

PRINCETON PRESBYTERIANS

OF THE WESTMINSTER FOUNDATION



Mission Statement

Princeton Presbyterians welcomes all students into our beloved community to worship God in joy and hope and equip a new generation of Christian servant leaders.



NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE CO-DIRECTORS

DEAR FRIEND OF PRINCETON PRESBYTERIANS
OF THE WESTMINSTER FOUNDATION,

Greetings in Christ! As a new year begins and we welcome students from around the world, Princeton Presbyterians looks toward a new season of deepening our relationships with God and each other. We are glad to share a few stories about what God is up to with the Princeton Presbyterians campus ministry.

Last year, students and board members engaged in discernment about who we are, and what we believe as a Christian campus ministry. We're proud to share our new Mission and Values Statements with you in this letter. This brief document articulates who we believe God calls us to be right now, and it expresses our hopes for how we will continue to grow with the Holy Spirit's help for years to come.

Another highlight from this year was traveling with five students to the Taizé Community in France. Taizé is an ecumenical monastic fellowship that draws young people from around the world for a week of worship and work. Taizé's rhythms of prayer, welcome of young people, and attentiveness to the Holy Spirit have been profound influences on Princeton Presbyterians. This year, some members of the Taizé trip have brought back new insights and have taken on leadership positions in our ministry. Your generosity makes these transformative experiences possible!

As we've grown into a ministry of more than fifty students and young adults, we continue to count on your prayers and financial support. New fellowship meals, doubling the frequency of our Bible studies, ambitious outreach efforts, and life-changing trips together have helped us flourish. More students than ever are joining us at Breaking Bread worship services and fellowship events. Your gifts continue to help us grow in our faith in Christ, and in our life together.

There are so many other wonderful things to report about Princeton Presbyterians, and we've included plenty of photos and short stories to give you a sense of the Spirit's work in our midst. For more great stories, please check out at princetonpresbys.org, follow us on Facebook and Instagram, or send us an email; we'd be happy to share more.

Grace and peace,

Len and Andrew Scales
Chaplains and Executive Co-Directors
Princeton Presbyterians of the Westminster Foundation



STUDENT REFLECTIONS

TAIZÉ

From daily chores, bible study, small groups and three prayer services, I felt myself seeking God—praying to hear God in the midst of Taizé—with a great eagerness. I thought everything was supposed to happen while at Taizé, but I was wrong. Taizé, has reminded me that God will give us our daily bread, which is good and sufficient in God's time. God is a simple communicator and being in Taizé reminded me of this divine essence of God's nature. Brother Emile said, "simplicity is not for beginners." It takes practice. One must trust that God will give us what we need: from a visa to travel or answers to our deepest questions. Even after returning home from Taizé, I continue to practice simplicity in my daily walk with God and in the communities I am a part of in Princeton. I am thankful for this spiritually enriching pilgrimage, and I look forward to more of God's revelation in everyday simplicities.

Lydia Tembo '19, Princeton Seminary





To sum up in a few words my experience at Taizé is to highlight this: Surprise. Surprise, surprise, surprise. Being surprised by God's grace as shown in clear answers to a few of my biggest prayers; being surprised by the love of others, both from our Princeton cohort and a quirky collection of young people who became one large, loquacious, and loving friend group; and being surprised by the joy and freedom of the person I'm becoming.

What a gift and challenge, for better and for worse, it is to be surprised - to be growing the flexibility and hospitality to welcome rather than run from sometimes tectonic shifts. I had space in the fields of rural France to process and imagine integrating these shifts - to walk alone and sing and pray and cry and be silent and read Scripture and shout God's love for me in the middle of the trees. But as I walked alone for an hour or so each day, I was reminded of this: I never really walked alone. I knew that I had come from and would return to community, and that made me brave. I knew that God walked with me, and that made me brave. That courage allows me to face these surprises, these unexpected answers to prayers, with open arms and a willing heart.

In the fields and conversations over Taizé tea and snort laughter and barefoot chapel experiences, I learned more about what it means for me to thrive and what - and Who - it is that I must keep seeking. And that makes me brave.

Emmie Arnold '19, Princeton Seminary



Thinking about my Taizé experience almost 4 months later, I still find myself in amazement. There have been moments when I have closed my eyes and imagined being surrounded by hundreds of people singing Taizé songs and walking the trails of the community. I still get chills as I think about how God showed God's face and spoke to me so clearly in various ways. As I go into my final year at Princeton Theological Seminary, I've carried with me Taizé-inspired meditative practices and have incorporated silent worship into my everyday life. Taizé reminded me of God's presence in my life and challenged me to face and embrace all that I am and all that God has called me to be. I will forever be grateful.

Taylor Street '19, Princeton Seminary



WHAT PRINCETON PRESBYTERIANS MEANS TO ME

Although I joined Princeton Presbyterians during my senior year, the community quickly became a blessing and a home to me. I struggled throughout college to find a Christian community in which I felt comfortable being openly gay. Princeton Presbyterians welcomed me without reservation and provided a space where I could develop and express my faith authentically. Andrew Scales and I met weekly for good food and thoughtful conversation on everything from the Bible to *The Bachelor*. Andrew and Len hosted refreshing study breaks and delivered wonderful care packages to all of us struggling with exams. Len, Andrew, and the PTS interns demonstrated a real dedication to getting to know each of us as students, as people, and as Christians.

At Breaking Bread each Sunday, I found an intimate group of Christians gathered to worship God, to pray for each other, and to take part in the joyful and subversive gospel of Jesus Christ. More than once, I invited friends from various faith backgrounds to visit Breaking Bread. More than one remarked that they felt welcomed at Breaking Bread and that they felt deeply God's love for them. (The communion bread also received high praise—it's really good.)

As an alumnus, I'm excited to see Princeton Presbyterians grow and evolve, providing a home for other Christians on campus of all races, backgrounds, sexual orientations, and gender identities. And as I begin a new chapter in Washington, D.C., I continue to draw on the spiritual nourishment and practical advice I received from this ministry. I keep buttons from Princeton Presbyterians on my desk which exhort me to "Do Justice," "Love Kindness," and "Walk Humbly." Justice, humility, and kindness are modeled, preached, and spread at Princeton Presbyterians, and I'm so grateful to have happened upon a community like ours.

Jamie Hinton '18, Princeton University



DONOR REFLECTION

WHY WE GIVE

My wife Cathy and I continue to offer financial support to Princeton Presbyterians for many, many reasons. We both can speak to the importance of campus ministry in the development of our faith decades ago. College students yearn for a safe place to ask deep questions about important things during a time when they are being exposed to exponential amounts of information and opinions. Having a chaplain to talk to, people to pray with, and the support of fellowship can be life sustaining and life forming at a point when wisdom, experience, and diversity are coming at you like a firehose.

In addition, Princeton Presbyterians provides an essential voice and presence that embodies the Reformed theological tradition. It is a tradition that celebrates the unbridled grace of God, the extensive and inclusive reach of God's love, and a hope filled assurance that will always conquer fear and judgment. With the offering of a regular Sunday evening communion service called "Breaking Bread," Princeton Presbyterians invites students and young adults to feast on and celebrate the very promises of God. We are deeply grateful for the ministry's commitment to speak for justice and advocate for those too long silenced by Christian voices on college campuses.

With the leadership of Len and Andrew Scales, Princeton Presbyterians is continuing to grow in vitality and in the connection to the Presbyterian congregations in Princeton. With their skill and experience in listening to students, offering care and compassion, leading in worship, teaching and enabling faith development, and knowing where to get the best coffee, Andrew and Len have been such good stewards of the ministry entrusted to them by the grace of God and by the legacy of support for those who agree with us about the importance of Princeton Presbyterians in this time and place.

Catherine Cook Davis, Associate Dean of Students, Princeton Theological Seminary
David A. Davis, Pastor, Nassau Presbyterian Church

TO DONATE

Each gift,
no matter the amount,
is much appreciated.

Thank you!

- 1 write a check payable to the "Westminster Foundation"
- 2 mail to
Westminster Foundation
61 Nassau Street
Princeton, NJ 08542

or online

- 1 visit
princetonpresbys.org/donate

HOSPITALITY

Because Christ welcomes all to the Lord's Table, we welcome students from all walks of life. We celebrate people of all genders, sexualities, nationalities, ethnicities, and abilities as beloved children of God.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Because Scripture calls us to "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God,"* we commit ourselves to the flourishing of all people and the restoration of creation through acts of service, public witness, and advocacy.

* Micah 6:8

BELOVED LEARNING COMMUNITY

Because God has made us members of Christ's Body, we cultivate our hearts and minds through worship together and the study of Scripture. We equip a new generation of Christian servant-leaders with "energy, imagination, intelligence, and love."*

* Directory of Worship, W-4.0404h, Book of Order 2017-2019: The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Part II (The Office of the General Assembly).

JOY & HOPE

Because the Spirit gives us courage in a broken and fearful world,* we persevere in the truth that God's Word is Good News for us and for the world. We proclaim in our words and actions that human value is not measured by performance or productivity, but in the steadfast love of the God who made us.

* A Brief Statement of Faith, 10.4, lines 65-66, The Book of Confessions: The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Part I (The Office of the General Assembly).

REFORMED

Because we are rooted in the Presbyterian Tradition, we cherish connections with the wider church in local congregations, the Presbytery of New Brunswick, the Synod of the Northeast, and the General Assembly of the PC(USA). Grounded in grace, we anticipate the ongoing movement of the Spirit in every season and respond with gratitude and continued reformation.