

May 15, 2022



Westminster

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Jesus Mural of Faith, Hope, Love, and Peace, Chicago

Worship With Us This Sunday!

5th Sunday of Easter

Scripture
John 13:31-35

Sermon
A Love That Reforms
Alyssa Kissel, Yale Divinity Student Intern

[Bulletin](#)

10:00 a.m. Sunday Hybrid Worship Link

Zoom Meeting ID: 822 3301 6989

Any questions, contact Becky Kimberly in the office
at office@westpresby.org.



Celebratory Coffee Hour for Alyssa Kissel!

Please join us after worship this Sunday to celebrate the work and relationships built by Alyssa Kissel, Yale Divinity School Intern over this past academic year. Alyssa will be leading us in worship, including preaching, on Sunday. Although this will be Alyssa's last Sunday as our intern, she became a member in November and will continue to worship with us. We are deeply grateful for her time among us.


Music Makes Community:
A Weekend of Communion in Music
Save the Date:
Saturday, June 11 and Sunday, June 12

Communion in Concert

Artists: Halam Kim, Ryan Mancini, Mary & Anna Pan, Vanessa Paré,
Trent Ransom, Tiana & Kaila Piscitelli



Image: New in Christ by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

June 11, 2022  7:00pm

Doors open at 6:30pm

Music Makes Communitiy



Image: New in Christ by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

June 12, 2022 ☼ 10:00am

Pre-worship music begins at 9:45am



Connecticut Foodshare

Our Community, Our Food Bank

**Support Foodshare Walk Against Hunger
Saturday, May 21 in Dunkin' Donuts Park**

On **Saturday, May 21st in Dunkin' Donuts Park**, the 38th annual Foodshare Walk Against Hunger will take place. This is not only Foodshare's largest fundraiser, but has historically been the largest anti-hunger event of its kind in Connecticut. Westminster's Team walks in support of the Loaves & Fishes specifically. All Westminster members, their families and friends are invited to participate by walking (1.5 miles), donating to our team, or both.

If you are interested in walking or donating you can sign up for our team at:

<https://p2p.onecause.com/ctfoodsharewalk/home>

or contact Adam Bender at bendera9291@gmail.com for more information.

You can also give following worship this Sunday, May 15 when walk participants and supporters will be there collecting donations. All checks

should be made out directly to Foodshare.

Onsite registration, entertainment and family activities begin at 8:00 a.m. and the Walk begins at 10:00 a.m. Carpool options from Westminster Church will be organized as we get closer to the event and based on participant interest.



Westminster's Spring Spruce Up
May 21 from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Please Note The Change of Date
Lunch at Noon!

Join us as we spruce up our church grounds and gardens to enjoy this summer. Stay for a barbecue lunch on the Fireside Circle patio and catch up with friends from Westminster.

- **When:** Saturday, May 21, 2022, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (*Please note the change of date.*) Feel free to come at any point during that time and stay for as long as you can. We'll be serving lunch at noon.
- **Where:** Check-in on the patio near the Fireside Circle for specific projects.
- **Who:** EVERYONE! We'll have projects for all ages and ability levels. Even if you're not able to garden, come and socialize.
- **What to wear:** Clothing and shoes that can get dirty.
- **What to bring:** Drinking water, work gloves, gardening tools (list to come), lawn chairs or blanket for lunchtime seating and sunscreen.

We'll be working in the Memorial Garden and other areas that need attention. We'll be raking garden beds, removing weeds and dead brush, cutting back ivy and trimming bushes as needed.

Contact Barbara Riihimaki at bdriih@gmail.com or 860.803.9090 with any questions.

We look forward to seeing you May 21!



What Are Personal Pronouns and Why Do They Matter?

In English, whether we realize it or not, people frequently refer to us using pronouns when speaking about us. Often, when speaking of a singular human in the third person, these pronouns have a gender implied -- such as "he" to refer to a man/boy or "she" to refer to a woman/girl. These associations are not always accurate or helpful.

Often, people make assumptions about the gender of another person based on the person's appearance or name. These assumptions aren't always correct, and the act of making an assumption (even if correct) sends a potentially harmful message -- that people have to look a certain way to demonstrate the gender that they are or are not.

Using someone's correct personal pronouns is a way to respect them and create an inclusive environment, just as using a person's name can be a way to respect them. Just as it can be offensive or even harassing to make up a nickname for someone and call them that nickname against their will, it can be offensive or harassing to guess at someone's pronouns and refer to them using those pronouns if that is not how that person wants to be known. Or, worse, actively choosing to ignore the pronouns someone has stated that they go by could imply the oppressive notion that intersex, transgender, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming people do not or should not exist.

When we refer to "personal" pronouns, we don't mean that these pronouns are necessarily private information (generally they are not), we mean that they are pronouns referring to a unique and individual person.

We'll be printing new name tags with preferred pronouns, and you can submit your preference with your photo for the photo directory. Any questions contact Nicole Aronson nmachampagne@gmail.com.

From mypronouns.org

Session met for its regular stated meeting on April 27. General Presbyter Shannan Vance-Ocampo and COM Representative Susan Labins were in attendance, along with Pam Rekow, chair of Westminster's MR&P Committee, in order to support some discussions about the Senior Pastor's job description. Here are the highlights from the meeting:

Brief updates were shared regarding the three strategic initiatives that are currently ongoing:

- Long-range planning (Led by Elder Tom Buckley): The team plans to conduct interviews with individuals and organizations external to Westminster, and they discussed how to communicate their progress to Westminster and if/when to invite involvement of the congregation and other church leaders.
- Staff role descriptions (Led by Elder Larry Carr): The team is working on 9 job descriptions currently; the pastor/head of staff job description was shared prior to the Session meeting for initial discussions.
- Communications (Led by Elder Greg Hammond): The team has outlined their goals and are right on schedule. They celebrated an early success with the writing of a press release that led to a front page article in the Hartford Courant on our recent Easter egg hunt!

A portion of time was dedicated toward discussion of the draft Senior Pastor's job description that was shared by the strategic initiative team. Questions were discussed regarding which responsibilities belong in the job description, how granular it should be, and what is truly the essence of the role of a Pastor vs. what is expected of a "Head of Staff". The Strategic Imperative Team has subsequently invited our Sr. Pastor to join their team.

Team reports:

- Sustain: Rentals are picking up; Elder John Rhine will be away in May
- Engage: The team is preparing for a spring clean-up/BBQ event in May; Julie is planning to offer a new members class soon
- Flourish: Working on gauging interest in a confirmation class
- Worship: A free-will offering on June 11 and the loose offerings received on June 12 will go to the music scholar program
- Serve: Participants/supporters of the Foodshare Walk for Hunger will collect donations for the Westminster Team after worship on May 8 and May 15; updates were shared about the two upcoming Puerto Rico mission trips
- New leadership is currently needed for the Endowment Committee and the Nominating Committee
- David Hall was removed as a check signer, which was a necessary action for the church's bookkeeping and banking records.
- New Session partners were selected for the next round of one-on-one meetings in May.

If you would like additional information or to see the complete meeting minutes, please contact Clerk of Session Heather McBride at h.mcbride@gmail.com.



Smiles Wanted!

Since we are finally seeing each other again without facemasks, this is the perfect time to get reacquainted with familiar faces, and to get to know some new faces! To make it easier to match names with faces, Engage would like to update the Westminster photo directory. There are two options for church members to participate.

There are two ways to participate. You can have your photo taken by Nicole Aronson after church during the month of May or you can submit a photo (jpeg file) of yourself/your family via email to nmachampagne@gmail.com. Please provide names for everyone in the photo and ensure that their faces can all be seen clearly.

We need your photos by June 7. Any questions, talk to Duane Grabber at DuaneGrabber@comcast.net or Barbara Riihimaki at bdriih@gmail.com



Graduating? We Want to Know!

Have a graduate? Please share your graduates information with us so that we can celebrate their accomplishments with our church community. Send their name, school, and degree information (for college and graduate schools) to Nicole Aronson at nmachampagne@gmail.com

Fellowship



- Seeing God in each person
- Actively listening
- Establishing authentic relationships



LIFT
Sunday,
May 1st

Prayers of the People

We pray for those near and far:

- El Harp, who recovering from broken ribs and a hospital stay after a fall;
- Muriel Sherman as she recovers from a hospital stay and gall bladder procedure;
- Nicole Aronson's mother, Louise Champagne, who is struggling with a fractured vertebrae;
- Prayers for the people of Ukraine and all those affected by war and violence, both those still in their country and those who have become refugees. May they and their loved ones be safe in this time of strife;
- Our healthcare workers and for their families;
- All who are sick or struggling with chronic illness in this time. May they be comforted;
- All who are worried for themselves or for the safety of their loved ones. May they find peace in God's presence;
- All those who struggle with mental health issues and depression. May they know God's steadfast love;
- Those who are caring for aging loved ones. May they be heartened and refreshed;
- Communities affected by violence and injustice. May they be sustained and strengthened.

We celebrate with:

- Rachel Lloyd-Sterbenz, former music scholar, and her husband Tim who were married on April 9th (see photo below).

We grieve with:

- Alyssa Kissel's family on the death of her great uncle Jimmy Kelleher. Prayers of comfort for her great aunt Barbara;
- Friends and families of those in recent months who mourn the death of loved ones. May they be comforted.

We continue to pray for:

Rev. Laura Opsahl; David MacMeekin's brother-in-law, Dan Reinhard; Cale Strober; Max; Dave Wagner; Suzanne Atwood; Billy Calzada; Jon Scoville; Rhoda Bannon; Karen Sprout's sister, Kathryn Johnson; Diane Smith; Jane Sebolt; Sally West; Rev. Julie Emery; Rachel Lloyd's Aunt Katie; Yvonne Smith; Doreen Springsteen-Gibbes; Ralph Sundquist; Karen Wagner's friend AJ; Jenna Sheridan's friend, MaryElla; Marissa Torsiello; Stella Madjitey; Barbara Riihimaki's cousin Gordon; Peter Benner; Jen Buffat; and Sara DeGraff's sister.



Congratulations to Rachel Lloyd (former choral scholarship student) and her husband Tim Sterbenz!

Session Members (Teams)

Heather McBride, Clerk h.mcbride@gmail.com
Nicole Aronson (Care & Flourish) nmachampagne@yahoo.com
Tom Buckley (Serve) tbtrailrun@hotmail.com
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