

The Inkling

Fall's Coming Around Again!

It's that time again. Summer activities have come to an end, school has started for most, and the church returns to its fall schedule after Labor Day. We've said farewell to beloved members of our congregation who have moved away and we've welcomed new friends and families into our midst. The fall season will bring more learning and growing in faith, more opportunities to worship and study, and many ways to reach out to our hurting city and world.



On Sunday, September 1st, we will gather at 9:30 a.m. in the air-conditioned Miller Gathering Hall for worship. Co-Pastor Maria LaSala will be the preacher for the morning as we reflect on the ways we work together to bring the kingdom of heaven to earth. Maria invites you to be God's ears and eyes, paying attention to the ways others live faith (even if they don't know that's what they are doing). What faithful deeds do you notice? We will use that day to follow the model of the Letter to the Hebrews, naming some of the many and varied ways that God uses our labor (at home and at work, for pay or as volunteers) to care for God's world.

On Sunday, September 8th, worship returns to 10:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary. The Advanced Academy Division of the Elm City Girls' Choir will lead us in song. Our voices will proclaim the wonder of God. Co-Pastor Bill Goettler will be the preacher, sharing the good news of the Gospel. Please note there will be no Sunday School classes that morning.



Church School for all ages will begin on Sunday, September 15th. Join us at 9:30 a.m. in the Miller Gathering Hall. We'll enjoy some breakfast treats, sing songs, play Bible trivia, introduce the Sunday School teachers, and hear about the plans for the fall season for both youth and adults. Worship begins at 10:45 a.m. The First Presbyterian Church Choir returns to sing God's praises. And following worship, all are welcome to stay for a church picnic. Meatless and meat burgers will be cooked on the grill. Please bring a family sized salad, side dish or dessert to share. Rain or shine, God's people will gather in joy and in hope.

Come, let us worship our God!

A New Look: Christian Education at First Presbyterian Church

We're trying a few new things this fall even as we continue with the strong education programs that hold us fast in our faith.

Sunday mornings begin at 9:30 a.m. with Christian Education for all ages. This year children in grades K-4 will meet together in the large classroom on the north side of the sanctuary building. Teaching grades K-4 are Betsy Mussmann and Betty Whitney. Children in grades 5-8 will meet in the Middle School classroom in the Owens Community Building. They will be taught by Gary Cline and will begin with a survey course of the Old Testament. High School youth will meet in the High School classroom for conversations about faith and life. Adult leaders from the congregation will be the facilitators of each week's conversations. We invite you to grow in faith, act in love, serve God.

There will be a range of options for adult learning this fall. Does a parent and baby class interest you? This class will be designed for parents of infants and toddlers, who with their children, will have an opportunity to reflect on scripture and talk together about how to teach faith to our children. This class will be facilitated by the parents, each taking a turn in leading the conversation. Nursery care is available beginning at 9:30 a.m. if you desire to be without your child for the education hour.

A Bible Study class for parents of elementary and middle school children will also be offered on Sunday mornings. Leadership of this class, too, will be shared by those who come. Each week a bible passage will be suggested for reflection and study. Those participating will share a willingness to explore what scripture has to say to us today. For more information about these new parent classes, please speak with CE Chair, Elizabeth Gill.

The regular Adult Education class resumes on September 22nd. This class takes place in the Miller Gathering Hall and will visit a wide range of topics about faith, life, justice, peace, and theology. Leaders come from the congregation and from New Haven

New Member Luncheon



Have you been worshipping with us for a while and are curious about church membership? Are you interested in learning more about First Presbyterian Church? Co-Pastors Bill Goettler and Maria LaSala will host a luncheon for prospective members on Sunday, September 22 following the Friendship Hour. The lunch will last about one hour and will include time for conversations about Christian faith and about the ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Child care will be provided. Please talk with Bill or Maria or email the church at firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com if you'd like to attend.

“Feasting on the Word” – A New Monthly Supper and Study Program

Beginning in September, we will begin a new supper and study program. We'll begin at 6 p.m. for a pot-luck supper followed by a brief worship service which will include a teaching and shared reflecting on the biblical text. Members from the congregation will be invited to share the leadership with the Co-Pastors. The songs will be simple and easy to sing, and together we will lift our prayers to a gracious God. For more information, please talk with Co-Pastors Bill Goettler or Maria LaSala.

Mission Co-Workers Bernie and Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta to visit First Presbyterian Church

We are always eager to hear about the work of the church in the world, and on September 29th at 9:30 a.m. we will learn about how the church is engaged in interfaith work in Indonesia. Bernie Adeney-Risakotta began serving as a mission co-worker for the PC(USA) in 1991, and he has served continuously since then. Farsijana came began that work in January of 2003.

Bernie is director of the Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies (ICRS-Yogya) at Gadjah Mada University (UGM) in Yogyakarta. Farsijana is director of the Center for Research and Community Development at Duta Wacana Christian University in Yogyakarta. Both Bernie and Farsijana spend a lot of time working together with Christians and Muslims to build a just society.

In the late 1990s Bernie and Farsijana built a home in an all-Muslim neighborhood that is at the same time a center for community outreach and hospitality. It is called “Pondok Tali Rasa.” At any given time they share it with several other people of both Muslim and Christian faith. Their house also serves as a center for the Indonesian Women’s Coalition (KPI), which Farsijana leads, empowering women and serving the victims of natural disasters.

Choir Rehearsals Resume on September 11

The First Presbyterian Church Choir will begin its rehearsals for the fall season on Wednesday, September 11, at 7:00 p.m. We always welcome new singers! We enjoy learning an eclectic range of music, from Renaissance motets to Bach to spirituals and contemporary music in various styles, and bringing these different voices to our worship services. If you want to join us, speak with Pat McCreless or a member of the choir.



Afghanistan Memorial Cairn

Once again friends of “Reclaiming the Prophetic Voice,” will mark the number of military and civilian deaths in the war in Afghanistan on Monday, September 1st at 6 p.m. at the Monument on Broadway and Elm Streets. Co-Pastor Maria LaSala will be leading the service which lasts 15 minutes. All are welcome.

Texts for the Sundays in September:

September 1: Jer. 2:14-13; Ps. 81:1, 10-16; Heb. 13:1-8, 15-16; Lukw 14:1, 7-14

September 8: Jer. 18:1-11; Ps. 139:1-6, 13-18; Philem. 1-21; Luke 14:25-33

September 15: Jer. 4:11-12, 22-28; Ps. 14; 1 Tim. 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

September 22: Jer. 8:18-9:1; Ps. 79:1-9; 1 Tim. 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

September 29: Jer 32:1-3a, 6-15; Ps. 91:1-6, 14-16; 1 Tim. 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31



Property Committee Updates

Church Skylight

Over the summer arrangements were made to finally replace the church sanctuary skylight. For those who don't know, we have been patching and plugging up leaks for the past few years, and it is time for a replacement. Work will hopefully be in progress when you read this, and it is planned to be completed before we resume worshipping in the sanctuary. The repairs are being funded by the Capital Fund.

Property Work Day

Yes, the weeds have grown over the summer, and there will be a property work day scheduled soon. Watch the church bulletin for date and time. Meanwhile, if you feel the urge to pull a few weeds after church, go ahead!

CCA Food Contributions

The CCA wheelbarrow is empty again, waiting to be filled with all good things. Consider purchasing an extra bag of groceries this month to feed hungry families in New Haven. Cheerios, ... are always good options. Coffee and tea would be most welcome. And, on the last Sunday of the month, add some fresh veggies and fruit!



Looking Ahead to October

World Communion Sunday is October 6th. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated as we remember our connection to Christians around the world. The special Peacemaking Offering will be received. A portion of this money goes to support local projects working for justice, reconciliation, and peace. Envelopes will be in the pews.

Combatants for Peace Return to New Haven

On Sunday, October 6th, the Combatants for Peace will host a walk through the city of New Haven. You are invited to join these Palestinian and Israeli former military leaders as they work for peace in the Middle East. There will be other opportunities for conversation during the week that follows. Details will be forthcoming.

Affordable Housing Forum

Christian Community Action's Advocacy Education Project will be hosting a Housing Forum "The Lack of Affordable Housing in CT." It will be held on Thursday, September 5th from 5:00pm – 6:30pm, CONNcat located at 4 Science Park, New Haven, CT. The housing forum is part of the work of Mothers for Justice, an advocacy group who recently received a grant from the PCUSA Self-Development of People Program.

Mission Updates

This summer our mission work has focused on two new initiatives that tackle two broad societal issues of our day, justice and nutrition.

Early this summer, our church sponsored a food share in a local CSA to provide fresh fruits and vegetables for distribution by the Christian Community Action of New Haven. Every Tuesday, volunteers from First Presbyterian pick up our share from the Massaro Farm CSA in Woodbridge and deliver the produce to the CCA in New Haven. The CCA food pantry is a vital resource for families in the Hill Section of New Haven, but is mainly canned and preserved foods. Our contribution of fresh produce is a welcome and nutritious addition to families in the Hill section of New Haven. Juan Marquez, the Food Pantry Coordinator at CCA says that this goes quickly as everyone loves the fresh food from the farm.

Our other focus has been to help develop skills in literacy and mathematics for individuals participating in the EMERGE CT Program in New Haven. The Emerge Program helps ex-offenders develop the job and literacy skills, and the motivation to re-enter society as productive citizens. Every Thursday and Friday, volunteer tutors from First Presbyterian work one-on-one with men and women in the Emerge program. Alden Woodcock, the Case Manager of EMERGE CT, says "I am thrilled with the help we've received from the tutors. The students have adjusted well to the new format, and the tutors have been extremely helpful in guiding them through concepts, exhibiting the patience and persistence necessary to motivate our men and women." The report from the tutors is equally positive. With several new students starting mid-September, this is a perfect time to join this effort and make a difference.

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 ...

Ken Haynam for his continued recovery from a stroke.

David Meeske serving with the Peace Corps in Mongolia.

Prayers for Joan Well's daughter-in-law, Annabelle, who has had a recurrence of cancer.

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

Jordan Matos and James Smit, who are 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.

September 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30am Worship 10:45am Friendship Hour	2 6:00pm Memorial Cairn	3 6:30pm CE Committee 7:30pm CLOC and Mission Committees	4 4:30pm Staff Meeting	5 9:00am Yoga 5:00pm Affordable Houseing Forum	6	7 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA 1:00pm ECGC Retreat
8 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Friendship Hour	9 6:00pm Worship committee	10	11 4:30pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	12 9:00am Yoga	13	14 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
15 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Church Picnic	16 4:15pm Musical Folk 5:15pm Musical Folk	17 9:30am Musical Folk 10:30am Musical Folk	18 10:00am Musical Folk 11:00am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Musical Folk 7:00pm Choir	19 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk	20	21 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
22 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Friendship Hour 12:30pm New Member Lunch	23 4:15pm Musical Folk 5:15pm Musical Folk	24 9:30am Musical Folk 10:30am Musical Folk 7:15pm Session	25 10:00am Musical Folk 11:00am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Musical Folk 7:00pm Choir	26 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk	27	28 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
29 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Friendship Hour	30 4:15pm Musical Folk 5:15pm Musical Folk	28 9:30am Musical Folk 10:30am Musical Folk	29 10:00am Musical Folk 11:00am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Musical Folk 7:00pm Choir	30 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk	31	

October 2013

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6 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Friendship Hour Afternoon: Combatants for Peace Event	7 4:15pm Musical Folk 5:15pm Musical Folk 6:00pm Memorial Cairn 6:00pm Worship Cmte	8 9:30am Musical Folk 10:30am Musical Folk	9 10:00am Musical Folk 11:00am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Musical Folk 7:00pm Choir	10 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk 6:30pm GNHCC	11	12 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
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CO-PASTORS: BILL GOETTLER & MARIA LASALA

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: PATRICK McCRELESS

PARISH ASSOCIATE: SUE ASHER

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
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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.