

The Inkling

The News of First Presbyterian Church

February 2017

THOUGHTS ON A WINTER'S DAY

One Saturday it snowed. It was expected, so I was prepared. On snow days, I love to watch the snow fall, to hear the world go quieter, to nestle up inside with some hot chocolate and a good book.

That cold, snowy day was rejuvenating for me in a way I didn't expect. The snow wiped out my plans, and allowed me to simply be. The next day would be full of activity again, but this day seemed like a gift. Sometimes the snow and cold can cause us to slow down and even come close to hibernating. But sometimes they offer us an opportunity to simply revel in being.



I had a teacher in high school who would say as you left her – Go! Do! Be! I didn't realize until she wrote that note to me that each word was followed by an exclamation point. Honestly most of us are pretty good at the going and doing part of life. The being is something else altogether. And yet our moments of being restore to us our sense of self – and perhaps even recognize how very precious we are to God.

--Pastor Susan

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

We are returning to the custom of preparing a Lenten devotional for the congregation. We need your help. This year we are doing 47 words for Lent (and the Sundays in Lent). Gary Cline is spearheading this project and will have the sign up sheet.

This year, instead of gathering all the submissions at one time, we will be distributing the devotional weekly – through the Thursday email and in a written form on each Sunday.

We would really like to have your participation in this endeavor. If you sign up you will receive a reminder a week before your 250 word item is due. Please consider helping us out with this endeavor.

LECTIONARY TEXTS FOR FEBRUARY



FEB 5 – Isaiah 58:1-12, Psalm 112:1-9, Matthew 5:13-16

FEB 12 – Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 119:1-8, Matthew 5:21-37

FEB 19 – Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18, Psalm, 119:33-40, Matthew 5:38-48

FEB 26 – Exodus 24:12-18, Psalm 99, Matthew 17:1-9

CT FOLK Concert on February 3rd



CT Folk's Feb 3rd concert (@7:30 p.m.) is the annual Connecticut Artists Showcase, this year featuring Rani Arbo and Greg Ryan, performing a combination of wry, reflective originals, as well as traditional and cover songs, from Appalachian ballads to Ray Lamontagne.

The church receives ten complimentary tickets. E-mail or call the church office to reserve yours.

Memorial Cairn Prayer Service on Monday February 6th

Reclaiming the Prophetic Voice will mark the cost of the continuing violence in Iraq and Afghanistan and elsewhere in the Mid-East with a 15 minute prayer service at the intersection of Broadway, Elm and Park streets in New Haven on Monday evening, February 6th, at 6 p.m.

2017 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Since my last report to you in the January Inkling, I wanted to let you know that we have received additional pledges for 2017! Therefore, as of now, we have 91 pledging households (up from 89 in 2016) and a total pledged of \$286,274 (up from \$279,041 in 2016). You may recall that we had been hoping for \$280,000 pledged this year. What a wonderful tribute to the love and commitment of this congregation to the church life and work that we do! Truly we have shown that we all look forward to "Stepping Forward in Faith" together in 2017.

Bruce R. Peabody, Stewardship Chair

Pastor Nominating Committee UPDATE

We (Bonnie Sherman, Jenn Ballew, Sarah Wallman, Bruce Peabody – Vice Chair, Scott Funston – Secretary, Jane Hindenlang, Brian Gray, and Beth Aura Miller – Chair) wanted to update you on the progress we are making in our pastor search.

During December the Ministry Information Form (MIF) was completed, approved by our session, and approved by the Presbytery's Committee On Ministry. It was then submitted to our PCUSA Church Leadership Connection (<http://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/clc/calling-organizations/>) to be posted

On January 4th our MIF (**P0204580**) was posted for any pastor interested in this Call. Within the first 2 days we had over 30 Pastor Information Forms that electronically "matched" our FPC MIF!

We are now in the process of receiving inquiries for our FPC Call and we are reviewing all interest individuals. We encourage you to share our MIF and encourage any interested pastors to submit their Pastor Information Forms (PIF) to the PCUSA Church Leadership Connection.

Please refer to the bulletin board posted in the Miller Gathering Hall to see how we are moving through the search process. We ask for your continued prayers and support as we prayerfully consider all of the interested candidates.

Let me know if you have any questions,

Beth Aura

Annual Meeting on February 12th

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for February 12, 2017, following worship. This is the annual meeting of the congregation and corporation. If reports come in in a timely fashion, we will have a copy of the report for you on Sunday, February 5th. Otherwise, the report will be emailed the week before the Annual Meeting.

Potluck Lunch on February 12, 2017

Please plan to stay after worship and the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 12th for a "Warm Your Heart and Soul" Potluck! Please bring your favorite "heart warming" main dish, side or dessert to share, as we come together in heart and soul.

IRIS March for Refugees—Sunday, February 5

After worship this Sunday, you can show your support for refugees by heading over to Wilbur Cross High School.



In response to the executive order of January 27 banning immigrants and refugees from Iraq, Iran, Syria, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen, IRIS will be leading a march on **Sunday, February 5, 2017, at noon**.

The event will start at Wilbur Cross High School (181 Mitchell Drive) and marchers will end at the New Haven Green. This event will follow IRIS' regular, annual fundraiser run (sold out!) and celebration in the morning.

HAMDEN AND NEW HAVEN CLERGY INVITE YOU TO JOIN THEM AT A WORKSHOP: HOW TO BE EFFECTIVE IN ACCOMPANIMENT

Accompaniment Training And Introduction To Sanctuary Congregations

Thousands of immigrants are required to check-in regularly with ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) as they fight their deportation cases. In many cases, close family and friends cannot accompany them to their check-ins for fear of being detained, because they may be undocumented as well. Come learn how YOU can be someone's support system at check-ins and help ensure a fair process for all.

Immigration raids are expected to start soon all over the country, rounding up undocumented members of our communities. The threat so far is that ICE will be looking for people with criminal records. Yet, when ICE shows up, they also take with them what is called collateral detainees: people with clean records who happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time--family members, neighbors, coworkers, passerby, etc. We need to be ready to assist. Families will be left without one or both parents. Whoever is left will be left financially unstable. American citizen children who lose their undocumented parents may have to be put up in foster homes.

What concrete steps can you take to collaborate in shielding and/or assisting our friends, colleagues, or neighbors who are at risk of being either deported or banned from the country, or their family members who will be left behind in our community?

Come and attend a sanctuary preparedness workshop. Rabbi Herbert Brockman, and other members of the clergy and community, including Protestant, Catholic, and Muslim clergy, will be hosting a comprehensive sanctuary training on Sunday, February 19 from 2-4 p.m. at Congregation Mishkin Israel (785 Ridge Road, Hamden, CT).

Come, be part of concerned but diligent members of our community who will be organizing ourselves to protect the most vulnerable.

Christian Education for Children and Youth - February Plans

Sunday School for Ages 3-18

Ages 6-18 are invited to join the Adult Class in the Gathering Hall for the remainder of a series called "Gender and..." Thus far in January we have covered "Gender and Language," "Gender and Scripture," and "Gender and God." In February, we will cover "Gender and the Church," "Gender and the World," and "What Now?" On February 19th, participants will have the opportunity to visit stations offering practical ways to do self-inventory and take next steps in a commitment to gender justice and hospitality. On the 26th, children ages 6+ who have participated in the series will have their own class session for closure with their teachers, and adults will begin a new topic.

Meanwhile, ages 3-5 will continue to meet in their usual classroom. Any older children who would prefer to follow along with the lectionary-based Seasons of the Spirit curriculum are also welcome to join this group each week at 9:30 a.m.

Block 2 (of 3 total) of the Sunday school year ends for ages 3-18 on Sunday, February 26th.

To aid all teachers in their lesson plans, please let us know of any Sundays you expect to be absent.

Seconds: Youth Group for Ages 10-18

Our next meal for Seconds falls on an all-church potluck date. The Youth Group will share a table in the Gathering Hall on February 12th from about 12 noon to 1 p.m. Come enjoy some good food and conversation! Optionally, bring cards or board games to play in one of the meeting rooms nearby after lunch. Guests and friends are welcome, too!

Then on March 12th, it's Youth Only! Same place, same time.

Vacation Bible School Inquiry

How do Christians live out the love of God in a time of governmental occupation? Where do they meet, and what secret codes do they have for safely recognizing each other? What inspiration and encouragement do they receive from Paul while he's under guarded house arrest? Where else might they find examples of courage to make difficult choices in the face of power?

Group Publishing's *ROME: Paul and the Underground Church* is a fantastic VBS bringing a bit of scripture and early church history to life with chariot races, super-secret church gatherings, and surprising interruptions from period characters along the way. This was the very first VBS Christian Educator Kimberley Fais co-directed elsewhere in 2009, and she would like to bring this moving, meaningful theme to New Haven for 2017, but we will need a bit more help than usual to make it happen! Even if you don't typically assist with children's ministries at FPC, please consider helping us make *ROME* an unforgettable immersive learning experience. In particular, we need a few actors to portray Paul, Roman guards, and a few stealthy and courageous Christians; and we need a few more leaders to make our activities run smoothly. We also hope that other churches will collaborate with us. If we do not have quite enough help to run with this at this time, we will pivot to a Plan B.



If interested in assisting and/or attending, please see Kimberley for more information during the all-church potluck lunch in the Gathering Hall on February 12th at 12 noon.

Teacher Training Session for Adults

Sunday school teachers and all others who are interested are invited to a training session after church on February 26th. Meet Kimberley in the Community Building from 12 noon to 1 p.m. The topic of this session will be a "Letter Writing Workshop." Learn to write stronger letters to your students to show them that they are known and appreciated, to challenge them in faith, and to help them further connect with the church. Letter-writing is a spiritual practice with a deep biblical history in our faith, as well as a meaningful memento to offer students mid-year or at the end of the year.



February is Black History Month

February is Black History Month, and we will celebrate the splendid contributions of African-Americans to our musical culture by singing spirituals and gospel songs in worship. Our *Glory to God* hymnal has many songs from the African-American musical tradition, and we'll use some of these, and more. The choir will end the month with the well-known "Every Time I Feel the Spirit," arranged by Fenno Heath, who was for many years the Director of Yale Glee Club.

News of Former Choir Members

Here, between the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany and Lent/Easter seasons, I thought it might be fun to let everyone know about some of our former choir members who have moved away and are thriving elsewhere. If you've been in the church for a few years, you'll remember many of these good folk:

Pete and Rebecca Emerson, after living in Eugene, Oregon, for a number of years, are now in Petaluma, California, just north of the Bay Area. Pete is working in high tech, as always, and Becca is shepherding the kids--now three rapidly growing girls and a boy named Benjamin. As many of you know, Pete's Dad John, a (now retired) math professor at Middlebury College, sang in our choir in the fall of 2015 when he was working at Yale on a sabbatical leave.

Sarah Clemmens Waltz and Malcolm Waltz, who met in the FPCNH Choir and who were married here, still live in Stockton, California, where Sarah is a tenured professor in music history at the University of the Pacific. She's continuing to work on her book on the influence of Scottish folk music on German music in the 19th century. Malcolm, another gifted high-tech person, works for LinkedIn, and has done a lone of travel with his work, including to China.

Fumiko Hattori, who graduated from the Yale School of Nursing three years ago, is a psychiatric nurse-practitioner in Paducah, Kentucky.

Stuart Duncan will submit his dissertation in March and graduate from Yale with a Ph. D. in Music Theory this spring. He is currently an adjunct professor in the Department of Music at UConn, and having a wonderful time; as you can imagine if you know him, he's a hugely popular teacher! Stuart and his wife Jen live in Middletown, where she is (as of December) Associate Director of Financial Aid at Wesleyan University.

Jesse Cooper was slowed down a bit (but only a bit!) by back surgery this fall, but he is now as healthy as ever, and doing well in his job in Stamford.

We miss all these good singers, but are delighted that they're doing so well, all across the country!

-Pat McCreless, Music Director

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 ...

Our country and its leaders.

Church members and friends who seek God's healing grace, including Ken Haynam, at Benchmark Senior Living in Hamden.

For Jeff Miller, brother of David, who will be continuing cancer treatments.

For Caty Poole's daughter London and her husband, Ruddy, who are currently awaiting response on his non-immigrant Visa to be able to come to the US.

Jeanette Murphy, for healing and strength.

Joan Wells, who is undergoing chemotherapy.

Prayers for those whose lives have been shattered by natural disaster, war or famine.

Prayers for those who have had to flee their homes, that they may be safe.


Andrew McCloskey, serving with the Peace Corps in Mozambique.

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.

February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:30 p.m. Musical Folk 5:00 p.m. Property Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	2 9:00am Yoga 1:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 p.m. GNHCC rehearsal	3 7:30 p.m. Folk Concert	4 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA 5:30 pm Columbus House Dinner
5 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages 10:45 a.m. Worship & Communion. 12:00 p.m. Potluck Lunch	6 4:15 pm Musical Folk 6:00 p.m. Memorial Cairn	7 9:30 a.m. Musical Folk 4:30 p.m. Musical Folk 6:30 p.m. CE Committee Mtg 7:30 p.m. CLOC Committee meeting	8 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:30 p.m. Musical Folk	9 9:00am Yoga 1:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 p.m. GNHCC rehearsal	10 9:30 a.m. Musical Folk	11 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA
12 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages 10:45 a.m. Worship 11:45 a.m. Annual Mtg 12:15 p.m. Potluck Lunch, Youth Grp Lunch, VBS Inquiry	13 4:15 pm Musical Folk 6:00 p.m. Worship Committee	14 9:30 a.m. Musical Folk 4:30 p.m. Musical Folk 7:15 p.m. Mission Committee meeting	15 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:30 p.m. Musical Folk 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Homicide Survivors	16 9:00am Yoga 1:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 p.m. GNHCC rehearsal	17 9:30 a.m. Musical Folk	18 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA
19 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages 10:45 a.m. Worship 11:45 a.m. Friendship Hour	20 4:15 pm Musical Folk	21 9:30 a.m. Musical Folk 4:30 p.m. Musical Folk 7:15 p.m. Session	22 DEADLINE for True Colors Pre-Registration 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:30 p.m. Musical Folk 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	23 9:00 a.m. Yoga 1:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 p.m. GNHCC rehearsal	24 9:30 a.m. Musical Folk	25 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA
26 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages Last Week of Block 2 Classes 10:45 a.m. Worship 11:45 a.m. Friendship Hour, Teacher Training Workshop	27 4:15 pm Musical Folk	28 9:30 a.m. Musical Folk 4:30 p.m. Musical Folk				

March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 ASH WEDNESDAY 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:30 p.m. Musical Folk 7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship	2 9:00am Yoga 1:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 p.m. GNHCC rehearsal	3 7:30 p.m. Folk Concert	4 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA 5:30 pm Columbus House Dinner
5 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship & Communion. 12:00 p.m. Potluck Lunch	6 4:15 pm Musical Folk 6:00 p.m. Memorial Cairn	7 9:30 a.m. Musical Folk 4:30 p.m. Musical Folk 6:30 p.m. CE Committee Mtg 7:30 p.m. CLOC Committee meeting	8 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:30 p.m. Musical Folk 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	9 9:00am Yoga 1:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 p.m. GNHCC rehearsal	10 9:30 a.m. Musical Folk	11 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA
12 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Friendship Hour, Youth Grp Only - "Seconds" Lunch	13 4:15 pm Musical Folk 6:00 p.m. Worship Committee	14 9:30 a.m. Musical Folk 4:30 p.m. Musical Folk 7:15 p.m. Mission Committee meeting	15 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:30 p.m. Musical Folk 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Homicide Survivors	16 9:00am Yoga 1:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 p.m. GNHCC rehearsal	17 9:30 a.m. Musical Folk	18 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA
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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: EMILY THEUS

NURSERY CARE PROVIDER: NAOMI BRINTON

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Christian Education for All Ages

9:30 a.m.

Worship

10:45 a.m.

**First Presbyterian Church
704 Whitney Avenue
New Haven, Connecticut
06511**

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