

The Inkling

The News of First Presbyterian Church

May 2011

Spring Is Here!

These weeks of Easter are full of joy as together we celebrate the Risen Christ in our midst. Sunday mornings bring us together for both learning and growing in faith, and for worshiping God. This month we draw your attention to two special Sundays.

May 1st brings us face to face with Thomas, the disciple who doubted Jesus' resurrection. We can relate to Thomas as in these days we look around trying to see signs of resurrection hope and joy. One of the signs, though, is this congregation's ongoing work to ease hunger in New Haven. The March Against Hunger will take place on Sunday afternoon, beginning at 2 p.m. Members and friends of the congregation will join our Middle School Youth in this walk. The children have raised over 75 cans of food for the Christian Community Action's food pantry. The Middle School youth raised over \$750 to help ease the hunger of their friends. And walkers will first enjoy lunch, and then time together as they march through the streets of New Haven.

On May 15th we will be led in worship by the youth of our congregation. The scriptural theme for the morning comes from Micah 6. "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God." Seniors Christopher Woodington and Andrew McCloskey will share a good word with the congregation, Middle School youth will lead the various parts of the liturgy, and even the children will share good news. The youth have been working hard to learn about liturgy, using their creativity and fresh interpretations to make this Sunday a particularly special day. You won't want to miss it!

The other Sundays of Easter will invite us to reflect on what it means to be the Body of the Risen Christ and what does it mean to be God's hope for the new community. What does it mean to be a visionary people carefully tending places of justice and hope? Join us every Sunday morning in May at 10:45 a.m.



May 1st – Walk Against Hunger

Sunday, May 1st, is the 35th annual Walk Against Hunger, starting at 2pm at East Rock Park – a 2.5 mile event, followed by hotdogs and goodies for all walkers afterwards. Sign up sheets are still available at the Welcome Table so that you can still participate. Or you can sponsor walkers with your tax deductible donation (if you pay by check) to the Connecticut Food Bank. Thanks to all our walkers and to all our sponsors!

A light lunch is available for all walkers in the Middle School classroom, towards the end of the Friendship Hour. Questions? See Nancy McLaren or Nancy Rupp.

Hunger Facts

- Founded in 1982, the Connecticut Food Bank is the largest centralized source of donated emergency food in Connecticut.
- One in seven households in Connecticut is food insecure.
- A \$7 contribution will provide a needy person with a week of meals.
- Of New Haven children, 31.2% lived in poverty in 2009.
- In the Connecticut Food Bank's service area, 53% of the food insecure population does not qualify for food stamps or other relevant government programs, so they must rely on other sources such as the Connecticut Food Bank and others to help feed themselves and their families.
- Money from the Connecticut Food Bank's Walk Against Hunger goes directly to providing groceries and hot meals to hungry children, families, seniors, and individuals.
- Columbus House and Christian Community Action, both supported by FPCNH, receive food from the Connecticut Food Bank.

April 2011 Update of US Government Programs

The 2011 budget passed by the government on April 14, 2011 includes these cuts:

- The WIC program (women, infants, and children's feeding program) which serves 9 million participants annually, including half of all US infants and one in four children ages 1-4, had its budget cut by 7% or \$518 million.
- The Hunger Free Communities Grants, which provide needed resources to local groups working collectively to end hunger in the community, had its budget cut by 100% or \$5 million. The program has been eliminated.

May 8th – Bread for the World Offering of Letters

This Sunday everyone is invited to write a letter to their members of Congress asking them to stand against hunger and work to ensure that the world's women, men, and children have enough food to sustain their lives. Bread for the World, the organization that works with congregations on issues of hunger, will provide sample letters that address the bills coming to the floors of the House and Senate for a vote. Join friends in demanding that Congress push forward policies and practices that help people grow and cultivate food, and eat in more healthy ways.

As a thank you for lifting your voice, the Mission Committee will give each letter writer a loaf of bread, a sure way to remember how good and lovely it is when all are fed.

For more information, please talk with Gary Cline and Nancy Rupp, co-chairs.

FY 2011 CR Cuts that are Most Harmful to Hungry and Poor People

Cuts to U.S. Programs:	
Program	Final FY 2011 CR Cut (from FY 2010 Total)*
Head Start: A national program that promotes school readiness to low-income children under age 5 by offering educational, nutritional, health, social, and other services.	Increased by 4%, \$325 million
WIC: Serves 9 million participants every year, including nearly half of all U.S. infants and about one in four children ages 1-4.	Cut by 7%, \$518 million
Community Services Block Grant: These grants to states and Indian tribes alleviate poverty by providing services and activities that address employment, education, better use of available income, housing, nutrition, emergency services, and/or health.	Cut by 7%, \$54 million
LIIHEAP Contingency Fund: The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program helps low-income families heat their homes in winter and keep them cool during summer. LIIHEAP provided assistance to an estimated 8.8 million households in the past year, only 25 percent of those eligible for the program.	Cut by 66%, \$390 million
Hunger-Free Communities Grants: These grants provide needed resources to local groups working collaboratively to end hunger in their communities.	Cut by 100%, \$5 million (program eliminated)
Cuts to Poverty-Focused Development Assistance:	
Account	Final FY 2011 CR Cut (from FY 2010 Total)*
Food Aid (P.L. 480 and McGovern-Dole): These cuts would eliminate feeding programs for some of the world's hungriest and poorest people, including 15 million people suffering from hunger due to natural disasters and conflicts, and 2.5 million children who get school meals through the McGovern-Dole program.	Cut by 17%, \$354 million
Development Assistance: The account includes programs such as agricultural development, microfinance, education, and safe water. Assistance builds capacity so that local people can reduce poverty on their own.	Cut by 0.2%, \$1 million
PEPFAR: The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief supports lifesaving drugs and treatment for more than 3.2 million men, women, and children living with HIV/AIDS. PEPFAR also provides care and support to 21 million people in more than 30 countries, including approximately 3.8 million orphaned and vulnerable children. Nearly 33 million people receive HIV counseling and testing through PEPFAR.	Cut by 0.2%, \$24.7 million
Global Health and Child Survival: The account expands basic health services and strengthens national health systems to improve people's health in the poorest countries. Among other critical needs, the account helps save the lives of millions of women and children with preventable and treatable conditions.	Cut by 1%, \$20 million
Peace Corps: Right now, 8,655 Peace Corps volunteers are serving in 77 developing countries in the areas of education, health and HIV/AIDS, business development, environment, agriculture, and youth development. Since 1961, more than 200,000 volunteers have served in 139 countries.	Cut by 6%, \$25.8 million
Millennium Challenge Account: The Millennium Challenge Corporation is an innovative development agency that promotes economic growth and poverty reduction through transparent, country-led programming. As of February 2011, 171.1 million people have benefited from MCC programs. Beneficiaries are expected to experience an income increase of \$12.3 billion over their lifetimes.	Cut by 19%, \$206.8 million
Total Poverty-Focused Development Assistance:	Cut by 7%, \$1.5 billion

*Final cuts include a .2% across-the-board rescission.



Join us for Bible Study!

The Lectionary Bible Study meets on Thursday Mornings at 11:30 a.m. in the Miller Gathering Hall. Each week we read and reflect on the texts for the upcoming Sunday. Co-Pastor Maria LaSala leads the study.

The texts for May are:

May 1: Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16:1-11; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

May 8: Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

May 15: Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23:1-6; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

May 22: Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

May 29: Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

Adult Education in May

May 1: "Being the Church in the World." Alan and Teddy Hogle, Art and Mary Hunt, Dick Hasbany, Ralph Jones, and Bonnie Sherman attended the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship (PPF) Convocation of Peacemakers at the Stony Point Center, a National Conference Center of the Presbyterian Church, (USA), in Stony Point, NY in early April.

The group will share some of the excitement and challenges they experienced during the Convocation and invite your involvement.

The Convocation included sessions on Gun Violence Prevention; why the Colombia free trade agreement is bad for the Colombian people and why Colombians need Accompaniment as they are relocated in the midst of violence; challenging companies providing goods and services that harm the Palestinian; exploring how privilege and violence are related, and becoming a peace church.

Rick Ufford-Chase, executive director of PPF, who met with 35 members and friends of the congregation during an evening program at First Presbyterian Church of New Haven last month, says "The Presbyterian Peace Fellowship isn't about talk, it's about action. If you're interested in living your faith to be a nonviolent peacemaker and to stand against violence, militarism and war, this is the place for you."

On May 8, Paul Turner, church elder and Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Yale University will lead a class on evolution and religion. Most people believe that evolutionary biology was "created" by Darwin. However, he was the person who best described how this natural process works, and ideas for evolution trace back to millennia before Darwin lived. Paul will describe the history of evolutionary thinking, and the importance of religion in formulating these thoughts. The class will also explore modern ideas for evolution, and the misconception that evolutionary biology is "out to get" religion.

On May 15, Paul Turner will present a class exploring the ways we humans fulfill our role as care-takers of the Earth. We humans have always been concerned with our health, and we recognize that one way to ensure this is to eliminate from the Earth dangerous pathogens of humans. But is this idea contrary to the belief that humans should be Earth's care takers, ensuring that species are conserved to live alongside us? Where do we draw the line between conservation biology and efforts to preserve human health? This class will examine the evolution of deadly pathogens that cause diseases such as influenza, smallpox, bubonic plague and AIDS. We will also examine the ethical issues inherent to human evaluation of which species "deserve" to be conserved.

Join us on Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. in the Miller Gathering Hall for these exciting presentations. Add your voice to the conversation! Coffee and tea will be provided.

Children in Worship Players to hit the stage once again, in the guise of puppets!

All children ages 5-10 are invited to join in the annual Spring play, written and directed by Martha Smalley. This year's performance, "But Then What Happened?" will be a puppet show, and will not only showcase the children's flair for the dramatic, but also their art skills, as they will build the puppet theater and back drops. The debut performance is on June 5th during the Christian Education hour. Please see Martha Smalley or Nancy McLaren with questions, or to express your desire to be involved!

Summer 2011 Vacation Bible School

VBS planning is in full swing! This year we hope to come together with children and youth from Church of the Redeemer, Bethesda Lutheran Church, and First and Summerfield UMC. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in volunteering or participating, please see the Co-Pastors, or Nancy McLaren.

Confirmation Conversation on May 15

A Confirmation class will begin this spring. All youth in grades 6-8 and their parents, are invited to meet with Co-Pastors Bill Goettler and Maria LaSala on Sunday, May 15, following the Friendship Hour. At this meeting, we will talk about plans for study and service.

Women at the Well

Women of the congregation are invited to come together for this month's Women at the Well on Wednesday, May 4th. The evening begins at 5:30 p.m., with a light supper of soups and breads. Together we will talk about the ways women empower one another in both life and in faith. If you would like to make a pot of soup or bring a loaf of bread or a dessert, please indicate that when you sign up at the Welcome Table.

First Presbyterian Church
of New Haven
A welcoming, affirming, and diverse community of faith.

**We're having an art show
Sunday May 15**

Crafters and artisans of all ages
are welcome.

Sign up at Welcome Table

Painters, welders, sculptors,
photographers show off your latest
creations.

Show us your scrapbooking, pottery,
wood work, popsicle stick baskets.
Quilters, knitters, dress makers and
crocheters drop your needles and
hooks and show off your work!
Dazzle and surprise us!

Eve's Daughters

The next gathering of Eve's Daughters, the Women's Interfaith Bible Study with the women from Congregation Mishkan Israel will take place on Monday, May 16 at 6:30 p.m. at Congregation Mishkan Israel on Ridge Road in Hamden. This month's bible study, "Sarah and Hagar: Sisters in the Wilderness," will explore the complex relationship between these two matriarchs and the role they play in God's story of shaping a people. Supper will be provided. Co-Pastor Maria LaSala leads this study with Rabbi Alison Adler. Please sign up at the Welcome Table.

April

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May 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 1 9:30 AM Choir 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Friendship Hour 2 PM Walk Against Hunger	2 6 PM Worship Committee Meeting	3 3 PM Homework@First 7:30 PM Mission Committee 7:30 PM CLDC Meeting	4 8:30 AM Staff Meeting 3 PM Homework@First 5:30 PM Women at the Well 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	5 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study 3 PM Homework@First	6 7:30 PM CT Folk Concert	7 Columbus House 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Presbytery at Groton 9:30 AM Women's AA
8 Bread for the World Offering Mother's Day 9:30 AM Choir 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Friendship Hour	9	10 3 PM Homework@First	11 8:30 AM Staff Meeting 3 PM Homework@First 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	12 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study 3 PM Homework@First 6 PM Abraham's Tent Wrap-Up	13 7:30 PM Rabbi Brockman's 25th Anniversary Celebration	14 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
15 9:30 AM Choir 10:45 AM Youth Led Worship 12 PM Friendship Hour & Art Show 12:30 PM Confirmation Class	16 6:30 PM Eve's Daughters @ CMI	17 3 PM Homework@First 7:15 PM Session	18 8:30 AM Staff Meeting 3 PM Homework@First 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	19 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study 3 PM Homework@First	20	21 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
22 9:30 AM Choir 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Friendship Hour	23	24 3 PM Homework@First	25 8:30 AM Staff Meeting 3 PM Homework@First 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	26 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study 3 PM Homework@First	27	28 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
29 9:30 AM Choir 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Friendship Hour 6:30 PM Chelsea Purvis & Alnawaz Jiwa's Wedding	30 Memorial Day	31 3 PM Homework@First	June 1 8:30 AM Staff Meeting 3 PM Homework@First 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	2 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study 3 PM Homework@First	3	4 Columbus House 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA

May

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July

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June 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 29 9:30 AM Choir 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Friendship Hour 6:30 PM Chelsea Purvis & Alnawaz Jiwa's Wedding	30 Memorial Day	31 3 PM Homework@First	June 1 8:30 AM Staff Meeting 3 PM Homework@First 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	2 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study 3 PM Homework@First	3	4 Columbus House 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
5 9:30 AM Choir 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Friendship Hour	6	7 3 PM Homework@First 7:30 PM Mission Committee 7:30 PM CLDC Meeting	8 8:30 AM Staff Meeting 3 PM Homework@First 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	9 9 AM Yoga 3 PM Homework@First End-of-Year Celebration	10	11 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
12 9:30 AM Choir 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Church School Picnic	13	14	15 8:30 AM Staff Meeting 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	16 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study	17	18 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
19 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Friendship Hour	20	21 7:15 PM Session	22 8:30 AM Staff Meeting 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	23 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study	24	25 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
26 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Friendship Hour	27	28	29 8:30 AM Staff Meeting 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	30 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study	July 1	2 Columbus House 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA

The Presbytery of Southern New England to meet in Groton on May 7

This spring meeting of the Presbytery will include two important votes facing the denomination. The Presbytery will vote on the new Form of Government and on whether the Belhar Confession should become a part of our Book of Confessions. To learn more about both overtures, please visit the Presbytery's website at: www.psne.org. Also at that meeting, Jenny Davis will come before the Presbytery to be approved for Ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. Jenny has been called to a Chaplaincy position at Yale New Haven Hospital. Jenny also serves as the part time Campus Chaplain to Yale undergrads where she leads a weekly Bible study. Please keep Jenny in your prayers.

New Members Received on April 17

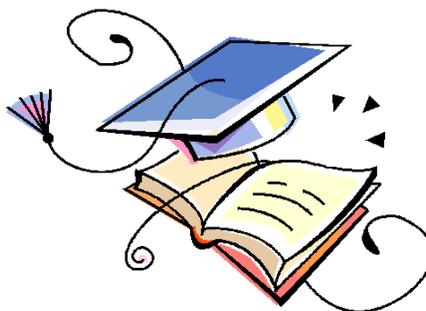
On Palm Sunday we welcomed eight new members into the First Presbyterian Church community. Please be sure to introduce yourself to them on Sunday morning! They are:

John and Tracy Purvis
Elizabeth Gill
Candice and Brian Gray
Joan Wells and Stewart Fritts
Joanna Ali

Welcome friends!

Congratulations, Graduates!

Ashleigh Elser, M.A.R, Yale Divinity School
Kelly Freund, Yale College
Chelsea Purvis, Yale Law School
Kim Schisler, M.A.R., Yale Divinity School
Bryce Wiebe, M.Div., Yale Divinity School
Michelle Wolfe, Yale College



Good News!

Church member and Inquirer **Sharon Anderson** received the Rising Star Award from The Greater New Haven Association of Volunteer Administrators, for her work with Columbus House. Congratulations, Sharon!

Chelsea Purvis and Alnawaz Jiwa will be married at the Bronx Botanical Gardens on Sunday May 29th. Co-Pastor Maria LaSala will officiate. Chelsea, daughter of John and Tracy Purvis, has been a part of the FPC community since she began her studies at Yale. Chelsea will graduate from Yale Law School this May.

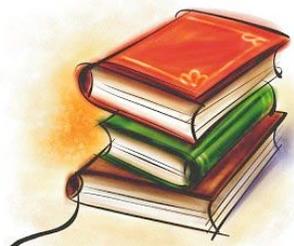
Sam Purnell, a second-grader at Deer Run School, was nominated to be an East Haven Patch Whiz Kid! Deer Run School Principal William Grimm said, "Sam is an outstanding student and his curiosity for learning is a key characteristic. He often works on challenge and extension activities in the classroom, and will produce extra work on his own at school and at home that sparks his interest."

A Note from the FPC Library

From time to time some of our members and friends have left books in the library. For your gifts we give you thanks. However, almost none of you have left your name. We would like to thank you personally so leave a book; leave a name.

Also, our library is a church library, dedicated to helping Christians sharpen and deepen their faith. Consequently we do not shelve books that don't serve that purpose and find other people who might want them. Thanks for your understanding.

-Alan Hogle



Rabbi Herb Brockman's 25th Anniversary Celebration

On Friday, May 13, at 7:30 p.m., Rabbi Herbert Brockman celebrates 25 years as Rabbi of Congregation Mishkan Israel in Hamden. Rabbi Brockman has been a strong witness against injustice and a man of vision who seeks to bring together people of different faiths to work toward "tikkun olam," the repair of the world. Friends of FPC are invited to this special Shabbat service to celebrate Herb's life work in New Haven. The First Presbyterian Church choir will join the Mishkan Israel choir that evening. Co-Pastor Bill Goettler will be the preacher for the evening's service.

Looking Ahead to June!

June 5th – Final Day of Sunday School

June 12th – Church School Picnic

June 19th – Worship begins at 9:30 a.m. in the air-conditioned Miller Gathering Hall.

Homework@First Welcomes Students from IRIS

H@F is delighted to welcome students from Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS) of New Haven. For the remainder of the academic year, Homework@First will now operate on Wednesdays, in addition to Tuesdays and Thursdays, in order to accommodate more students who will be served by after school tutoring and homework assistance. This addition to H@F programming is the result of a joyful and cooperative partnership with IRIS, an East Rock neighbor of ours. If you feel moved to work with students from IRIS, many of whom have particular needs in English language skills, please see Nancy McLaren.

Youth and Children's Hunger Awareness Month Wrap-up Celebration on May 8th

Immediately following the Friendship Hour on May 8th, youth and children who participated in the collection of funds and canned goods in April are invited to a celebratory wrap-up session and ice cream sundae party. This session will include a time to talk about the experiences of collecting food and raising funds, receive some information about what more can be done, and will also include a time to simply be together and celebrate goals achieved. Our time together will conclude by 12:45.

Musical Folk Classes at the First Presbyterian Church



\$20 discount to first time registrants of the program to First Presbyterian members!

Offering Music Together Classes - A fun creative Music & Movement program for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers (newborns through 4 years old) and the ones who love them! Come sing, dance & play instruments in an informal fun setting. Classes are held here at the church Mon - Sat. For a complete listing of our classes, and free demo classes, please visit our website. Call the office to get code to receive the \$20 discount.

For more information, please visit www.musicalfolk.com or call (203) 691-9759.

Meal-a-Month

Your generous donations go to the Christian Community Action food pantry. During the month of April, every item donated was matched by a special challenge fund. Please give generously again this month.

- CCA's clients select the items they need and want for families ranging from one or two to seven or eight.
- A variety of sizes are appropriate.
- Use this list as a guide. Check the specials aisle for similar items on sale.
- The CT health department prohibits distribution of fresh foods.
- Census data show Connecticut had the largest percentage increase for all people and for children living in poverty in the country, despite our goal of cutting the child poverty rate in half by 2014. That's almost 315,000 Connecticut residents living under the Federal poverty level.

Meal-a-Month GROCERIES	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bags of rice
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bags of beans (red or black)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pasta / pasta sauce
<input type="checkbox"/>	Canned tuna
<input type="checkbox"/>	Canned fruits (low sugar preferred)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Canned meats
<input type="checkbox"/>	Canned vegetables (low-sodium)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Boxes of mashed potatoes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pasta sauce
<input type="checkbox"/>	Peanut butter
<input type="checkbox"/>	Low-sugar breakfast cereals (Cheerios, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Low-sodium soups
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dessert items – Jello, pudding mixes, etc.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Canned juices: tomato, V8, grape, orange
<input type="checkbox"/>	Instant milk
<input type="checkbox"/>	Coffee and/or tea
<input type="checkbox"/>	Flour
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sugar

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 ...

Jenny Davis, who will come before the Presbytery on Saturday, May 7, to be examined for ordination.

Mary, mother of Fiona Scott Morton, as she bravely struggles with the late stages of ALS.

Jim Owens' sister, Virginia Campbell, who is struggling with cancer.

Lee Shaffer and Alan Hogle, who continue to face issues with their health.

Christopher Asher, Sue Asher's nephew, who has been deployed to Afghanistan.

Jordan Matos, who begins training in Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, and for his brothers, Nathanael and Jonah, and his mother Karina.

Those who are unable to worship with us on a regular basis: Jim Tenney; Jan Forman; Ken Jetter.
Other people and situations in need of our supplications.

Mother's Day is May 8th

This Mother's Day, we hope you will remember the over half-million women across the globe who die needlessly each year from preventable complications of pregnancy.

On Mother's Day, we are called to speak out for justice for women and girls of all nations. The foundation of women's empowerment is access to and support for family planning services.



We know that for women and families to thrive, we must work not only to ameliorate poverty, inadequate education, employment discrimination, environmental degradation, and racism, but also to provide every woman with sexual and reproductive health services. The lack of services in many parts of the world is an affront to women's and girls' moral agency and a threat to justice and equality worldwide.

The Religious Institute invites you to honor Mother's Day this year by participating in The Rachel Sabbath Initiative. This initiative supports the United Nations' Millennium Development Goal 5, which focuses on improving maternal health and universal access to reproductive health services. This initiative is named for the matriarch Rachel, who died in childbirth (Gen. 35:16–20).

During worship on May 8th, we will participate in the Rachel Sabbath as we pray together the Litany for Mothers Worldwide. It is included here for your reflection.

A Responsive Reading for Mother's Day

On Mother's Day, we honor mothers and caregivers everywhere—women who have given birth, women who have adopted children, women who care for the children of others.

We affirm the nurturing love of mothers, and the blessings of parenthood.

We pray for a society in which pregnancy is freely chosen, where family planning services are available to all, and mothers and children receive the care and support they need.

We affirm that life is sacred and that family planning assures it is not created carelessly.

We suffer with women, here and around the globe, who have no access to prenatal care, family planning and other reproductive health services.

We affirm the sanctity of life and the moral agency of women.

We mourn the 1,500 women around the world who will die today in childbirth, or from the complications of pregnancy, because they lack basic health services.

We envision a world where childbirth is safe, and all children are wanted and loved.

Together, we break the silence surrounding women and their partners who suffer infertility, pregnancy loss and still births.

We bless them and hold them in love.

We celebrate the many ways that people create families and become mothers in our communities.

We call for a commitment to make every day Mother's Day.

CO-PASTORS: BILL GOETTLER & MARIA LASALA

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: PATRICK McCRELESS

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTER: NANCY McLAREN

CAMPUS CHAPLAIN TO YALE: JENNIFER DAVIS

PARISH ASSOCIATE: SUE ASHER

YDS INTERNS: ASHLEY HURST & BRYCE WIEBE

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: HANNAH ROH

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.

Office Hours

Tuesday - Thursday

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church
704 Whitney Avenue
New Haven, Connecticut
06511

Afraid that you might lose this Inkling? Find your e-copy on the church website at fpcnh.org! Please note that for privacy reasons, the e-copy may be slightly different than the hard copy.