

FALL 2020

# PRINCETON PRESBYTERIANS

of the Westminster Foundation



## Note from the Executive Co-Directors

Greetings in Christ! As we write this newsletter, we are eight months into a global pandemic, and we're halfway through the fall term. Princeton Presbyterians continues to gather online for worship, fellowship, study, and growth, seeking always to “do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God” (Micah 6:8). Your generous support has made it possible for Princeton Presbyterians to thrive even in an unprecedented season for campus ministry. We ask that you continue joining with us in prayer and financial support this year as we continue to welcome students and equip a new generation of Christian servant leaders.

We give thanks for the seven students on our Undergraduate Leadership Team: Joice, Jon, Rosamond, Jonathan, Thomas, Grace, and Brooke. They have brought creative insight and hard work to the reinvention of ministry programs with Princeton Presbyterians during the pandemic.

In September, our Undergraduate Leadership Team members participated together in an online seminar with Crossroads Antiracism Organizing and Training. As members of the Body of Christ in Princeton, we remain unified in a common vision of confronting racist violence and discrimination, loving our neighbors “not only in word or speech, but in truth and action” (1 John 3:18).

We are also grateful for the gifts Student Chaplains from Princeton Seminary, Jon & Nicole, are offering this year. They have helped highlight stories from the Undergraduate Leadership Team and created a Princeton Presbys Virtual Chapel, which you can visit via the website.

An unexpected joy of this year was pivoting the Reunions event to Zoom and focusing on words of encouragement and blessing to the Great Class of 2020. As guest speaker Professor Kim Pearson '78 said, “Progress doesn’t come from charismatic leaders. Progress comes from movements of people.” Your partnership through financial gifts, prayers, and notes of encouragement has helped us flourish as Christ’s Beloved Community in Princeton during uncertain times. Please join us this year as we make progress in loving one another and bearing witness to the Good News across great distances.

Grace and peace,  
Revs. Andrew and Len Scales  
Chaplains and Executive Co-Directors  
Princeton Presbyterians of the Westminster Foundation



# UNDERGRADUATE LEADERSHIP TEAM

HEAR MORE OF WHAT PRINCETON PRESBYS MEANS  
FROM A FEW OF THE STUDENT LEADERS



## GRACE

I would describe the community at Princeton Presbyterians as welcoming, ... One of our favorite things to say is "We like you just the way you are," keeping Mr. Rogers in mind.

## THOMAS

More than any community I've found at Princeton, the Princeton Presbyterians embody the command to "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly."



## JONATHAN

Getting to know the Princeton Presbys community has definitely been one of the biggest highlights of my college experience over the years, and I'm so grateful for how warm and inclusive the group has been!



# What does Princeton Presbyterians Mean to Me?

Trina Swanson '20

I stumbled upon Princeton Presbyterians late in my time at Princeton. But by senior year, I started attending Breaking Bread almost every week. This community was like a sweet medicine to the overstimulating, sometimes toxic whirlwind of busy-ness, self-doubt and selfishness that could sometimes consume me as a student at Princeton. But Breaking Bread and Princeton Presbys was always a safe place to ask questions, lament about the world, and try to figure out how God fits into the messiness of our lives. It was a loving and supportive community that would also challenge me to think about how I could be an agent of God's justice here on Earth. These qualities of Princeton Presbys couldn't have been better exemplified than last spring, when the pandemic hit and we continued meeting together virtually. It was still the same powerful sermons, uplifting prayers, and inspiring music. Although we then had the added perks of seeing Megan's kitty and Cora, the Prespuppterian dog, make an appearance on screen from time to time. During virtual Breaking Bread, we could be a physically distanced community in social solidarity, equally able to share the latest Netflix show we've been binging in the zoom chat, but also able to think critically together about how Christianity has historically been complicit in racism, and to encourage each other to take action in standing up for our brothers and sisters of all races, sexualities, socio-economic statuses, and backgrounds. The words of one of my favorite songs we sing at Breaking Bread, "Canticle of Turning," would often ring through my ears, reminding me of the power of the God we serve, who is present even through the tumultuous year of 2020.

*The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn; there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.*

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!*

# A Word from the Board

“How are you doing?”  
no really...”How are you doing”?

This greeting or cordial question bears more risk to the one asking it than the respondent. One can say a safe “fine” or open up and share how you are really doing and trust that the hearer really hears you.

The community formed through the Princeton Presbyterians ministry is one that truly cares and holds the realities and experiences of its members and friends, however they are doing. From gathering and worshipping together at the Breaking Bread service, or meeting for bible study, there is space to just “be”. Or checking in with Len and Andrew on a zoom call, to share emotions of graduation or orientation or the nuances of distance learning, there is always space to “be”. Sometimes there is no language to how we are doing, fortunately, there is a community like Princeton Presbyterians that understands that reality, and is equipped to respond thoughtfully and respectfully.

Last year, Princeton Presbyterians explored the teachings and legacy of Mr. Rogers, This year, the ministry practiced neighborly love during the most difficult adjustments of our lives due to Covid 19. The Undergraduate Leadership team and Chaplains Len and Andrew truly ministered to students, faculty, local businesses and residents, not just asking “How are you doing”?, but affirming and supporting them with genuine love and compassion when it mattered the most.

The world has changed, but the ministry and fellowship of Princeton Presbyterians has remained consistently responsive to what Princeton needs most and that is unfiltered discipleship. Supporting a ministry like Princeton Presbyterians is just not asking us, “How are you doing?”, but it is assuring and participating in the spiritual formation, and wellbeing of students, friends, and local residents of Princeton, as we cultivate community and create open and affirming spaces to “be”.

Lydia Tembo



THANK YOU!

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

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