

The Inkling

The News of First Presbyterian Church

September 2014

Sundays in September

The lovely days of summer have come to a rather sudden end. One minute we were delighting in a seemingly endless August, with five Fridays and five Sundays, and then, in the blink of an eye we've arrived Labor Day.

The good news is that that means that First Presbyterian Church returns to our Church School Year schedule and to the many diverse activities and programs that make our life together strong.

On September 7th, everyone is invited to a special Christian Education hour, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Our new Director of Christian Education, Kimberley Fais, has been hard at work creating wonderful opportunities for our children and youth to grow in their faith and in their relationship to God and one another. Kimberley has an article of her own in this issue of the Inkling describing just a few of the special programs in store for our children and youth this fall. On that first September Sunday, worship will begin at 10:45 a.m. in the beautiful sanctuary designed back in 1967 by the architects Jim Owens and John Dinkeloo. This sanctuary continues to bring awe and wonder to all who enter through its wooden doors and turn their eyes to the beauty of God's creation morning by morning and day by day. The choir, under the direction of Patrick McCreless, will sing together once again, the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated, we will lift prayers for our needy world, and delight in the call to discipleship God has placed upon our lives. Co-Pastor Maria LaSala will be the preacher for the morning.

The Elm City Girls Choir returns to First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, September 14th. For almost 15 years, we have welcomed this group of young women into our church hall for a choir retreat on Saturday, followed by their singing in worship on Sunday morning. Led by their director Rebecca Rosenbaum, the Elm City Girls Choir is just one of the many choirs that now make up the United Choir School. Over 500 girls from all across Connecticut's southern region come together to sing. Claire and Sadie Turner both sing with the United Choir School. Former singers include church members Rowyn Davis, Sophie Latham, Thalia Gatison, Anna LaSala-Goettler and Sarah LaChance. Come and hear these voices united in song make a joyful noise to the Lord. Co-Pastor Bill Goettler will be the preacher for the morning.

On Sunday, September 21st we will present Bibles to our 5th graders, Erika Rupp-Coppi, Alanna Fay, Kelly Fay, and Riley Lanz. God's word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. The giving of a Bible recognizes the importance we Christians place on knowing and loving God's Word. We invite all our children and youth to bring their Bibles to church that morning for a special Moment for Children during our worship service. Co-Pastor Maria LaSala will be the preacher for the morning.

On Sunday, September 28th, Jackie Spycher, our Yale Divinity School intern, will be the preacher for the morning. Jackie stands in a long line of students who serve this congregation with energy, intelligence, imagination and love as they find their voices and learn the skills of pastoral ministry in our midst. Jackie brings many gifts already. Come and hear Jackie proclaim God's good news.



Photo: Bridge in East Rock Park, wn.com

Christian Education at First Presbyterian Church

Sunday mornings begin at 9:30 a.m. with Christian Education for all ages. The adventure starts with Rally Day on September 7th but here is where you'll find these groups throughout the year!

Grades K-4: Meet in the large classroom on the north side of the sanctuary building with Betty Whitney and Betsy Mussmann.

Grades 5-8: Meet in the Middle School classroom in the Owens Community Building for a survey of the New Testament with Gary Cline and Paul McCullough.

Grades 9-12: Meet in the High School classroom in the Owens Community Building for series of discussions facilitated by adults of the congregation.

If you are new to First Presbyterian Church and would like to participate in Sunday School, please see Kimberley after worship or email the church with your name, age and year in school, and your preferred method of contact so that she can be sure to include you in the class list and directory.

Junior and Senior Youth Groups

We have not one but TWO distinct groups for the youth of our church to share friendship, food, and fun! Activities will include lock-ins, mission trips, service and outreach projects, bowling, movies, games, picnics, and field trips.

All of this is possible because we are blessed with four Youth Advisors. Erin Schutte and Tyler Wadzinski will lead the Senior Youth Group for grades 9-12. Katharine and Micah Luce will lead the Junior Youth Group for grades 5-8. Each group will meet once or twice a month at First Presbyterian Church or a specially designated location. Stay tuned for announcements of our upcoming events!



Visit from Nancy Collins and the Rev. Dr. Victor Chilenje—September 17

Nancy Collins, a mission coworker serving in East and Central Africa (Zambia, Malawi, Rwanda and Kenya), is returning to FPCNH on September 17, accompanied by the Rev. Dr. Victor Chilenje, moderator of the Church of Central Africa—Presbyterian (CCAP), Synod Of Zambia. We will have a potluck in the Miller Gathering Hall starting at five o'clock, during which our two visitors will present a slide show of about the church in Zambia. After dinner they will lead a meditation and a discussion, with a question period, about the CCAP in Zambia. Whip up your favorite dish and come join us for this opportunity to hear and talk about the work of Christ in Zambia!

Texts for September:

September 7: Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

September 14: Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

September 21: Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

September 28: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32



Welcome, YDS Intern Jackie!

This semester we welcome Jackie Spycher to the ministry of First Presbyterian Church. She is serving as a seminary intern during the fall and spring semesters. Jackie is beginning her second year at Yale Divinity School and hopes to become an ordained Presbyterian minister. A Michigan native, Jackie received her bachelor's degree from Chatham College for Women in Pittsburgh, PA with a double major in media arts and graphic design. She completed a term with AmeriCorps*VISTA focusing on issues of domestic poverty. After AmeriCorps, she answered a call to ministry and served as the youth director at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh. Trying to integrate her interests in media and ministry, she then relocated to Washington, D.C. where she served in the marketing and administration departments at Sojourners, a national-level, ecumenical ministry focusing on issues of social justice. In addition to her studies, Jackie also serves as the field staff for Young Women's Ministries/Presbyterian College Women, a ministry of the General Assembly. When not working or studying, Jackie enjoys art, advocacy, gardening, watching baseball, being outside, baking, and dancing.



Donations for Sanctuary Flowers

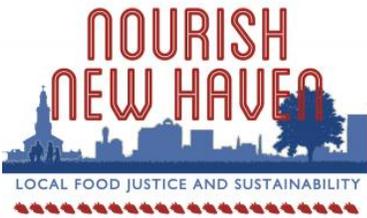
Would you like to give flowers in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone special or a special event in your life? On the first Sunday of each month, Paula Thomaz Swanson prepares a floral arrangement for the sanctuary. The Worship Committee invites you to support the Flower Fund. A sign up sheet will be found in the Miller Gathering Hall. Please choose a "first Sunday of the month" and note how you would like the note to be listed in the bulletin. Then send along a check for \$50 to the church to help offset the costs. Please note that during these months when gardens are full of flowers, we would also welcome your own floral arrangement on any other Sunday of the month. Again, let us know by emailing the church at firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com indicating which Sunday you would like to provide the flowers and how you would like the note to be listed in the bulletin. For more information, please talk with Tim McCloskey, chair of the Worship Committee. Thanks.

“20 at 12” A mid-week, midday prayer and Bible Study

Join friends for lunch, prayer and study on Wednesdays beginning at 12 noon. We will begin with a twenty-minute midday prayer service followed by Bible Study over lunch. Bring your own lunch and find a place at the table with friends. We will follow the Common Lectionary, using one of the texts that will be read on Sunday mornings. Co-Pastor Maria LaSala will lead this new program, joined occasionally by YDS Intern Jackie Spycher. The program is open to all and will end by 1:00 p.m. The first gathering will take place on Wednesday, September 10th. Come just for the 20 minute prayer at noon, or stay for Bible Study and lunch. Make First Presbyterian Church your place for grace on Wednesday afternoons. For more information, talk with Maria LaSala.



Nourish New Haven Food Justice Conference



The *free* Nourish New Haven conference on September 19-20 aims to address community collaboration for food justice and sustainability in New Haven and the surrounding areas, with the goals of educating participants around pressing food issues and cultivating ongoing relationships for strengthening New Haven. Topics addressed in panels and workshops will include food insecurity, policy and advocacy, health and wellness, and urban gardening and agriculture.

This year's conference has a particular emphasis on the relationship between food justice and faith. One of the keynote speakers is [Fred Bahnson](#) of the [Food, Faith, and Religious Leadership Initiative](#) at Wake Forest Divinity School. In addition, the opening panel is entitled, "Restorative Justice: Strengthening Community through Food and Faith Collaborations," and there will be a workshop called, "Scripture and Liturgical Resources for Food and Faith." Finally, the conference will conclude with an interfaith prayer service to send off those headed to NYC the next day for a planned climate justice march.

We're excited to offer free registration for the conference so that cost is not a barrier for attendance. Those interested can register and see a detailed schedule online at <http://ydsustainability.yale.edu/nourish-new-haven>. Right now the website just has a general schedule, but the registration form and details should be up soon.

Choir season to begin

The coming of fall, the start of school, and our return to the sanctuary all signal the return of our choir to Sunday services. We'll have our first rehearsal on Wednesday, September 3, and we'll sing for the first time on Sunday, September 7. Choir members, mark your calendars! And we invite anyone who's interested in singing with us to get in touch with our Music Director, Pat McCreless (203-789-8296). We sing music of a wide variety of styles, and we have a lovely time together. Come and join us!



Contribute to the CCA Wheelbarrow

The CCA Wheelbarrow always awaits your food donations. Please support the good work of Christian Community Action with your contributions of food to help feed our hungry neighbors. Cereal, rice, beans, baby food, soups and other nutritious, non-perishable foods are needed, and on the last Sunday of the month, fresh fruit and produce are most welcome. Thanks.

Peacemaking Offering—October 5

The Peacemaking Offering will be received on Worldwide Communion Sunday, October 5. This year the theme of the offering is “Faith Connects,” with four specific projects:

- Fostering Christian understanding and ministry
- Working to end violence against women
- Bringing hope with access to clean water
- Supporting student-led peace programs

Each Sunday in September, the bulletin will have an insert describing these efforts in some detail and giving an example of each. There will also be materials on the Welcome Table. The goal of the Peacemaking Offering is to support initiatives working against systems of injustice, both globally and locally. Please give generously!

Church Picnic September 7

All are welcome to stay for a church picnic following worship on Sunday, September 7. Meatless and meat burgers and hot dogs will be cooked on the grill. Please bring a family sized salad, side dish, or dessert to share.



Overseas Ministry Resource Center Reception

The Overseas Ministry Resource Center (OMSC) is hosting a fall reception on Wednesday, September 3 from 4 to 6 p.m. Come welcome the new school year’s international scholars and researchers at the OMSC, 490 Prospect St. in New Haven. For more details, visit www.omsc.org/reception.shtml.

Why Bother Praying? Sunday Morning Adult Education Class Begins, with Bruce Gordon teaching

Bruce Gordon will lead a three part series on Prayer beginning in September. Bruce, the Titus Street Professor of Theology and Professor of Reformation History at Yale Divinity School and member of our congregation, will talk with us about **"Prayer: Why Bother Praying."** *Session One, September 14:* What does Jesus say about prayer and how do we talk about prayer as Christians? Is it embarrassing to pray out loud? Is it easier just to do things or debate issues than to pray? *Session Two, September 21:* What is Christian prayer? Does prayer cause things to happen? What are we doing? Do we need to pray individually if we pray in church? *Session Three, September 28:* Finding our vocabulary of prayer. Naming what we want to pray for and what we should pray for. How does prayer become of a discipline of Christian living? Upcoming classes will be led by Fiona Scott Morton, Professor at the School of Management and Economics and Professor at the Law School, Steve Davis, Professor of Religious Studies, History, and Near Eastern Language/Civilization and Master of Pierson College, and Steve Latham, as well as many opportunities for conversations about a variety of issues facing people of faith in these days. Coffee and tea are available on Sunday mornings. Join us!



Dwelling in the Spirit Retreat

As the flames of Pentecost fade and we look toward the wintry birth of Jesus, let us pause and dwell in the Holy Spirit. Join friends from Presbyterian Promise for a day to re-discover how the spirit may be working in our lives, quietly leading and empowering us into another year of discipleship and work. We will catch our breaths and listen for the movements of spirit that can sustain us and give us joy. The retreat will be led by the Rev. John Russell Stanger, Presbyterian Welcome, who serves as the Minister for Advocacy and Education at Presbyterian Welcome in New York City where he lives out his call to help others reconcile the rift between their sexual, gender, and spiritual identities. Music will be led by Rev. Anne Marie Meyerhoffer (musicians, bring your instruments).

The retreat will take place on Saturday, September 6 from 9:30-4:00 at the Sanctuary at Sheparfields in East Haddam, CT. A freewill offering will be taken. Registration is required and enrolment is limited; for more information or to register, contact Dick Hasbany: (203) 208-0578; dick_hasbany@yahoo.com.

Memorial Cairn September 1

Reclaiming the Prophetic Voice will again be marking the cost of the continuing violence in Iraq and Afghanistan by placing the August stone on the Memorial Cairn at the intersection of Broadway, Elm and Park streets in New Haven on Monday evening, September 1, at 6 p.m. The stone will be inscribed with the August death toll of US military personnel and the approximate documented numbers of Iraqi and Afghani civilians killed during that same period of time. With American military now being sent back to Iraq, the endless wars continue, and still require our protest. Co-Pastor Maria LaSala will lead this month's prayer service. Join her at the cairn on Labor Day evening.



Worship Committee Highlights

The congregation of First Presbyterian Church got to know the new hymnal, *Glory to God*, very well this summer, singing from its many collected songs, and learning ten new songs some of which will become new favorites. We promise not to stop introducing new hymns, and we will be sure to sing some of our old favorites. Thanks to the summer preachers who shared the word of God with us each Sunday, and who introduced us to both the theological and biblical understandings behind the new hymns. We heard from many in the congregation that including a sample of the new hymn in the weekly email blast was a big help in getting ready (and excited) to sing a new song to God.

The carpets in the sanctuary were cleaned this summer and David Miller and Scott Funston and their crew, replaced the pews in time for our return to the sanctuary for worship.

A new Sanctuary Task Force will soon be appointed to consider the ways we might use our sanctuary as a space for art and for craft. Stay tuned.

Columbus House Volunteers Needed

First Presbyterian Church serves a meal at Columbus House the first Saturday of the month. We are all set for September, but need volunteers for October, November, and December. Please consider giving a couple hours of your time to contribute to this great mission project. If you have questions about this opportunity for service, please see the info sheet on the fellowship table or contact church member Pat Wales at patwales@att.net.

Update: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance's Response to Violence in Iraq

More than 1.5 million people are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance in Iraq after fleeing the violence and religious persecution that the Islamic State (IS) has inflicted upon large portions of northern and western Iraq. The country is now contending with one of the largest internal displacements in the world.

Many of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) are persecuted religious minorities, including Yazidis and Christians who are trapped in Sinjar, the Ninewa Plains, or Iraqi Kurdistan near the Syrian border, with little access to food or water.

Also known as ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) or ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant), the militant group continues its encroachment in the region, and the number of IDPs is expected to increase.

In a letter from our mission partner The National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon, we hear, "We cry to all Christian churches around the world to move, raise their voices to the world powers to stop such inhuman acts against humanity . . . We call upon the world to motivate every possibility to prevent annihilation of the Christians and other minorities at the hand of criminal groups such as Daesh in this part of the world . . . we cry to God to give peace and bring this tragic situation to an end. In God we trust and to God we cry."

Response

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has already sent One Great Hour of Sharing funds to our mission partner the National Evangelical Church of Iraq, who is providing families who have fled from Mosul with food, water, clothing, fuel, hygiene items, and bedding.

PDA is also responding as a member of the ACT Alliance in providing humanitarian aid and carrying out protection initiatives, particularly for women and children

ACT is also calling for human rights and international humanitarian law to be respected, and is urging governments and intergovernmental bodies to find a lasting solution to the crisis and to identify proactive actions to respond to early signs of conflicts.

Stand in the GAP and help the thousands of families forced from their home because of their faith to receive food and other essential items.

How you can help

Give. Share your financial blessings by designating gifts to DR000082-Iraq. Individuals may give through your local Presbyterian congregation, [online](#), or by mailing a check to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) P.O. Box 643700 Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

Pray.

God of mercy, God of peace, how long? How long, O Lord?

*For your people in Iraq, the knock at the door in the dark of night may be a stranger in need,
or the onset of violence...grant courage and wisdom.*

*Your children seek to be Christ's generous presence to those in desperate need,
to practice welcome in the midst of terror.*

*In the midst of such complex chaos, help us not to turn away,
but to keep our hearts and eyes open*

to be generous in prayer and in practice

To aid our neighbors as they work, even in the midst of fearfulness

to give with generosity, receive with love, and trust in the refuge of your sheltering wings.

May your Spirit of courage, of mercy and of peace be upon them, and us all, in Christ's name. Amen.

Letter to the Congregation from Drew Long:

To First Presbyterian Church Family,

My Name is Andrew Long and I am the son of Mattie Long. Most of you know me as Drew Long. I am writing to thank you for all of your thoughts and prayers during my recovery from the car accident that occurred on Jan. 5th of this year. At that time, my injuries were so severe that it was questionable whether I would be able to keep my left leg, much less walk again. Thanks be to God I am on my way to a very possible full healing and recovery. I have had four surgeries, the last one on May 23rd to implant a mega prosthesis which is a combination total knee /half femur bone device all in one. I am currently going to outpatient rehabilitation therapy three times a week to learn how to walk all over again. I have several more weeks to go, but a full recovery is possible at this point. I thank your church family again for your endless prayers, for without them and God, my healing would not have been possible.

In Christ,
Drew Long

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 ...

Church members and friends who seek God's healing grace, including Ken Haynam; Joan Wells; John and Sandy Withers; Babs Cluse, Betsy Mussmann's cousin; Mary Evans; Drew Long; Eugene Smith; Jeff Miller, David Miller's brother; Gordon Ambach; Ned Castner and Bruce Gordon.

Mike and Flo McBride and Nancy and George Rupp as they celebrate their 50th wedding Anniversaries.

The family of Quintin Johnstone who died on June 27, 2014

The family of Michael Brown, for peace and for justice in Ferguson, Missouri, and for the people of Ferguson during these weeks of continued protest.

The people of Ukraine, Syria, South Sudan, Egypt, Israel and Palestine, Iraq, and for all across the Middle East, during this time of unrest, violence, and discord, for the family of James Foley, for the girls who were abducted in Nigeria, and for all in West Africa who continue to fall ill from the Ebola virus.

The City of New Haven and its residents.

David Meeske, serving with the Peace Corps in Mongolia.

James Smit, Patrick Copeland, and Jordan Matos, 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.

September 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:00pm Memorial Cairn	2 6:30pm CE Committee 7:30pm CLOC	3 1:00pm Staff Meeting 4:00pm OMSC Reception 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	4 9:00am Yoga	5	6 8:00am Dwelling in the Spirit Retreat 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
7 9:30am Choir, Christian Education Celebration 10:45am Worship - Communion 12:00pm Church Picnic	8 4:15pm Musical Folk	9 9:30am Musical Folk	10 10:00am Musical Folk 12:00pm "20 at 12" Bible Study 4:30pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Musical Folk 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	11 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk	12	13 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA 9:30am Presbytery Meeting, Dunn's Corner, RI
14 9:30am Church School 10:45am Worship ECGC 12:00pm Friendship Hour	15 4:15pm Musical Folk	16 9:30am Musical Folk 7:15pm Session	17 10:00am Musical Folk 12:00pm "20 at 12" Bible Study 4:30pm Staff Meeting 5:00 Pot Luck with Nancy Collins 7:00pm Choir	18 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk	19 Food Justice Conference at Yale Divinity School	20 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA 9:00am Food Justice Conference (YDS)
21 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Friendship Hour	22 4:15pm Musical Folk	23 9:30am Musical Folk	24 10:00am Musical Folk 12:00pm "20 at 12" Bible Study 4:30pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Musical Folk 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	25 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk	26	27 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
28 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Friendship Hour	29 4:15pm Musical Folk	30 9:30am Musical Folk				

October 2014

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5 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship – World Communion Sunday 12:00pm Friendship Hour	6 4:15pm Musical Folk 6:00pm Memorial Cairn	7 9:30am Musical Folk 6:30pm CE Committee 7:30pm CLOC and Mission Committee	8 10:00am Musical Folk 12:00pm 20 at 12 Bible Study 4:30pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Musical Folk 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	9 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk	10	11 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

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR
CHILDREN AND YOUTH: KIMBERLEY FAIS

YDS INTERN: JACKIE SPYCHER

NURSERY CARE PROVIDER: NAOMI BRINTON

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. beginning September 7

Worship

9:30 a.m. on August 31

10:45 a.m. beginning September 7

First Presbyterian Church
704 Whitney Avenue
New Haven, Connecticut
06511

Please find your e-copy on the church website at fpcnh.org!