

The Inkling

The News of First Presbyterian Church

March 2012

Lent Invites Prayer and Worship

Each week during the Season of Lent, the First Presbyterian Church congregation will be invited to pray and to worship God as we draw closer to the cross of Christ. And each Sunday morning's bulletin will include a prayer or meditation for the week. These prayers will also appear in the weekly email blast that goes out to members and friends each Thursday. If you would like a hard copy of the prayers, please talk with Co-Pastor Maria LaSala.

During worship, there will be time for silent prayer, providing an opportunity to be closer to God. You may use the appointed prayer to help you quiet your heart and mind as we sit in the presence of God. And each Sunday, you will have the opportunity to offer your own prayers. Sheets of colored paper will be found in each bulletin. Use them to write a prayer concern or joy and be sure to place them in the vase near the Communion Table by the end of each Sunday's worship service.



And, each Wednesday in Lent, Bryce Wiebe, will lead a half hour service of prayer, song, and scripture. These services will take place in the sanctuary from 6:30 until 7:00 p.m.

Finally, the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be offered each week in Lent. It will be offered during the morning worship on Sunday, March 4th and then following worship on Sundays, March 11, 18, and 25. The Rev. Diane Goudreau will lead the service on March 11th, the Rev. Justin Ray on March 18th, and the Rev. Jenny Davis on March 25th.

Co-Pastors Bill Goettler and Maria LaSala to Visit Turkey

Bill and Maria will participate in an Interfaith clergy trip to Turkey from March 12 through March 23. The trip, sponsored by the Turkish Society of Connecticut, is bringing together Christian, Muslim, and Jewish clergy from the New Haven region to travel to historic religious sites throughout the country. The trip will include a visit to the Blue Mosque and the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul, Mary's House in Ephesus, and the region of Cappadocia. They will meet with leaders of Christian, Muslim, and Jewish communities. Please keep Maria and Bill in your prayers as they travel.

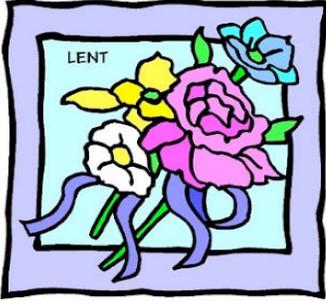
Justin Ray to Preach on March 18

The Rev. Justin Ray will be the pastor on call from March 12 until March 23, while the Co-Pastors travel in Turkey. Justin will also preach on Sunday, March 18th, and lead the post worship communion service that morning. If you have a pastoral need, or an emergency, please contact Justin directly at 203-687-7048.

March Pot Luck – A Simple Lenten Lunch

Join friends around the table following worship on Sunday, March 11th for a lunch of soups and simple sandwiches. - Pots of homemade soups - meat and meatless, will be ready. Just bring your own sandwiches, and perhaps enough to share.

The Confirmation Class will finish their course of study this month. During this winter, we have had the opportunity to listen to members of the Confirmation Class offer reflections on the scripture texts each Sunday morning. Those of you who have been in worship know that each one of the youngsters have offered us new insights into the sacred text. On March 4th Kirsten Duncan will offer her reflection on Mark 8:31-38, one of the scripture texts for the morning. On March 11th, Leah Miller and Daniel McCloskey will each offer a reflection. Leah has chosen Exodus 20:1-17, The Ten Commandments, and Daniel will offer his reflection on John 2:13-22, Jesus' cleansing of the Temple. The Confirmation Class will be received on Sunday, April 15th. Please keep all the members of the class and their families in your prayers.



Choir Music During Lent

Joining in with the Lenten theme of prayer, our choir will be singing anthems each week that are themselves prayers.

We began on February 26 with a contemporary arrangement of the well-known Prayer of Saint Francis. This week, on March 4, we sing a motet, "Lord, Let My Complaint Come Before Thee," by the early seventeenth-century English composer Adrian Batten.

The anthem for March 11 is the "Agnus Dei" ("Lamb of God, Have Mercy Upon Us") and "Dona nobis pacem" ("Grant Us Peace") from Mozart's Missa Brevis in F Major. On March 18 we will sing "Prayer to Jesus" by the Victorian British composer George Oldroyd, and on March 25 "My Soul Is Exceeding Sorrowful," by the Canadian composer Eleanor Daley.

Eve's Daughters – March 26

Eve's Daughters is the Interfaith Women's Bible Study led by Co-Pastor Maria LaSala and Kinneret Chiel, from Congregation Mishkan Israel. This month the study will focus on women who have known abuse, in such texts of terror as the story of Jephthah's Daughter in Judges 11, the rape of Tamar in 2 Samuel 13, and Dinah in Genesis 34. Naming violence in both the biblical text and in the current day is important as we work to create a safer world for women and girls. The program will begin at 6:30 p.m., with supper at First Presbyterian Church. Please sign up at the Welcome Table and indicate if you are able to bring a dessert to share.

New Members Received in February!

First Presbyterian Church welcomed six new members during worship on February 26th.

Stuart Duncan is a Ph D student in music theory at Yale. He hails from Britain, and has been living in the U.S. for six years, having completed a PhD from Cornell before arriving in New Haven. Stuart was also baptized that morning.

Andrew Forsyth is a PhD student in ethics at Yale, who studied last at Harvard Divinity School. He too comes from Britain, from Glasgow Scotland.

Joel and Anna Hamaguchi have arrived in New Haven from Los Angeles. Anna is an actress, and Joel is in the Physicians Assistant program at Yale.

Scott Hamilton is originally from the West Hartford area, but has come to us most recently from Santa Clara, California. Scott taught at West Point, the lived on the west coast for a number of years. He retired for active duty in the army last year. He and is currently creating the School of Engineering for Quinnipiac University.

Mumbi Ngugi is from Kenya, though she has spent the last decade living and working in the United States. This spring she will complete the Physicians Assistant Program at Quinnipiac University.

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 March are:

March 4: Gen. 17:1–7, 15–16; Ps. 22:23–31; Rom. 4:13–25; Mark 8:31–38

March 11: Exod. 20:1–17; Ps. 19; 1 Cor. 1:18–25; John 2:13–22

March 18: Num. 21:4–9; Ps. 107:1–3, 17–22; Eph. 2:1–10; John 3:14–21

March 25: Jer. 31:31–34; Ps. 51:1–12 or Ps. 119:9–16; Heb. 5:5–10; John 12:20–33

Adult Education on March 25 – Solomon’s Temple through Biblical Archaeology

Have you ever heard a sermon on 1 Kings, chapters 6-7? I doubt it, because these chapters explain the size and structure of Solomon’s temple and palace, together with their furnishings and decorations: 88 verses full of numbers, names of building materials, and complex descriptions of architectural features. So it is not easy to produce a lesson from the verses. Are the 88 verses then totally worthless for us? With some help from archaeologists, I believe we can learn a valuable lesson from the Biblical text. Come to the Sunday school class and enjoy a cool slide show and a lively discussion. We will focus on four decorative motifs of ancient Israelites: angels, trees, bulls, and lions. Their religious or artistic significance for ancient Israelites will be discussed and we will try to figure out a lesson for our modern religious architecture. – YDS Intern Sungduk Yun

Iraq/Afghanistan Memorial, February Stone – Monday, March 5

Remember that the war in Iraq is not over for the Iraqi people. Reclaiming the Prophetic Voice will again be marking the cost of the continuing violence in Iraq and Afghanistan by placing the February stone on the Memorial Cairn at the intersection of Broadway, Elm and Park streets in New Haven on Monday evening, 6 p.m., March 5. This stone will be inscribed with the February death total of US military personnel and the approximate documented numbers of Iraqi and Afghani civilians killed during that same period of time.

After Church Property Work Day – March 25

Please plan to stay for a couple of hours after church on Sunday, March 25th to help spruce up our property and buildings. This spring-cleaning event will combine outside and inside tasks on the same day—if the weather is inclement we will concentrate on inside tasks. Whether it’s raking leaves or clearing cobwebs from corners, come prepared with work clothes and energy to make our Church shine!

Be a Friendship Hour Host!

Almost every Sunday following worship, our congregation moves to the Miller Gathering Hall for Friendship Hour. Each Friendship Hour is usually hosted by two or three people. Preparatory work for hosting Friendship Hour is rather flexible: the hosts may choose to serve participants using the treats and drinks purchased by our church, or they can bake or shop for the treats and the church is happy to reimburse for the purchases. The church also supplies coffee, tea, paper goods, etc. Sign up to host a Friendship Hour at the Welcome Table. Need more information on how to host Friendship Hour? Please refer to fpcnh.org/FriendshipHourInstructions.pdf or talk to Art Hunt, Teddy Hogle, Dick Hasbany or Cressida Lui.

Presbyterian Peace Fellowship – Waging Peace in a Time of Empire

This April 26-29 at Stony Point Center, join peacemakers from across the country to discuss issues of peace and justice. Scholarships will be available. This is a working meeting for peacemakers, organizers and activists from across the church to plan together for effective advocacy and action. For more information visit presbypeacefellowship.org, or talk with Jane Hindenlang.

February

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March 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 26 9:30 AM Choir & CE 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Friendship Hour 12:30 PM Hebrew Class 5 PM Youth Group Game Night	27 3:30 PM Musical Folk 6 PM Tai Chi 6:30 PM Eve's Daughters	28	29 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Musical Folk 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	March 1 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study	2	3 Columbus House 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
4 9:30 AM Choir & CE 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Friendship Hour 12:30 PM Hebrew Class 5 PM Confirmation Class	5 3:30 PM Musical Folk 6 PM Iraq/Afghanistan Memorial 6 PM Tai Chi 7 PM CE Committee	6 7 PM CE Meeting 7:30 PM Mission Committee 7:30 PM CLDC Meeting	7 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Musical Folk 6:30 PM Lenten Service 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	8 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study	9	10 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA 5 PM Square Dance
11 9:30 AM Choir & CE 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Lenten Lunch 12:30 PM Hebrew Class 5 PM Confirmation Class	12 Co-Pastors Bill Goettler and Maria LaSala in Turkey 3:30 PM Musical Folk 6 PM Tai Chi	13	14 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Musical Folk 6:30 PM Lenten Service 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	15 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study	16	17 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
18 Co-Pastors Bill Goettler and Maria LaSala in Turkey 9:30 AM Choir & CE 10:45 AM Worship ... 12 PM Friendship Hour 12:30 PM Hebrew Class 5 PM Confirmation Class	19 3:30 PM Musical Folk 6 PM Tai Chi	20 7:15 PM Session	21 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Musical Folk 6:30 PM Lenten Service 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	22 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study	23 Ecumenical Advocacy Days	24 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
25 Ecumenical Advocacy Days 9:30 AM Choir & CE 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Friendship Hour 12:30 PM Hebrew Class 1 PM Church Grounds Spruce Up 5 PM Youth Group Lenten Preparations	26 3:30 PM Musical Folk 6 PM Tai Chi 6:30 PM Eve's Daughters	27	28 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Musical Folk 6:30 PM Lenten Service 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	29 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study	30	31 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA

March

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April 2012

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 1 Palm Sunday 9:30 AM Choir & CE 10:30 AM Palm Processional 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Friendship Hour	2 3:30 PM Musical Folk 6 PM Tai Chi 7 PM CE Committee	3 7:30 PM Mission Committee 7:30 PM CLDC Meeting	4 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Musical Folk 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	5 Maundy Thursday 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study 7:30 PM Service - Communion	6 Good Friday 7:30 PM Tenebrae	7 Columbus House 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
8 Easter 9:30 AM Choir & CE 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Friendship Hour	9 3:30 PM Musical Folk 6 PM Tai Chi	10	11 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Musical Folk 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	12 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study	13	14 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
15 9:30 AM Session Meeting 9:30 AM Choir & CE 10:45 AM Worship - Confirmation Class Received 12 PM Friendship Hour	16 3:30 PM Musical Folk 6 PM Tai Chi	17 7:15 PM Session	18 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Musical Folk 5:30 PM Women at the Well 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	19 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study	20	21 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
22 9:30 AM Choir & CE 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Friendship Hour	23 3:30 PM Musical Folk 6 PM Tai Chi	24	25 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Musical Folk 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	26 Presbyterian Peace Fellowship 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study	27	28 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
29 Presbyterian Pea... 9:30 AM Choir & CE 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Friendship Hour	30 3:30 PM Musical Folk 6 PM Tai Chi 6:30 PM Eve's Daughters	May 1 7:30 PM Mission Committee 7:30 PM CLDC Meeting	2 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Musical Folk 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	3 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study	4	5 Columbus House 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA

Feinstein Anti-Hunger Challenge



For the 10th year in a row, Christian Community Action (CCA) will be participating in the nationwide \$1-million Alan Shawn Feinstein Foundation Anti-Hunger Challenge. This means that the Feinstein Foundation (www.feinsteinfoundation.org) will make a financial donation for each food item/ cash donation made to the CCA Food Pantry during March and April. The more donations received from March 1st to April 30th, the bigger the donation from the Feinstein Foundation. These donations can include cash, checks and food items (valued at \$1.00 per item or pound) or pledges.

CCA's food pantry is one of the largest in the region, serving more than 600 people a month, 50 percent of them children. It is available to families with children, senior citizens and people with disabilities in the Hill section of New Haven, and over the years the agency has served more than 40,000 people. Starting in 2001, they have offered a "Client Choice" program. Food pantry participants are given the opportunity to "shop" for their food items rather than receiving a pre-made bag. CCA maintains membership with the Connecticut Food Bank but relies on others for donations.

First Presbyterian Church has a green wheel barrow parked in the Copeland Room to collect food items for CCA. On the last Sunday of each month, a volunteer packs up the bags and delivers them to the CCA food pantry at Davenport and Asylum Streets. If you would like to join in this effort, please contact Jane Hindenlang at jane.hindenlang@gmail.com.

March and April are traditionally periods when donations to food pantries are low, which is why the Feinstein Foundation picked these months for their campaign. Please consider making an extra effort to fill the green wheelbarrow during this time.

The Stony Point Conference Center is almost ready to break ground on an Arts Center.

A project which will give space for artists to wrestle with their faith and their artistic voice at the same time. A concept which includes using the arts to build the movement for peace and justice in our churches and communities, for provision of new ways of seeing the faith, of witnessing to the interconnectedness of all of creation. The Center will be a simple two-story rectangle with studios for pottery, woodworking, fiber arts, painting, puppet making, quilting, writing, exhibition and display space both indoors and out. As most of you know Stony Point is the only Conference Center in our Presbytery and provides space for group meetings, both local and national, and personal space for contemplation and discernment. It strives to keep the costs low and the quality top notch. Much of the food is grown in Stony Point gardens and prepared by a talented staff in the Stony Point kitchen. Rooms are clean and showers are hot. It's a great place to get away for even a day. If you haven't seen for yourself perhaps you'll get to do that this summer.

Stony Point's plan for building the Arts Center is very creative. They have received one major gift of \$200,000. By recruiting volunteers from churches in the area it is hoped that the project can be completed by late fall. The offer is as follows: Volunteers age 14 to and up are invited to come from Sunday afternoon to Friday lunch, room and board are provided by Stony Point at no cost. A building materials fee of \$300 is asked from each volunteer. All of the \$300 goes to the purchase of materials. The work day is 9 to noon and 1:00 to 5.

By action of our Session we have established an Artist & Architect Scholarship Fund to honor past and present artists and architects from this congregation. These gifts may be given in honor or memory of an artist from your family, a friend, someone whose artistic contributions have enhanced your worship on special occasions or who has inspired you to express your artistic voice. The funds will be allocated in \$300 increments to provide scholarships to enable all who wish to go to do so. The ideal would be for all of us to be able to go the same week. That is not likely to happen, but perhaps we can go in 3 or 4 different groups sometime between April 1 and October 31. Remember there is no personal expense since Stony Point is hosting 5 nights and 15 meals. For those of you who cannot participate perhaps you'd like to sponsor someone to go on your behalf, or simply make a contribution to the Artist & Architect Scholarship fund. If that fund reaches a sufficient amount we could perhaps pay for 1 room or equipment for one studio and place a plaque in the Center with the names of the First Presbyterian Church New Haven Artists and Architects so honored.

For more information pick up one of the Building on the Rock booklets on the Welcome Table or talk to Elder Teddy Hogle (203-823-9875).

Bread for the World Offering of Letters – Sunday, March 18

It is important for us Presbyterians to write letters to Congress after the morning worship service on March 18th. This year we will continue to form a circle of protection around programs for the most needy: tax credits for low income working families, food assistance programs both overseas and in the US, and funding for poverty focused foreign aid. In recent years these programs took sizable cuts of up to 20%, even though the percentage of individuals and families below the poverty line continues to increase.

Remember that programs such as the Supplemental Food Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as “food stamps”) serve families of four making less than \$23,000. The Earned Income and Child Tax Credits lifted nearly 8 million people (including 4.3 million children) out of poverty. Congressional efforts to trim the federal deficit will put even more pressure on these programs in 2012. In the time before Sunday, March 18th you will find materials on the Welcome Table (in the Copeland Room) and in your bulletins which will help you compose letters on the 18th. Pick up the materials, read them at home and bring them with you on letter writing Sunday. It has been reliably estimated that representatives in Congress consider a single letter to represent the feelings of 1,000 of his or her constituents.

We must insure that our representatives in Congress know that we oppose having those in need suffer the most. As Psalm 72 reads, “for he [a just king] delivers the needy when they call, the poor, and those who have no helper.”

Looking ahead:

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, April 1st with an Intergenerational Christian Education hour followed by worship with the procession of the palms.

Maundy Thursday, April 5, a service of Holy Communion

Good Friday, April 6, a Tenebrae service

Easter, April 8, a sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. at the summit of East Rock Park, breakfast at 9:30 a.m. in the Miller Hall, and Easter rejoicing worship at 10:45 a.m. concluding with Handel’s *Hallelujah Chorus*.

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 ...

Mission Co-Worker Karla Koll, who is undergoing treatment for breast cancer.

Judith Kistler, who is recovering from surgery.

Debbie Tenney’s mom, and Mike Tenney’s grandmother, Jane Derick Schubert, who died on February 22.

Isabella Quagliato’s boyfriend, Christian Gagnon, who died after a long struggle with leukemia.

Alan Hogle, who continues to struggle with illness.

PCUSA Moderator, Cyndi Bolbach, who has been diagnosed with cancer.

The Rev. Eugenio Matos, struggling with illness.

Blanca Thiebaut and her colleague Montserrat Serra, who were abducted in Kenya. Blanca and Montserrat work for the Spanish division of Doctors Without Borders.

Jordan Matos, who is stationed in Vilsek, Germany with the U.S. Army.

Those who are unable to worship with us on a regular basis, including Jim Tenney and Ken Jetter.

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

Easter Flowers and Lilies!

Orders for Easter lilies and plants are now being accepted by the church office. The cost is \$15 each. Plants may be taken home after worship on Easter morning, or given to the church to be planted outside or given to homebound members. Please leave this form and a check at the Welcome Table by April 1.

Donated by: _____

___ In memory of _____

___ In thanksgiving for _____

___ I would like to take the plant home



CO-PASTORS: BILL GOETTLER & MARIA LASALA

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: PATRICK McCRELESS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATOR: BRYCE WIEBE

CAMPUS CHAPLAIN TO YALE: JENNIFER DAVIS

PARISH ASSOCIATE: SUE ASHER

YDS INTERN: SUNGDUK YUN

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: HANNAH ROH

First Presbyterian Church

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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**

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.