

PRINCETON PRESBYTERIANS



WESTMINSTER FOUNDATION
FALL 2019 NEWSLETTER



JOY & HOPE

NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE CO-DIRECTORS

Dear friend of Princeton Presbyterians of the Westminster Foundation,

Princeton Presbyterians is wrapping up another fall semester full of joy and hope in God's abundance. We're writing to thank you for your generous support, share good news, and invite you again into partnership with us. We're proud to introduce our new undergraduate leadership team of seven students. Since our leadership retreat in September, they've been hard at work leading worship, gathering our weekly Bible Study, hosting fellowship events, and planning service trips in the spring. David, Rosamond, Jon, Grace, Thomas, Jonathan, and Brooke are a new generation of Christian servant leaders with gifts that help us all "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God."

Thanks to your generosity, we have expanded our reach to welcome new and returning Princeton students into our beloved community as a vibrant, inclusive campus fellowship.

On the first day of class, our “Ice Cream Truck Party” celebrated a new academic year with four hundred students, faculty, and staff in front of Dillon Gym. The Breaking Bread worship service continues to grow as we come together as Christ’s Body from around the world. Fellowship meals with students have filled out tables at Nassau Presbyterian Church, as well as at Princeton favorites like PJ’s Pancake House. At present, we just celebrated Princeton Presbyterians' annual Thanksgiving Feast with sixty students and young adults.

The Westminster Foundation Board voted last spring to expand the Chaplain role from one full-time position to time-and-a-half. More new students than ever before are trying out worship and fellowship with us. We are committed to an ambitious goal of doubling the size of our undergraduate fellowship in the next three years. Princeton Presbyterians also seeks to expand our visibility so that all incoming Princeton students know that there is a loving, dynamic, and inclusive Christian fellowship on campus. Our undergraduate leaders like to say that Princeton Presbyterians is “by Presbyterians, for everyone.”

As Princeton Presbyterians continues to flourish, we are asking you to partner with us again as we love and welcome students, and cultivate a loving community of Christ’s disciples on campus. This summer, the Westminster Foundation received a transformative bequest from Mr. Fred Gerstell ’60. His gift came with a vision that Princeton Presbyterians would continue to care for students as they navigate the joys and challenges of life at Princeton, and that we would help equip students to become Christian servant leaders. We aspire to be good stewards and invite you to join us in the momentum of this generosity, so that the Good News would transform students’ lives, as they too will go from Princeton to transform the world with their gifts.

We believe that God is doing something exciting and new through this Presbyterian fellowship at Princeton, and so we ask you to consider increasing your gift this year. Thank you for all the ways that you support this flourishing ministry; may God bless you in this holiday season.

Grace and peace,

Andrew and Len Scales

Chaplains and Executive Co-Directors

Princeton Presbyterians of the Westminster Foundation



UNDERGRADUATE

LEADERSHIP TEAM

A couple of members of the 2019-2020 team share what Princeton Presbyterians means to them:

Hi! I'm Jonathan and I'm a Molecular Biology major from around Cleveland, Ohio. I love being a part of Princeton Presbyterians because it's filled with people who love and embrace others just the way they are!

—Jonathan Wang '21

I'm a sophomore from Charlotte, NC planning on studying Comparative Literature and pursuing a certificate in vocal performance. Princeton Presbyterians has become a family away from home - a group of people and place with whom and in which I may relax and speak openly. The friends I have made here have become some of my closest. The support and love emanating from this community is palpable, and I am so grateful to be a part of it.

—Grace Matthews '22



Breaking Bread is a tight community, and often felt to me like a family. It seemed we shared an understanding - almost an agreement - of authenticity. I felt I could let down the pretenses I often put up with others. I shared details of my health struggles that some of my closest friends on campus did not know. Every week we arrived with new joys, burdens, successes, and sorrows, and we prayed for one another's family and friends with an intimacy I had not before experienced. I would walk back to my dorm from Nassau Pres grounded in perspective and spiritually rejuvenated.

I took another year off of Princeton in 2017, and returned to a new generation of Breaking Bread - many new faces, but the same intimate authenticity that had always defined it for me. Each person I came to know during my time there inspired me; the strength and the faith shared by this community is astonishing. My friends through Breaking Bread have lasted throughout the years and across the country. Later this month I am traveling to see the wedding of two wonderful Breaking Bread friends, and I am so excited to be able to reunite with them and share in their joy.

Breaking Bread was such a blessing to me. I am so grateful for time I shared with this special group of people, and the space it provided me to be vulnerable and grow in my faith.

COMMUNITY

SALLY LEMKEMEIER '19

shares what Princeton Presbyterians means to her:

After taking a semester away from Princeton my sophomore year, I returned feeling overwhelmed and out of place. My first Sunday at Breaking Bread worship felt more like home than I had ever experienced on campus: the quiet peacefulness, the passionate music, the shared energy, and - above all - the people. Over the next five years, it became one of the most important parts of my college experience.



WHY GIVE?

MICHELE MINTER

Westminster Foundation

Board Treasurer

College is a time of discovery, laden with both wonder and anxiety. Students are learning how to think critically, write persuasively, and analyze rigorously. They are also exploring intangible questions: how can I have a life of meaning? What is my moral compass? How do I cope with my doubts, or manage the social pressure of my peers? In my role as Vice Provost for Institutional Equity and Diversity at Princeton University, I see acutely how students long to find community and a sense of purpose. Princeton Presbyterians nurtures students through that spiritual self-discovery, offering them the tools to recognize God's blessings and discern their callings.

Princeton Presbyterians' co-pastors Len and Andrew Scales practice the ministry of presence. They listen deeply and offer grace-filled welcome without judgment. At the same time, they gently challenge students to think more fully about how to create a just and beloved community. They invite students to explore the Reformed tradition with both creativity and rigor through Bible study, prayer, mission trips, and one-on-one conversation, often over coffee. At the heart of Princeton Presbyterians is the vibrant Breaking Bread communion service, held each Sunday evening. My husband Jeff and I find that service to be a joyous embodiment of God's active presence in the world.

The Princeton Presbyterians ministry is growing under Len and Andrew's wise stewardship. I contribute to its work with gratitude for their leadership and the legacy of support that has sustained it.



THANK YOU

TO DONATE

Every gift is much appreciated! Your partnership supports the formation of the next generation of Christian servant leaders.



CHECK

make check payable to
"Westminster Foundation"

and mail to
Westminster Foundation
61 Nassau Street
Princeton, NJ 08542



ONLINE

visit
princetonpresbys.org/donate

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.

Value Statements

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.