

The Inklings

The News of First Presbyterian Church

July–August 2012

Summer Greetings from First Presbyterian Church!

As I write, the heat index is soaring, even as the fan here in the office cools things down, if only slightly. With any luck, you've found your own way to stay refreshed during these summer months – fans and A/C units, swimming, the shade of a tree or a pitcher of cold water, tea, or lemonade. Pour yourself a glass and spend a few minutes relaxing, and learning about the good things that are happening in this faith community.



Life at the church is a little more relaxed, but still full. Bill and Maria continue their sabbatica while Steve Jungkeit (that's me) keeps things running as the summer minister, along with the help of many good folks around the church community. The Family Nights at First Pres, hosted by the Peace and Justice Group, have been a wonderful success, filled with great conversations about a lot of the pressing concerns that are affecting all of our lives in ways large and small. A book group has been meeting on Thursdays at noon to talk about the ways walking can be understood as a spiritual practice. Shortly after this Inklings goes out, there will be a walk taking place in downtown New Haven as a part of the I Wage Peace campaign, a demonstration for peace and nonviolence between Israel and Palestine. That walk will be followed later in the week by a Shabbat service at Mishkan Israel, an event that many within the First Presbyterian Church community will participate in. And our worship services in the Miller Gathering Hall have been delightful and full, as old friends and new gather to worship God with one another.

Meanwhile, a group of workers is outside even as I write, putting a new roof on the Owens Community Building (see Martha Smith's note). And a group of friends dedicated to sustainable agriculture has started work on a community garden outside the Owens Community Building, an effort led by Caty Poole.

Finally, a personal note: I've attended First Presbyterian for many years, and have worked in the congregation in a variety of ways during that time. And so it's not exactly news to me that this is a terrific place, filled with an incredible and vivacious set of people. And yet I've realized it anew this summer, appreciating all over again what a delight this place is, and how good it is to be among this community of faith. I've often felt a sense of gladness in these summer months, and I've loved watching all the ways that people contribute to make this a vibrant church. I'm honored to be doing this work among you!

Read on for more information about the life of our church in these summer months. Whether you're near or far, know that you're a valued part of this church community! I hope we see you around here sometime soon.

Steve Jungkeit
Summer Minister

Vacation Bible School Returns in August!

Once again, First Presbyterian Church will join with Church of the Redeemer, Bethesda Lutheran Church, and First and Summerfield United Methodist Church for a four day Vacation Bible School program. The dates are August 20-23 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Activities will take place in the Owens Community Building at FPC with some field trips to Edgerton Park, East Rock Park, and the Eli Whitney Museum scheduled. VBS is open to children age 4 through 10. There will also be spots for Junior Counsellors for those in grades 6-10. If you'd like to be a part of this great summer program, please speak with Bryce Wiebe.

Children's Garden

Please notice the two framed beds of flowers and vegetables installed in the north-west corner of lawn in front of the Owen's Building. Please feel free to help water and weed as the plants grow, blossom and produce fruit. Thanks and offers of help should go to Caty Poole.

Adopt a Plot

Without a doubt, summer is here. This spring's property work days are a dim or non-existent memory. Already, yes, already the weeds on the church property are growing...like weeds.

With hot days and vacation schedules it is unlikely we could manage to assemble a critical mass for a summer property work day, so we are trying something new: ADOPT A PLOT.

We are looking for people willing to assume responsibility for weeding a small area of the church property (mostly around the entrances to the Church and Owens Building.) If you are interested, we would assign a small area that should take about an hour to weed. Then you could weed it whenever you have time (mornings, evenings, before or after church, etc.). The expectation is that you would only need to do it about 3 times this season and it would get easier each time. Your commitment to caring for the plot would end in the fall.

If interested in tending our grounds and willing to take a small area on, please contact Martha Smith or Pat Wales.

Wanderlust: Conversations on the Spiritual Life

On Thursdays at noon during the month of July (the 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th) bring a bag lunch to the church and join us for a series of conversations about walking and the spiritual life led by Steve Jungkeit. We'll be reading some essays from Rebecca Solnit's book *Wanderlust: A History of Walking* to stimulate our conversations. Solnit is interested in the ways the simple act of walking connects us to our bodies, our neighborhoods and cities, our environment, and our own deepest selves. What would it mean to take this most simple act seriously as a practice of faith? What would it mean to read all the stories and passages in the Bible about walking not as incidental to those stories, but as crucial pieces of insight about our human predicament? What sorts of energies and dreams are unleashed in the act of walking, and how is that related to other forms of cultural expression? Come to the church on Thursdays at noon in July for a set of free-ranging conversations on contemporary spirituality, set in motion by Solnit's soulful meditations on the meanings of walking. If you're interested, there will be a sign up sheet in the Copeland Room that will let us know how many people may join us. Books will be provided for those who would like to come, so please sign up if you're planning to come!

Be a Friendship Hour Host!

Every Sunday following worship during the summer, our congregation stays behind in the Miller Gathering Hall for Friendship Hour, a time of fellowship and socializing. 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. You are all welcome to sign up to host Friendship Hour at the Welcome Table. Need more information on how to host Friendship Hour? Please talk to Art Hunt, Teddy Hogle, Dick Hasbany or Cressida Lui.

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.

The texts for July and August are:

July 1: 2 Sam. 1:1, 17–27; Ps. 130; 2 Cor. 8:7–15; Mark 5:21–43

July 8: 2 Sam. 5:1–5, 9–10; Ps. 48; 2 Cor. 12:2–10; Mark 6:1–13

July 15: 2 Sam. 6:1–5, 12b–19; Ps. 24; Eph. 1:3–14; Mark 6:14–29

July 22: 2 Sam. 7:1–14a; Ps. 89:20–37; Eph. 2:11–22; Mark 6:30–34, 53–56

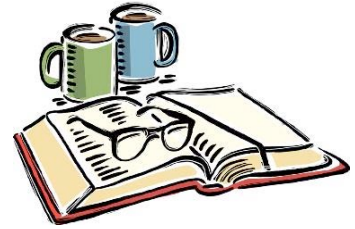
July 29: 2 Sam. 11:1–15; Ps. 14; Eph. 3:14–21; John 6:1–21

August 5: 2 Sam. 11:26–12:13a; Ps. 51:1–12; Eph. 4:1–16; John 6:24–35

August 12: 2 Sam. 18:5–9, 15, 31–33; Ps. 130; Eph. 4:25–5:2; John 6:35, 41–51

August 19: 1 Kings 2:10–12; 3:3–14; Ps. 111; Eph. 5:15–20; John 6:51–58

August 26: 1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10–11) 22–30, 41–43; Ps. 84; Eph. 6:10–20; John 6:56–69



Walk & Talk with the Combatants for Peace --- An Update!!!

A couple of months ago, our church screened an award-winning documentary film, “The Billboard from Bethlehem”, which tells an inspiring and uplifting tale of the formation of The Combatants For Peace, a coalition of former Israeli soldiers and former Palestinian militants in the Holy Land who have decided to renounce violence and to jointly seek a peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. *Good news: A couple of Combatants for Peace will visit Connecticut in July! Please plan on joining them for two family-friendly events: an interfaith, 1.3 mile-long, Peace Walk to be held in New Haven (New Haven Green at Temple and Elm) on July 16th, Monday, at 6pm, and a Jewish Shabbat service to be held at Mishkan Israel in Hamden on July 20th, Friday, at 6pm.* The July 16th Peace Walk is organized by IWagePeace (a non-government organization which produced “The Billboard from Bethlehem”) and co-sponsored by our church and over twenty other local faith-based communities and organizations. Both the visiting Combatants for Peace as well as the visiting Kids4Peace (high school youths from Israel and Palestine) will join us for the Walk. During the Walk, we will stop by the United Church on the Green, the Joseph Slifka Center for Jewish Life at Yale, and Masjid al Islam. During the July 20th Shabbat service, the Combatants for Peace will share their stories and take questions from us. Our church will also play an active part in both the service and the reception afterwards. Feel free to attend the events on your own or with us as a group. If you choose the latter, please sign up at the Welcome Table. Need more information? Pick up a flyer on the Welcome Table or talk to Dick Hasbany, Teddy Hogle, Cressida Lui or Kathy Rupp.

Did you miss “The Billboard from Bethlehem” when our church screened it a couple of months ago? You are welcome to check out the DVD --- please contact Kathy Rupp or Cressida Lui.

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 ...

Jim Phillips, who continues to be hospitalized after a series of setbacks from a broken hip.

Ron Clave, who is improving but remains hospitalized.

Karla Koll, mission co-worker in Guatemala, who is undergoing treatment for breast cancer.

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

Bryan McCloskey, nephew of Tim and Jean McCloskey, who has been deployed to Afghanistan with the U.S. Army.

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.

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

June

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July 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July 1 9:30 AM Choir & CE 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Friendship Hour	2 3:30 PM Musical Folk 6 PM Tai Chi	3 7 PM CE Committee 7:30 PM Mission Committee 7:30 PM CLDC Meeting	4 Independence Day 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Musical Folk 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	5 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study 12 PM Wanderlust: Book Club	6	7 Columbus House 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
8 9:30 AM Choir & CE 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Friendship Hour	9 3:30 PM Musical Folk 6 PM Tai Chi	10	11 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Musical Folk 5:45 PM Family Night 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	12 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study 12 PM Wanderlust: Book Club	13	14 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
15 9:30 AM Choir & CE 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Friendship Hour 12 PM Church Picnic at Killian's Point	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 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	19 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study 12 PM Wanderlust: Book Club	20	21 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
22 9:30 AM Choir & CE 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM 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 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study 12 PM Wanderlust: Book Club	27	28 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
29 9:30 AM Choir & CE 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Friendship Hour	30 3:30 PM Musical Folk 6 PM Tai Chi	31	August 1 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Musical Folk 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	2 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study	3	4 Columbus House 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA

July

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August 2012

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SABBATICAL PASTOR: STEVEN JUNGKEIT
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

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