

The Inkling

New Elders to be Ordained and Installed in January

On Sunday, January 8th, the new class of Ruling Elders will be ordained and installed for service. The Class of 2014 are: Micah Luce, Tim McCloskey, Karina Wöltke, and Mary Webber, who is returning for a second term. Filling a vacancy in the Class of 2012 is Cressida Lui. The Session will gather on January 7th for a Retreat to give vision to the year to come. Please keep all the members of the Session in your prayers.

Meet the New Elders!

Micah Luce

I was born in the South, and after a brief stint in the Mid-West as a child, I returned to the land of gloriously hot and humid summers, mild winters, and delicious pulled pork barbeque sandwiches (aka Memphis, TN, which I still consider home). After completing high school, college, and seminary in Memphis, I decided, at 26 years old, it was finally time to move out of my parents' house. Joining one of my good friends from high school in Brooklyn, NY, I passed the time pretending to know more about art and culture than I actually do, finding the hippest bars and restaurants, and living an otherwise fantasy Brooklyn life. Since I was already in NY, why not head up the coast a little bit and enjoy the charms of New England lifestyle at YDS for a few years of continued responsibility-free school? Now, 3 years after finishing my work at YDS, I...well...work at YDS by managing the Student Book Supply. I've now called New Haven my "temporary" residence for 6 years, have met the love of my life, and hope that my work at First Pres will continue to strengthen the ties I already have to New Haven before setting off along my next adventure whenever it may call. Thank you, First Presbyterian family, for your trust and encouragement to me ever since I first walked into your home.

Cressida Lui

I grew up in Hong Kong. Currently I am a Ph.D candidate in Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, specializing in economic and political issues. I have always been interested in the causes of social justice and equality --- used to work with underprivileged communities when I was in Hong Kong. In the past couple of years I have also been drawn to the notions of reconciliation, forgiveness and peace. I like taking brisk/ solitary walks, music, reading, movies and traveling.

Tim McCloskey

Tim is excited to be returning to service on the Session. Tim grew up in Michigan where he attended Alma College, a Presbyterian college, and graduate school at Wayne State University in Detroit. Tim was ordained an Elder and Deacon at the Montgomery Presbyterian Church in Montgomery Ohio, outside of Cincinnati, where he serviced on various committees and served as Clerk of Session. At First Presbyterian Church of New Haven, Tim has served on the Session as the Chair of the Evangelism Committee, the Stewardship Committee and for a number of years as Clerk of Session. Tim is married to Jean and is the father of Christopher, a junior at Clark University, Andrew, a freshman at Wesleyan University and Daniel, 8th grade and member of the confirmation class. Both Christopher and Andrew have been ordained Elders at FPCNH and have served terms on the FPCNH Session. Away from church Tim works at Bristol-Myers Squibb in Wallingford and is a very active leader in a Boy Scout troop in Guilford and the Order of the Arrow, the National Boy Scout Honor Society.

Karina Wöltke

I'm from Long Beach, NY. I moved to CT in '98. I have been working for New Haven Public Schools since then, first as a paraprofessional and then as a teacher. This is my 8th year teaching 7th and 8th grade science. I work at John C. Daniels School of International Communication. I am a member of New Haven's STEM committee (Science Technology Engineering and Math). I hope that through my work with the committee I can help change the way we teach science and math in the classroom so our students can become more scientifically literate. I have 3 sons; Nathanael, Jonah and Jordan, who is currently in Germany serving in the U.S. Army.

David Beckmann of Bread for the World to Visit!

Come and hear David Beckmann, President of Bread for the World, at First Presbyterian Church on Sunday evening, January 15th at 7 p.m. Bread for the World (of which our church is a member) is a non-partisan citizens' movement urging our nation's leaders to adopt policies and programs to alleviate conditions that allow hunger and poverty to persist. Started in New York City in 1974 by a small group of Protestants and Catholics, the movement, now based in Washington DC, includes a broad spectrum of some 50 church organizations and faith communities. It is one of the largest organizations in the world dedicated to building the political will to end hunger and poverty.

David Beckmann is no stranger either to New Haven or to the issues of hunger and poverty. A graduate of Yale College and the London School of Economics, he and his spouse served some 15 years in South America and Asia before he became president of Bread for the World in 1991.

Join us in the unique opportunity to learn more about the work of Bread for the World and its related partners in the Alliance to End Hunger, and also to meet David Beckmann, the recipient in 2010 of the World Food Prize. Questions? Please see Maria LaSala or Nancy Rupp.

Abraham's Tent

First Presbyterian Church will once again host twelve homeless men in our church building during the week of January 16th-23rd. Beginning on Monday evening, Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday holiday, members and friends of the congregation will welcome our guests. Each night that week we will offer dinner, a warm place to sleep, a cooked breakfast and a bag lunch. Elder Micah Luce will once again coordinate our efforts, joined by Brian Gray.

Volunteers are still needed to stay overnight with the men, sit and talk with our guests, and prepare a hot breakfast each morning. A coordinating meeting will take place on Sunday, January 8th following the Friendship Hour. You can find the sign up sheets in the Miller Gathering Hall. Join us and be a part of this New Haven wide effort to ease the crowds at the Columbus House overflow shelter.

Celebration of New Babies

Plan to stay for the Potluck Lunch on January 15th as we welcome the newest babies born to members of First Presbyterian Church. Baby book bags will be given to August Paul Jungkeit, born on October 26th. August is the son of Rachael and Steve Jungkeit and brother to Sabina and Elsa. Maggie McLaren was born on November 22nd. Maggie is the daughter of former Christian Educator Nancy McLaren and her husband Kenny. And on November 23rd, Zalayhar Jill Daigle was born to Joanna Ali and Derek Daigle. And on December 27th, Elliot James Copeland was born to Liz Copeland's granddaughter, Amanda. Books for the baby bags will be collected that morning. If you have new or gently used books to contribute, please leave them in the book basket in the Copeland Room.

Winter "Warm-Up" Potluck – January 15

This month's potluck will take place following worship on Sunday, January 15th. Bring a family sized dish of your favorite comfort food or salad or dessert and warm thoughts to share! Celebrate the start of the New Year with friends!

Marriage Equality to be the theme for Adult Education

Connecticut is one of the few states in the United States that has legalized same sex marriage. That said, pastors in the Presbyterian Church are still forbidden to officiate at same sex weddings. This month we will explore what the bible says about marriage, what the Presbyterian Church says about marriage, and hear from Jean Southerd, a pastor from Boston, who was challenged in a judicial procedure for her participation in a same sex wedding. This is sure to be an interesting conversation. The Adult Education class begins at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the Miller Gathering Hall.

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. *Please note that Bible Study resumes on January 12th.*

The texts for January are:

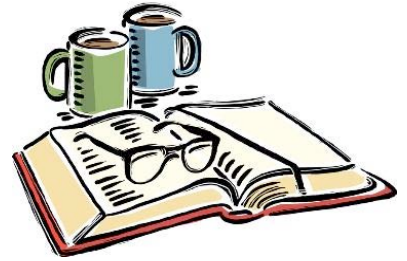
January 1: Isa. 61:10-62:3; Ps. 148; Gal. 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

January 8: Gen. 1:1-5; Ps. 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

January 15: 1 Sam. 3:1-10 (11-20); Ps. 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Cor. 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

January 22: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Ps. 62:5-12; 1 Cor. 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

January 29: Deut. 18:15-20; Ps. 111; 1 Cor. 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28



Youth Group Spring Schedule

Sunday, January 22 – Abraham’s Tent Cooking
(Meet at church at 3 p.m.)



Sunday, February 5 – Ice Skating
Leave immediately after church

Friday, February 10 – New York City
Cathedral of St. John the Divine “Nightwatch Program”
(This is for both Youth Group and Confirmation Class)

Sunday, February 26 – Game Night
Meet at church at 5 p.m.

Friday, March 10 – Square Dance

Sunday, March 25 – Lenten Preparations
Meet at church at 5 p.m.

Palm Sunday, April 1

Wednesday, April 4 – Lenten Preparations for Stations of the Cross (Time TBD)

Good Friday, April 6 – Stations of the Cross

Easter Sunday, April 8

Sunday, April 22 – Movie Night
Meet at church at 5 p.m.



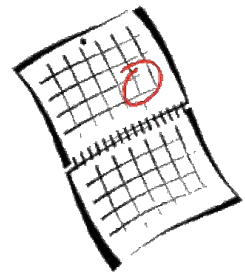
Sunday, January 15
Two Options for Confirmation Class:
3:00 p.m. “Sweet Honey in the Rock” – Woolsey
7:00 p.m. David Beckmann, Bread for the World

Sunday, January 29 – Confirmation Class

Sunday, February 19 – Confirmation Class

Sunday, March 4 – Confirmation Class

Sunday, March 11 – Confirmation Class
(Hold this date, please)



Sunday, April 15 – Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, May 6 – Church Potluck
Last Youth Group

Confirmation Class Begins Worship Reflections!

The Confirmation class will begin offering scriptural reflections this month. Beginning on January 15th and continuing through March, members of the confirmation class will prepare and read reflections based on the lectionary texts for the morning. In January you will hear from Anny Yun, Sophie Latham, Rowyn Davis, and Jake Blackwell. Please continue to keep the members of the confirmation class in your prayers.

December

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February

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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 1 New Year's Day 10:45 AM Worship - Agape Feast	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 Musical Folk 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	5 9 AM Yoga	6	7 Columbus House 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
8 9:30 AM Choir & CE 10:45 AM Worship - Ordination and Installation of Elders 12 PM Abraham's Tent Organizing Meeting	9 3:30 PM Musical Folk 6 PM Worship Committee 6 PM Tai Chi	10	11 9:30 AM Musical Folk 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	12 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study	13 7:30 PM MLK Service at CMI, Hamden	14 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
15 9:30 AM Choir & CE 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Winter Warm-Up Potluck 7 PM Evening with David Beckmann	16 Abraham's Tent 3:30 PM Musical Folk 6 PM Tai Chi	17	18 9:30 AM Musical Folk 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 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 Abraham's Tent 9:30 AM Choir & CE 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Friendship Hour 3 PM Youth Group - Abe's Tent Cooking	23 3:30 PM Musical Folk 6 PM Tai Chi	24	25 9:30 AM Musical Folk 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	26 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study	27	28 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA 5 PM Bingo and Movie Night
29 9:30 AM Choir & CE 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Friendship Hour 12:15 PM Congregational Meeting 5 PM Confirmation Class	30 3:30 PM Musical Folk 6 PM Tai Chi 6:30 PM Eve's Daughters	31	February 1 9:30 AM Musical Folk 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 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

January

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March

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February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 29 9:30 AM Choir & CE 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Friendship Hour 12:15 PM Congregational Meeting 5 PM Confirmation Class	30 3:30 PM Musical Folk 6 PM Tai Chi 6:30 PM Eve's Daughters	31	February 1 9:30 AM Musical Folk 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 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
5 9:30 AM Choir & CE 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Youth Group Ice Skating 12 PM Friendship Hour	6 3:30 PM Musical Folk 6 PM Tai Chi 7 PM CE Committee 8 PM Yale Repertory Theater	7 7:30 PM Mission Committee 7:30 PM CLDC Meeting	8 9:30 AM Musical Folk 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	9 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study	10 Youth Group in NYC	11 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
12 9:30 AM Choir & CE 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Friendship Hour	13 3:30 PM Musical Folk 6 PM Tai Chi	14	15 9:30 AM Musical Folk 10:30 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
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26 9:30 AM Choir & CE 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Friendship Hour 5 PM Youth Group Game Night	27 3:30 PM Musical Folk 6 PM Tai Chi	28	29 9:30 AM Musical Folk 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 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

Join us at the Yale Repertory Theatre!

Join us for a performance of Christina Anderson's *Good Goods*, at Yale Repertory Theatre on Monday, February 6th at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 each. Please sign up and pay for your ticket no later than Sunday, January 22nd. A sign up sheet and envelope for your check (made payable to First Presbyterian Church) or cash will be found on the Welcome Table. It is important that you pay for your ticket at the time of signing up. Thank you!



Amidst the cluttered shelves of a family-owned general store in a small Black town that doesn't appear on any map, four lost souls reunite. Partnerships dissolve, alliances shift, and romances ignite as a tragic accident unleashes the town's mysterious history. Blurring the line between body and spirit, Good Goods is an otherworldly love story of the (dis)possessed.
- Yale Rep

Eve's Daughters: An Interfaith Approach to Bible Study through Women's Eyes

Eve's Daughters returns this January! Women from Congregation Mishkan Israel and First Presbyterian Church will gather for supper and a conversation on the "Woman of Valor" found in Proverbs 31. This year Co-Pastor Maria LaSala will be joined by Kinneret Chiel, the former principal of the Congregation Mishkan Israel preschool. Rabbi Alison Adler has taken a congregation of her own in Beverly, Massachusetts and will no longer be co-leading the program. Kinneret has years of teaching experience and will delight you with her tales and interpretations of sacred texts. The program will take place at First Presbyterian Church on Monday, January 30th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. A vegetarian main dish will be provided. If you would like to prepare a salad or dessert, please indicate your preference on the sign up sheet at the Welcome Table.

Bingo and a Movie!

We will gather at the Miller Gathering Hall on January 28th at 5:00 to enjoy a great evening of fun and friendship for all ages. You are invited to an evening of Bingo and a movie. Everyone will be given an opportunity to vote on one of 5 family friendly movies - the most votes wins. We will play a few rounds of Bingo, eat Pizza, and then enjoy the winning movie on the big screen! We are looking for Bingo prizes so if you would like to find a fun home for those not needed Christmas gifts, bring them along. We need prizes for all ages! Come and enjoy a night out with friends. A small donation will be taken to support this event.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The Session has called the Annual Meeting of the Congregation for Sunday, January 29th. The meeting will follow the Friendship Hour that morning. We will hear reports from the Committee Chairs, receive the annual report, and vote on the salary of the Co-Pastors. There will also be time to talk about matters in the life of the congregation and the church. Annual Reports will be available before the meeting.

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 ...

Blanca Thiebaut and her colleague Montserrat Serra, who were abducted in Kenya. Blanca works for the Spanish division of Doctors Without Borders and is a friend of George and Nancy Rupp.

Dick Hasbany, whose healing continues.

Christian Gagnon, Isabella Quagliato's boyfriend.

Christy Purnell's sister Joey Shoemaker, and Joey's son Todd.

Fiona Scott Morton and her family, mourning the death of Fiona's mother Mary.

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.

Christmas Greetings from PCUSA Mission Co-Worker Karla Koll

Karla Koll currently serves in Guatemala. Here is an excerpt from her Advent 2011 letter:

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

On November 23 the Evangelical Center for Pastoral Studies in Central American (CEDEPCA) held a worship service to bring to a close our academic year and to give thanks to God for all that we have been able to accomplish in the last 12 months with support from friends in many places. This year marked 25 years for CEDEPCA in the service of God's mission in this region. Our closing worship service was the last public event of our anniversary year. The above passage from Paul's letter to the Christians living in Rome has been our guiding theme during this year. My colleagues at CEDEPCA asked me to be the preacher for the closing worship service. Here are some of the thoughts I shared that day.

Paul encourages the Christians living in the center of the empire not to conform to the social order around them. What would it mean for us to conform to the social order of Guatemala today? It would mean accepting that 15 to 20 people die each day due to violence. Conforming would mean accepting that the work women do is of less value than work done by men. It would mean accepting as normal and even inevitable that half the children in the country are chronically malnourished.

Many times conformity disguises itself as piety. I find it amazing how many people here in Guatemala claim to know the will of God. Recently we experienced a tragedy in our family, the death of Francis Barreno, our daughter Tamara's boyfriend. Person after person, both Protestants and Catholics, approached Francis' mother to tell her that this ending of his life was the will of God. I refuse to believe that God willed the death of a 23-year-old in a motorcycle accident. I have also heard such things said at the funerals of people who have been victims of violence. If such acts are seen as God's will, then the only possible response is to accept them. Yet Paul tells us we shouldn't conform to the way things are.

How are we to reject the current social order? By the renewing of our minds. Twenty-five years ago the Christians who started CEDEPCA made a choice. They decided that the way they would work for change in the region was to renew people's minds through theological education. If women come to understand that they are made in the image of God, they will be able to leave behind abusive relationships. If pastors come to understand that their role is not to tell people what to think but rather to engage all members of the church in mission, then churches will become agents of transformation in their communities. If Christians from the United States and Canada discover that Christians in Guatemala are their sisters and brothers, they will look for ways to work together to create a more just world. If communities come to understand that social conditions rather than God cause natural phenomena to become disasters, they can take steps to reduce their risk.

We are now entering Advent and preparing to celebrate Christmas. We remember how Mary responded to her angelic visitor by agreeing to be part of what God wanted to do in the world. This year may each of us, like Mary, open ourselves up to participate in God's mission. May we welcome Jesus into our hearts and allow our minds to be transformed, that all of God's creation might be renewed.

*In the hope of Christ's coming,
Karla*

To read the entire letter, go to:
<http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/missionconnections/koll-karla-ann-201112/>

Christmas Greetings from the Evangelical Seminary in Cairo

*At this critical moment in the Egyptian nation's history,
Filled with feelings of anxiety, fear, and disruption of vision,
Christmas returns bearing its message of comfort and hope, reminding us of the Lord of Life
Who gave up His glory to lift us up from our misery and save us from the consequences of sin.
Yes, our hope is great in the birth of Jesus, whose light shone in our darkness
His love conquered our enmity
His divinity consecrated our humanity and His peace reconciled us with our Father and one another
Merry Christmas*

- Atef Gendy

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

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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.