	11 9:30am Musical Folk 4:00pm Musical Folk	12 9:30am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting	13 9:00am Yoga 11:00am Bible Study 4:00pm Musical Folk	14  10:00am Musical Folk	15  9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
16 9:30am Worship 10:30am Friendship Hour 6:30pm Film Series	17	18  9:30am Musical Folk 4:00pm Musical Folk 7:15pm Session	19 9:30am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting	20  9:00am Yoga 11:00am Bible Study 4:00pm Musical Folk	21  10:00am Musical Folk	22 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
23 9:30am Worship 10:30am Friendship Hour 6:30pm Film Series	24	25  9:30am Musical Folk 4:00pm Musical Folk	26 9:30am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting	27 9:00am Yoga 11:00am Bible Study 4:00pm Musical Folk	28 10:00am Musical Folk	29 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
30 9:30am Worship 10:30a, Friendship Hour 6:30pm Film Series						

# July 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 4:00pm Music Together	2 9:30am Musical Folk 7:30pm CLOC and Mission Committees	3 9:30am Musical Folk 4:30pm Music Together	4 <b>Independence Day</b>	5	6 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
7 9:30am Worship 10:45am Friendship Hour	8 4:00pm Music Together 6:00pm Worship committee	9 9:30am Musical Folk 4:00pm Musical Folk	10 9:30am Musical Folk 4:30pm Music Together	11 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk	12 10:00am Musical Folk	13 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
14 9:30am Worship 10:45am Friendship Hour Noon – Killams Point	15	16 9:30am Musical Folk 4:00pm Musical Folk 7:15 Session	17 9:30am Musical Folk 4:30pm Music Together	18 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk	19 10:00am Musical Folk	20 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
21 9:30am Worship 10:45am Friendship Hour	22	23 9:30am Musical Folk 4:00pm Musical Folk 7:15pm Session	24 9:30am Musical Folk 4:30pm Music Together	25 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk	26 10:00am Musical Folk	27 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
28 9:30am Worship 10:45am Friendship Hour	29	30 9:30am Musical Folk 4:00pm Musical Folk	31 9:30am Musical Folk 4:30pm Music Together			

CO-PASTORS: BILL GOETTLER & MARIA LASALA

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: PATRICK McCRELESS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATOR: BRYCE WIEBE

PARISH ASSOCIATE: SUE ASHER

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**Worship**

10:45 a.m. on June 2 and June 9

9:30 a.m. for the rest of the Summer

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