

The Inklings

The News of First Presbyterian Church

October 2013

A Season of Peace ...

“Let us hear what the Lord will speak.
God will speak peace to the people.
Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet.
Justice and peace will kiss each other.
Faithfulness will spring up from the earth.
Justice will look down from the sky.” Adapted from Psalm 85

World Communion Sunday is Sunday, October 6th. We will gather in the sanctuary to worship God, who speaks peace to God’s people. Scripture will be read, songs from around the world will be sung, and prayers will be lifted for a weary world. Co-Pastor Bill Goettler will be the preacher for the morning and the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated.



At 2 p.m. that Sunday we invite you to be a part of the iWage Peace Interfaith walk. Join other people of faith from many religious traditions for a 2 mile walk around the city of New Haven. The walk begins on the New Haven Green and will also include comments from New Haven religious leaders. If you’d like to walk, please talk with Cressida Lui.

Let us tune our ears to the God of peace, that we may walk in God’s ways.

More Peacemaking Opportunities!

On Thursday, October 3rd, you are invited to the Miller Gathering Hall for a delicious Turkish dinner, sponsored by Abraham’s Table. Dinner will begin at 6 p.m. and will be followed by an Interfaith Panel of religious leaders from the New Haven area who will turn to the holy scriptures to discuss how Judaism, Christianity, and Islam to talk with us about “Who Is My Neighbor.” Co-Pastor Maria LaSala will moderate the discussion. Joining the panel are: Rabbi Michael Farberman of Temple Emanuel of Greater New Haven, Rev. Hillary Greer of St. Mark’s Episcopal Chapel, and Imam Omer Bajwa of Yale’s Chaplain’s Office. Invite your friends!

A conversation about the book, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, by Michelle Alexander, will take place on Sunday, October 20th from 3 to 5 p.m. We will be joined by The Rev. Marilyn Kendrix, Associate Pastor for Faith Formation at the Church of the Redeemer in New Haven, who will lead a discussion about the implications of mass incarceration of young African American males, and what communities of faith might do to change this unjust and hurtful reality. At Yale Divinity School, Rev. Kendrix led an effort to have students and faculty read and discuss the book, and coordinated Alexander’s visit to YDS. Copies of the book were made available in the summer. If you have a church copy, please return it so that another might pick it up, or bring it with you on Sunday, October 20th. The program will take place in the Miller Gathering Hall. You are encouraged to come to Rev. Kendrix’s discussion even if you have not read the book in advance. All are welcome.



Harvest Pot Luck on October 20th!

Plan to stay after worship for the Fall Harvest Pot luck. Squash and sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce and freshly baked breads ... yum! It must be fall and that means the harvest is full. Join friends around the table sharing stories and eating the foods of the season. Please bring your favorite main dish, side dish, salad, or dessert ... Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

And more Feasting ... Feasting on the Word that is.

Beginning on October 22, 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 time for teaching and shared reflection 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.

Placing of the Afghanistan Memorial Cairn – October 7

Reclaiming the Prophetic Voice will again be marking the cost of the continuing violence in Iraq and Afghanistan by placing the September stone on the Memorial Cairn at the intersection of Broadway, Elm and Park streets in New Haven on Monday evening, October 7, at 6 p.m. This stone will be inscribed with the September death toll of US military personnel and the approximate documented numbers of Iraqi and Afghani civilians killed during that same period of time. Rev. John Gage of United Church on the Green will lead the service.

Presbyterian Undergraduates at Yale

College students are welcome to join Campus Pastor Hannah Dreitcer on Sunday afternoons at 4 p.m. for a time of friendship and Bible Study. This fall, the group plans to watch the Harry Potter movies and do a little theologizing at the same time! If you are a college student in the New Haven area and wish to be a part of this group, please talk with Hannah Dreitcer or email her at Hannah.dreitcer@yale.edu.

Men's Breakfast October 5

A men's breakfast will be held on Saturday, October 5 at 7:30 a.m. at the IHOP (International House of Pancakes) on Skiff Street. Come for a time of Bible study and reflection and a side of pancakes and eggs. If you'd like to attend, sign up at the Welcome Table or speak to Bruce Gordon or Bill Goettler.

Youth Choir

It is time to sing! All school-aged youth are invited to sing in the FPC Youth Choir. Weekly rehearsals will begin on October 13th immediately after church service. If you are interested in having a great time singing and having rewarding treats, please join Beth Aura Miller and Ken Balakrishnan in sharing your voices in song.



Costume Bingo!

Boo! It's that time of year ... butterflies and bumblebees, witches and goblins and ghosts are invited for an evening of Bingo! Young and old are welcome to come dressed in your Halloween best on Saturday, October 26th, from 5 – 7 p.m. The costume parade will take place at 5:30 p.m. followed by a visit to the snack and candy bar for take home goodies. There will be prizes and fun for all ages. Admission? A bag of treats for the goody bags. Come just for the costume parade, or stay for pizza and a few rounds of Bingo! Invite your friends ... and come and have fun.

A Special Meeting of the Congregation

The Session has called a special meeting of the congregation for Sunday, October 6th immediately following worship to hear the report of the Nominating Committee and to elect officers to fill the three vacancies on the Session. Being nominated are: Nancy Woodington (2013), Andrew Forsyth (2014) and David Miller (2015). The newly elected Ruling Elders will be ordained and installed on Sunday, October 20th during the worship service.

New Session Member Bios:

Andrew Forsyth

This is Andrew Forsyth's third year in New Haven and at First Presbyterian. Born and brought up in Glasgow, Scotland, he's also spent some time in both Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Cambridge, England. He's currently a doctoral student of ethics in Yale's Religious Studies department. His work is on basic topics thought about by lawyers, philosophers, and religious communities alike, such as punishment and forgiveness.

Andrew preached on the Old Testament's "History Books" in our "Summer's Journey Through the Bible: From Genesis to Revelation," and is a member of the session's "Sanctuary Task Force." His partner Josh is a lawyer in New Haven specializing in employment law, and his mother, brother, and extended family live in Glasgow.

David Miller

David looks forward to again serving on Session. With his wife Beth Aura, they found First Presbyterian 30 years ago and have been actively involved with their church family here ever since. Raised in northeast Pennsylvania, he arrived in Connecticut in the early 80's. A graduate of Penn State with a professional degree in Architectural Engineering, he joined an architectural lighting design firm in West Haven, eventually becoming a senior partner. [He left that company after 25 years soon after the death of its founding partner.] As chair of the Building Task Force from 2003 – 2005, he was intimately involved with the development, financing and construction of the Owens Community Building. Currently, David is chair of this year's Stewardship Committee, member of the Property Committee and the Sanctuary Task Force. He is also serving his third term on Presbytery's Church Development Committee. Since buying their first family mini-van nearly 20 years ago, David has been shuttle driver Sunday mornings for Yale students. [You might have noticed their current red van with its magnetic "Church Shuttle" sign in the parking lot.] This has been one of his most enjoyable gifts of service, having met scores of fascinating students over the years. The Millers reside in Woodbridge with daughters Lindsay, a college senior at MICA, and Leah, a junior at Amity High School.

Nancy Woodington

Nancy Woodington came to New Haven as a Yale Freshman, then went on the Divinity School and the Graduate School, finishing with a Ph.D. in Near Eastern Languages and literature. She has been a member of First Presbyterian Church twice, once as an undergraduate, then returning in 1999 after a 14 year hiatus as a member of Trinity on-the-Green, where she served on the Vestry and a number of committees. Here she has been on the Mission, Nominating and Property Committees, and sings in the choir. She is originally from South Jersey where there is no shortage of Presbyterian churches. She is married to her Yale College classmate John Meeske. Both Nancy and John are active singers, and their sons, David Meeske – now with the Peace Corps in Mankhan, Khovd, Mongolia – and Christopher Woodington – presently in Queensland, Australia for the term – have been singers as well. Nancy is an assistant university registrar and Yale, and she and her husband enjoy travelling. They attended evensong at Canterbury Cathedral on September 29th, at about the same time that First Presbyterian Church was in worship.

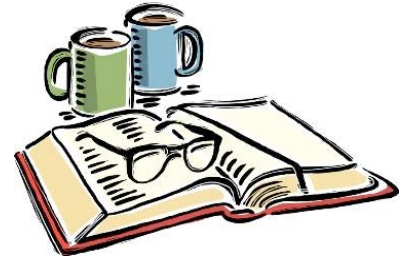
Texts for the Sundays in September:

October 6: Lam 1:1-6; Lam. 3:19-26 or Ps. 137; 2 Tim. 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10

October 13: Jer. 29:1, 4-7; Ps. 66:1-12; 2 Tim. 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19

October 20: Jer. 31:27-34; Ps. 119:97-104; 2 Tim. 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8

October 27: Joel 2:23-32; Ps. 65; 2 Tim. 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14



Church School News

The Sunday School year is off to a good start. Elementary, middle school and high school youth meet at 9:30 a.m. A new parent and toddler group gathers at 10 a.m. This year's high school class features an exciting array of team teachers, with subjects ranging from Science and Religion to Law and Faith, to the embodiment of worship in the Presbyterian tradition. The middle school class is journeying through the Hebrew Scriptures this year. There is plenty for all. Bring a friend!

Upcoming Youth Group Events

Sunday, Oct. 6th: I Wage Peace march at 2pm on the New Haven Green. Rides to and from the Green will be available from the church on Sunday.

Sunday, Oct. 20th: Pumpkin carving and chunking after church. We will head to the Hamaguchi's house for lunch and pumpkin carving. Then we will head to the park with some smaller pumpkins and some contraption that Joel has built to see how far we can launch pumpkins! We'll end around 4 or 4:30.

Saturday, Nov. 2nd: Columbus House volunteering. We will be serving dinner at Columbus House this weekend. Check with Anna and Joel for details.

Weekend of Nov. 15-17: Youth leader Anna Hamaguchi is in a play that will start its run this weekend! It's *Almost, Maine* produced by the New Haven Theater Company. Anna and Joel will be in communication with the youth to see what time works best to attend.

Peace and Justice Dinner Group

The Peace and Justice Dinner group meets every other Monday at 6 p.m. at the home of Art and Mary Hunt. The next gathering will take place on Monday, October 7th. If you'd like to be a part of this group, please talk with Art at art@cheswood.com.

The Bible and The Newspaper – Adult Education this month

During the month of October, Co-Pastor Maria LaSala will lead a Bible Study based on the current events found in the pages of our newspapers. Each Sunday a different theme will be considered, and we will turn to both the news and the Bible to learn what God has to say about how we should live. On October 6th we will look at stories of war and peace. On October 13th we will turn to stories of women's and men's leadership styles. October 20th will invite us to think about the environment, and we will conclude the series on October 27th with a conversation about money.

"I Wage Peace" Walk 2013

When: Sunday October 6, 2013 2:00 pm

Why: The IWagePeace Walk is a preemptive peace action, a public declaration in which religious people and spiritual leaders will stand together to declare that we will not succumb to fear, hatred, and harm, but will be drawn to goodness through our very public and common action together.

Who: Over thirty-five faith communities, Churches, Mosques, Synagogues, and others; over four hundred attended last year's walk. Joining us on the walk will be four visiting members of the Israeli/Palestinian non-violent peace and justice organization "Combatants For Peace."

Where: Gather in Downtown New Haven on Lower Green at the corner of Temple and Elm across from the New Haven Free Public Library. It's a Sunday, so you may park downtown for free.

The Walk: Two short miles with police escort and three short ceremonies: Starting on the Green honoring our Jewish family and all faith traditions, stopping at Christ Church on Broadway honoring our Christian family and all faith traditions, and ending at Masjid Al-Islam on George Street honoring our Muslim family and all faith traditions. At each stop we will publicly commit ourselves to honor and protect Jews, Christians, Muslims and all people of all faiths and no faith, here in United States, Israel, Palestine, and the world.

For more info, speak with Cressida Lui or go to:
<http://iwagepeace.org/getinvolvedevents.html>

Looking Ahead to November:

All Saints' Sunday is November 3rd. If you would like to have a name of a loved one who died in the past year, please send an email to the church office at firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com by October 27th.

The Stewardship Season will begin in November. Mark your calendars for the annual Stewardship Lunch, to take place on Sunday, November 10th. Please begin to give prayerful thought to the ways you will respond to God's graciousness in your life. This year we will be inviting both financial pledges to support the church operating budget, and your gifts of time and talent to serve God's people at First Presbyterian Church and in our city. David Miller is the chair of the Stewardship Committee this year.

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 ...

Maria Silva and her family, who are mourning the death of Maria's mother.

Ron and Tommie Highwart during this difficult time in their lives.

Ken Haynam for his continuing recovery.

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

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

James Smit and Patrick Copeland, who are serving in the armed forces, and Jordan Matos, who is home on leave.

David Meeske serving with the Peace Corps in Mongolia.

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

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

October 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:30pm CE Committee 7:30pm CLOC and Mission Committees	2 4:30pm Staff Meeting	3 9:00am Yoga 6:00pm Turkish Dinner and Interfaith Panel	4 7:00pm CT Folk Concert	5 7:30am Men's Breakfast 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
6 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Congregational Meeting 12:00pm Friendship Hour 2:00pm I Wage Peace Walk	7 6:00pm Peace and Justice Dinner Group 6:00pm Memorial Cairn 6:15pm Worship committee	8	9 4:30pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	10 9:00am Yoga 6:30pm GNHCC	11	12 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
13 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Friendship Hour	14 4:15pm Musical Folk	15 9:30am Musical Folk 7:15pm Session	16 10:00am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Musical Folk 7:00pm Choir	17 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk 6:30pm GNHCC	18	19 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
20 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Harvest Potluck 12:30pm Youth Group Pumpkin Carving 3:00pm New Jim Crow Discussion	21 4:15pm Musical Folk	22 9:30am Musical Folk 6:00pm Feasting on the Word Bible Study	23 10:00am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Musical Folk 7:00pm Choir	24 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk 6:30pm GNHCC	25	26 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA 5 p.m. Halloween Bingo
27 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Friendship Hour	28 4:15pm Musical Folk	29 9:30am Musical Folk	30 10:00am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Musical Folk 7:00pm Choir	31 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk 6:30pm GNHCC		

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10 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Friendship Hour	11 4:15pm Musical Folk 6:00pm Eve's Daughters	12 9:30am Musical Folk	13 10:00am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Musical Folk 7:00pm Choir	14 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk 6:30pm GNHCC	15	16 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA Time TBA: Youth Group theater trip
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CO-PASTORS: BILL GOETTLER & MARIA LASALA

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: PATRICK McCRELESS

PARISH ASSOCIATE: SUE ASHER

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 Inkling, moving to an entirely digital format. So take a moment today to check out the newsletter online.