

The Inkling

Where is Lent leading Me?

We are almost halfway through Lent – a time of some set aside for special devotion to the things of God. Whether you have given up meat one day a week, or taken on a new discipline of being grateful for three things each day, I hope you practice is enlarging you in unexpected ways.

I am making it a practice to enjoy the light. About this time of year, I yearn for more light. As I write this it is 5:40 pm, and there is still a little light outside. That is cause for great rejoicing. Some of it is the very human need for sun and vitamin D. But after two months of darkness by 5 pm, and the sun not rising until after 7 am, I am ready for more daylight hours.

This may seem like a strange Lenten practice. But usually I get to the end of February before I realize the change in the amount of daylight. This year I wanted to be more aware. Most days I have taken notice of when the sun rose and set.

Light, of course, is a strong Biblical theme, beginning with the first page of Scripture. Let there be light could be the theme for all of God's interactions with humanity. Again and again, God seeks to bring us light and enlightenment. So often we overlook these grand gifts because they have become second nature to us. Seeking light (of all kinds) is what my Lenten discipline is helping me to see.

What are you learning/feeling on your Lenten journey?

--Pastor Susan



Scripture Readings for Sundays in March

March 6 - 4th Sunday in Lent

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Psalm 32, Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

March 13 – 5th Sunday in Lent

We will be serving as a 'neutral pulpit' for a congregation in our Presbytery. When we have the lessons that will be used that Sunday, we will publicize them

March 20 – Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9, Psalm 31:9-16, and Luke 19:28-40

March 27--Easter Sunday

Isaiah 65:17-25, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 and Luke 24:1-12

Memorial Cairn – Monday, March 7th

Reclaiming the Prophetic Voice will once again mark the number of deaths of civilian and military personnel from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Join friends at the monument on the corners of Broadway and Elm Streets in New Haven at 6 p.m. for a 15 minute prayer service. All are welcome.

Connecticut Folk Concert—Friday, March 4th

The Heather Pierson Acoustic Trio will be featured at the March “Folk Fridays” at First Presbyterian Church this Friday, March 4th. Heather Pierson is an award-winning pianist, multi-genre singer/songwriter, arranger, bandleader, and performer. The church receives ten complimentary tickets. E-mail firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com to reserve yours.

Daylight Savings Time starts March 13!

Sunday, March 13, 2016 is the beginning of Daylight Savings Time: clocks are turned forward 1 hour, so don't forget and be late to church!



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday (March 24) – Worship in Miller Hall at 7:30 PM with *agape* meal and communion
Good Friday (March 25) – Worship in the Sanctuary at 7:30 PM
Easter Sunrise Service (March 27) – 6:30 AM East Rock Park
Easter Breakfast – 9:30 AM
Easter Celebration Worship – 10:45 AM



February Session Report

The February 16th Session meeting was called to order by the Rev. Susan Reisinger at 7:16 p.m. Lynne Autry presented the devotion taken from the Rev. Douglas Nelson's book, Is There Any Word from the Lord?

Among the topics discussed was the hiring of an Intern from Yale Divinity School for the fall. The Finance committee will be considering the mortgage on the Owens building. The Christian Education Committee has been discussing how to generate more interest and attendance in the Sunday School program. The CLOC Committee announced that there will again be an Easter breakfast this year and an art show held in April. The Mission Committee is sponsoring a monthly film series beginning with a potluck meal and followed by a discussion. The first one was this month and more will follow on the third Friday of every month. The Property Committee reported that the upper windows in the Owens Building have both been fixed. Also a landscaping plan is in progress.

Rev. Reisinger closed the meeting with Prayer.

--Lynn Autry

Congregational Study Committee

The mission of the Congregational Study Committee is to help the congregation of First Presbyterian Church decide what they are looking for in a new pastor and what the future of our church should be. To do this we decided to first use a survey called the Hartford Congregational Assessment. It has been modified to address our individual church. The past few weeks we have worked hard to go through the questions to take out the ones that didn't apply, change some that needed to be refocused and add some that weren't included. All this will produce a document which we hope will tell us what you think of our church: the things we do well, the things we can do better, and who we are now.



Once we have the existing survey modified to our satisfaction, the company will reformat it and send us back the new survey that we have created just for our church. This process should take about a week.

Then the survey will be made available **online** to take at home, online to take at church with help (if needed) after worship, and in paper form (which will be entered online by committee members). It is hoped that we can start the survey taking before the end of February and finish it shortly after Easter.

We hope EVERYONE who attends our church will take this survey. It will take about 35 to 40 minutes of your time. Not every question has to be answered. Members, non-members, members who no longer attend worship, longtime members, brand new members, the elderly and the young are all encouraged to participate.

Please help us with this important task. EVERY opinion counts.

--Lynn Autry

First Pres Movie Series

The second in the Mission Committee's monthly **First Pres Movie Series** will be on **Friday, March 18** (save the future dates, the third Friday of each month). We start with a pot luck supper in the Miller Community Room at 6 pm. The movie will start at 6:30 pm.

Our second film is "Cool It" (87 minutes).

Wikipedia describes the film as: "Based on the book "Cool It: The Skeptical Environmentalist's Guide to Global Warming" by Danish political scientist Bjørn Lomborg. The film focuses on Lomborg lecturing and brainstorming ideas to make the environmental movement less propagandistic and more realistic, which includes de-emphasizing efforts to stop global warming. Interviews include many scientists and activists both supporting and disputing Lomborg. It also explicitly challenges Al Gore's Oscar-winning environmental awareness documentary."

Children are welcome. A short discussion will follow the movie.



One Great Hour of Sharing Offering – March 20

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be received on Palm Sunday, March 20. This offering has existed since 1946 for Episcopalians and since 1949 for Presbyterians and others, although the name was first used in 1950. Originally the offering went toward post-World War II relief and reconstruction. Today it continues to be used for relief, development, and refugee assistance. Beyond the physical aid rendered, the goal of the offering is to make the love of Christ real and apparent to individuals and communities who have suffered the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship—and to those who give, as well. Participating denominations have collected about \$20 million each year in the recent past, and projects are underway in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada. Around the world, One Great Hour of Sharing continues to respond to critical needs in a suffering world. Please give generously and prayerfully.



14th Annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days (EAD) April 15-18 **“Lift Every Voice! – Racism, Class and Power.”**

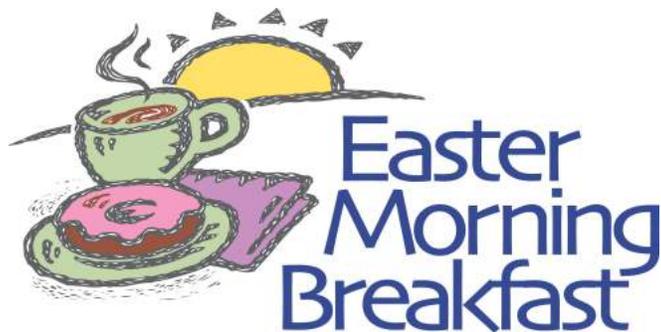
Attend Ecumenical Advocacy Days (EAD) and immerse yourself in worship and this timely social justice topic. The conference starts on Friday, April 15 at 6 pm and ends Sunday, April 17 at 9 pm with Monday, April 18 dedicated to Capital Hill advocacy visits scheduled by EAD staff.

Early registration ends March 18 and is only \$199. Rooms at the conference hotel – the DoubleTree in Crystal City (across the river from Washington, DC - are only \$127 per night.

As an extra bonus, the PC(USA) holds a Compassion Peace and Justice Training Day on Friday, April 15. The additional cost is only \$55 if you are registered for EAD.

The visits to Capital Hill on Monday give you the opportunity to speak directly with you Senators and Representative or their staffs.

Your time at EAD promises to be uplifting, challenging, educational and spiritual. Car-pooling to DC may be an option, email or call or talk with Art or Mary Hunt at mmarhunt@gmail.com or 203-288-3530.



Our annual Easter Breakfast will be shared on Easter Sunday in the Miller Gathering Hall beginning at 9:30 a.m. on March 27th. The Community Life and Outreach Committee (CLOC) will be hosting the morning. Beth Aura Miller will be coordinating the delicious food including the fabulous creative strata delights prepared by several of our master strata makers! Tables will be set and food lovingly prepared for our FPCNH family gathering. Come join us - Breakfast will be served until 10:30 a.m.

Upcoming Youth & Children's Activities

Sunday 3/6: Visioning for 2016-2017. Families involved in Christian Education (or who plan to be involved next year) are invited to join Kimberley for a conversation about envisioning the future of our youth and children's ministries. Meet in the Community Building after worship.

Sunday 3/20: Inter-generational Christian Education Hour for Palm/Passion Sunday. We'll begin with celebratory parachute games at 9:30 a.m., and then we'll enjoy refreshments and a variety of crafts including palm branch crosses, window art, fabric wreaths, dyed eggs, personalized bags for the upcoming egg hunt, and more. Activities will be geared for adults, youth, and children of all ages.

Sunday 3/27: Easter Play. During the breakfast in the Community Building, the children will present "See It to Believe It." This debut from 9-year-old playwright Molly tells the resurrection story from the morning's Gospel text. Then: an Easter Egg Hunt. After the 10:45 worship service, our clever older youth will hide Easter eggs filled with goodies for the children to find! Toddlers through age 3 may search the playground behind the nursery, and children ages 4-6 may search the church grounds.

Saturday 4/16 - Sunday 4/17: Painting Party & Retreat. Youth ages 11-18 are invited to a lock-in from Saturday at 6 p.m. until worship on Sunday. We will provide dinner, breakfast, canvases, painting supplies, and music. RSVP by 4/10 so we can prepare enough materials. You may also opt to share your finished artwork in the church's Art Show on 4/17!

Questions? Email Christian Educator Kimberley at firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com, or Youth Advisor Tyler at tyler.wadzinski@yale.edu.

Mmmmmm Yummy Shortbread!

Have you ever wanted to know how to make real Scottish shortbread? Now you have an opportunity to learn from the best Scottish shortbread baker at FPC, Liz Copeland. She is sharing her secret recipe with those who are interested in joining her after Friendship Hour on March 13th. Bakers will bring their own supplies and we will use our church kitchen for this fun time. A sign-up sheet will be on the Welcome Table. Limited space will be available for bakers but open to watchers.

Baker supplies include:

15 X 10 inch jelly roll pan and a piece of parchment paper larger than pan

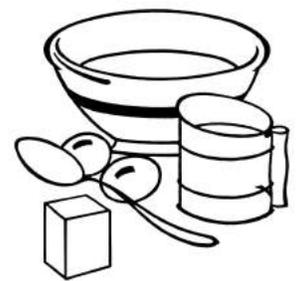
1 lb butter -Land o Lakes preferred

1 C sugar

5 C flour

¾ tsp vanilla and ¾ tsp almond extract or 1 tsp vanilla

Contact Beth Aura Miller (dbmiller@optonline.net) if you have any questions. See you in the kitchen!



Calling all First Pres artists!

On Sunday, April 17th, CLOC will host an Art Show after worship. This is an opportunity to share what you have made with your First Pres family. Drawings, paintings, photography, needlework, crafts, woodwork - if you made it, we want to see it. Contact Elizabeth Gill (elizabeth.gill@yale.edu) or Scott Funston (sfunston66@gmail.com) and let us know what you want to show.

Campus Ministry

On Friday, February 12th, both undergrads and graduate students came together for dinner and a movie. There were eight people around the table enjoying breakfast for dinner, and all eight failed in trying to connect the television set to a working DVD player. Instead of watching the recently released film, *The Martian*, the group had to settle for an evening of laughter, games, and conversation. Turns out, plan B might have been more fun! In the photo, Emily Putnam, Sophie House, Kimberley Fais, and Sam Carrillo play a game of cards.



Our weekly Monday evening meet ups continue at Wall Street Pizza. Twice, we've had a special guest join us. It seems pizza is for the young *and* the young-at-heart! Pictured here is church member Ernie Bodenweber along with university students Elizabeth Coquillette, Katrina Manzi, and Daniel Davis. Ernie's presence helps to highlight for students a great gift of the church--its intergenerational nature. With him, we've talked about the changes in graduate school, our first cars, our memories of presidential campaigns, and advice on staying young.

--Jackie Spycher

Malala Yousafzai to speak in Rhode Island in July



A group of youth and adults will attend a speech by Nobel winner Malala Yousafzai in Providence, Rhode Island at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 28. We've already bought our tickets, but if anyone else from the congregation is interested in attending, we encourage you to check out the event on Ticketmaster.com and let Kimberley know of your plans.

Save the Date! Saturday, August 27: Children's Summer Program

If you are interested in shaping or chaperoning for this program in any way, please email Kimberley at firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com or speak with any of the Christian Education Committee members: Lynn Autry, John Dinkler, Elizabeth Gill, Betsy Mussmann, and Betty Whitney. We envision a dynamic program that will kick off our new year and serve as a welcoming event for new and visiting families, and we'd love for you to be a part of it!

Just for Fun

Q. What do you get if you pour hot water down a rabbit hole?
A. Hot cross bunnies!



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 with a check in the offering plate or send to church office by March 20th.

Donated
by:

In memory of

In thanksgiving for

I would like to take the plant home



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, and Eugene Smith recovering at home.

For the men and women of Abrahams' Tent: Brook, John, Reggie, Johnny, Nathan, Remell, Tawana, Jessica, Dorothy, Sandra, and Daidra.

Jeff Miller, brother of David Miller, who is recovering from surgery this past week.

Bob Smith, Suzanne Giddings brother, who recently had knee surgery.

Allyson McKinney, who needs prayers for health and healing.

Shaleen Camery-Hoggatt, Michal Beth Dinkler's mother, who is undergoing chemotherapy.

The people of Kenya, Turkey, Syria, South Sudan, Egypt, Israel and Palestine, Iraq, and
for those all around the world experiencing unrest, violence, and discord.

David Meeske, serving with the Peace Corps in Mongolia.

Andrew McCloskey, serving with the Peace Corps in Mozambique.

Christopher Woodington, serving with the Grinnell Corps in Namibia.

James Smit and Patrick Copeland, 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

March 2016

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| | | 1 9:30am & 10:30pm Musical Folk 7:15pm Mission Committee 7:30pm CLOC Committee | 2 11:30 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Musical Folk 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal | 3 9:00am Yoga 6:30 pm NH Comm Chorus | 4 9:30 am Musical Folk 7:30 p.m. CT Folk | 5 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA 5:30 pm Columbus House Dinner |
| 6 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45am Worship 12:00 p.m. Friendship Hour | 7 4:00pm Musical Folk 6:00 p.m. Memorial Cairn | 8 9:30am & 10:30pm Musical Folk | 9 11:30 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Musical Folk 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal | 10 9:00am Yoga 6:30 pm NH Comm Chorus | 11 9:30 am Musical Folk | 12 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA |
| 13 Daylight Savings Time Starts 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45am Worship 12:00 p.m. Friendship Hour 1:00 pm Shortbread Class | 14 4:00pm Musical Folk | 15 9:30am & 10:30pm Musical Folk 7:15 pm Session | 16 11:30 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Musical Folk 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal | 17 9:00am Yoga 6:30 pm NH Comm Chorus | 18 9:30 am Musical Folk 6:30 p.m. First Pres Movie Series | 19 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA |
| 20 Palm Sunday 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45am Worship 12:00 p.m. Friendship Hour | 21 4:00pm Musical Folk | 22 9:30am & 10:30pm Musical Folk | 23 11:30 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Musical Folk 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal | 24 9:00am Yoga 7:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service | 25 9:30 am Musical Folk 7:30 pm Good Friday Service | 26 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA |
| 5 6:30am Sunrise Service at East Rock 9:30am Easter Breakfast 10:45am Worship 12:00 p.m. Friendship Hour | 28 4:00pm Musical Folk | 29 9:30am & 10:30pm Musical Folk 7:15pm Mission Committee 7:30pm CLOC Committee | 30 11:30 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Musical Folk 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal | 31 9:00am Yoga 5:00 pm Property Committee 6:30 pm NH Comm Chorus | | |

April 2016

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|--|
| | | | | | 1 9:30 am Musical Folk 7:30 p.m. CT Folk | 2 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA 5:30 pm Columbus House Dinner |
| 3 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45am Worship 12:00 p.m. Annual Congregational Meeting | 4 4:00pm Musical Folk 6:00 p.m. Memorial Cairn | 5 9:30am & 10:30pm Musical Folk | 6 11:30 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Musical Folk 7:00 pm Ash Wed Service | 7 9:00am Yoga 6:30 pm NH Comm Chorus | 8 9:30 am Musical Folk | 9 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA |
| 10 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45am Worship 12:00 p.m. Friendship Hour | 11 4:00pm Musical Folk | 12 9:30am & 10:30pm Musical Folk | 13 11:30 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Musical Folk 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal | 14 9:00am Yoga 6:30 pm NH Comm Chorus | 15 9:30 am Musical Folk 6:30 p.m. First Pres Movie Series | 16 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA |
| 17 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45am Worship 12:00 p.m. Friendship Hour & Art Show | 18 4:00pm Musical Folk | 19 9:30am & 10:30pm Musical Folk 7:15 pm Session | 20 11:30 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Musical Folk 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal | 21 9:00am Yoga 6:30 pm NH Comm Chorus | 22 9:30 am Musical Folk | 23 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA |
| 24 9:30 a.m. Potluck Breakfast 10:45am Worship 12:00 p.m. Friendship Hour | 25 4:00pm Musical Folk | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

INTERIM PASTOR: SUSAN DEE REISINGER

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: PATRICK McCRELESS

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: MARTHA SMITH

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR
CHILDREN AND YOUTH: KIMBERLEY FAIS

CAMPUS CHAPLAIN AT YALE: JACKIE SPYCHER

NURSERY CARE PROVIDER: NAOMI BRINTON

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Christian Education for all ages

9:30 a.m.

Worship

10:45 a.m.

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New Haven, Connecticut
06511

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