



# VOICE

A HOME AT THE HEART OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON SINCE 1907 | SPRING 2016

## RACE AND FAITH: AN UNPRECEDENTED EVENT



On the evening of February 9, 2016, more than 250 people filled the Pres House Chapel to standing room only. On the chancel sat five panelists representing faculty, staff, and students from UW-Madison, ready to talk frankly about race and faith to an audience made up of members from 18 organizations and the broader Madison community. It was an unprecedented gathering of ministries coming together to create space on campus for people to listen and discuss the issue of racism from a religious perspective.

Conversations began in spring 2015 between Pres House and the Multicultural Student Center, and other ministries joined the planning table in fall 2015. Though representing a wide range of theological perspectives, all groups agreed that adding a religious voice to the dialogue at UW-Madison would be a service to students,

Survey question: **What was most engaging to you about the event?**

“How faith both compels us to seek racial justice and gives us the courage/tools to seek it.”

especially in light of the growing awareness of racist incidents in the campus community. Together, the sponsoring organizations worked to create a space for breaking down walls of division and begin modeling what it looked like to love all our neighbors.

Pres House Pastor Erica Liu moderated the panel discussion, asking the panelists to share not only their personal experiences of racism on the campus, but also how their faith informed their understanding of the issue and motivated them to respond; after the panel, everyone was invited to a free

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- Students making a difference
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- Thank you, Churches



## SERMON SERIES AT PRES HOUSE

Each year Pres House creates sermon series for Sunday Worship to engage the community in deeper scriptural reflection. Periodically the pastors interrupt a series to address a current issue; for example, this past fall they took up the issue of sexual assault after UW–Madison released their findings that more than one in four female students experienced sexual assault. Below are some of the series from 2015-16. To listen to sermons, visit our website: <http://preshouse.org/sermon-archives/>

- Riddles of Jesus: An exploration of the parables Jesus taught
- Songs of Faith: The stories behind the songs  
(It Is Well, Oceans, Wade in the Water, Amazing Grace)
- Book of Jonah: A Three-Act Play
- Lent: The Ten Commandments
- God's Creation: New Creation, Body Image, Mother Earth ❀

## WARM WELCOME INTO GOD'S FAMILY

On April 10, 2016, Pres House celebrated the sacrament of baptism with Theodore Nelson Fields and the reaffirmation of baptismal vows with Preston T. Boggs. It was a joyous occasion with the whole community participating in praying for and blessing Theo and Preston. ❀



dinner so that they could stay and continue the conversation with each other. People filled Lower Hall and Pridham Lounge, eating homemade soup and using the questions that had been prepared on each table to engage in the issue of race and faith more deeply.

It was an amazing evening at Pres House! Bridging differences is always a challenging task, but it was clear that as bread was broken around many

tables that night, the seeds of grace, reconciliation, and transformation were being planted all over campus. Though this one event did not change everything, it was a significant step in becoming a more loving community where all of God's children are welcome.

To listen to the panel discussion, visit our website at: <http://preshouse.org/raceandfaith/> ✝

## Panel Members

- Rev. Everett Mitchell, Director of Community Relations at UW–Madison and Pastor of Christ the Solid Rock Baptist Church
- Dr. Joshua Moon Johnson, Assistant Dean and Director of the Multicultural Student Center
- Dr. Linda Park, Faculty member of Ethnic Studies Department
- Cheyenne Coote, UW–Madison student, Social Justice Intern at the Multicultural Student Center, student leader in the Impact Movement
- Anna Stamborski, UW–Madison student, member of the Navigators

Panel Moderator: Rev. Erica Liu, Campus Co-Pastor at Pres House

## Sponsoring Organizations

**Asian American InterVarsity**

**Athletes in Action**

**Blackhawk CAM**

**Cru**

**Geneva Campus Church**

**UW Hillel**

**InterVarsity Graduate Fellowship**

**InterVarsity Undergrad**

**Lutheran Campus Center ELCA**

**Multicultural Student Center,  
UW Madison**

**Pres House**

**Saint Francis House Episcopal**

**St. Paul's University Catholic  
Center**

**The Crossing**

**The Impact Movement**

**The Navigators**

**UpperHouse**

**Youth With A Mission**

## FOOD DRIVE A NEW ADDITION TO FAMILY DINNER

For the past two years Pres House has hosted monthly "Family Dinners," where students, graduate students, and young professionals gather together and share a meal in Lower Hall. This year marked the beginning of a new Family Dinner tradition—donating food to others. Now, when community members are invited to Family Dinner, they are also invited to bring nonperishable food items to donate to the Goodman Community Center food pantry. November 2015 marked the first food drive of the academic year, where members brought donations that went toward Thanksgiving dinner baskets. Since then, each month attendees at Family Dinner have brought an abundance of food items that have gone out to people experiencing food insecurity in Madison. Pres House community members comment regularly on the newfound tradition of donating, saying that bringing along a box of oatmeal or a can of vegetables to Family Dinner is an accessible and easy way to support food justice efforts in the larger Madison and downtown community. Goodman Community Center is thankful for the partnership with Pres House as well, as their food pantry provides food for more than 75 families each week. The Family Dinner food drive is a new practice for the Pres House community and one that will continue to bring depth, awareness, and generosity to Family Dinners. ✝



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# PRES HOUSE STUDENTS ARE MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

*Every student who walks through the door of Pres House leaves their mark on everyone else. Here are but a few examples of just a few.*

## Chelsea Cornelius



*After five* years at Pres House and six years in Madison, I have accepted an admissions offer and three-year full-funding fellowship at the University

of Chicago Divinity School, where I will pursue a Masters of Divinity, PhD work, and ordination in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

I am a recent graduate of the University of Wisconsin–Madison, class of 2015, where I earned a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies and Philosophy, with certificates in Gender and Women’s Studies and Integrated Liberal Studies.

During my second year as a student at UW–Madison I began seeking a faith community that shared my values of open dialogue, an affirmation of diverse identities, and space to ask questions. I found Pres House and began my journey from young and new community member,

to a Council leader, to a member of the Board of Directors, to the Student Intern, and now the Ministry Associate.

As a Student Intern and Ministry Associate at Pres House, I have been immersed in the breadth and depth of campus ministry, leadership, and service. From planning spring break trips to New York City and Chicago, to meeting with and caring for students, to leading and preaching on Sundays, I experienced a variety of ways to engage in leadership and ministry. I was also able to engage in depth with issues in which I am particularly passionate: leading small groups on feminism, Sabbath, and life and faith as a college student; helping the community address the issue of sexual assault on campus; co-organizing an ecumenical and interfaith panel addressing race and racism on the UW–Madison campus.

Through my work at Pres House I engaged my passions and use my skills in ways that not only challenged and supported the Pres House community; I was challenged and

supported too. The community and staff have prompted my discernment process, helped me understand and use my gifts for ministry, and challenged me to think deeply and critically about a life of religious and public leadership. My work both at Pres House and at UW–Madison has helped me to articulate a call to ministry that is rooted in service, collaboration, and seeking justice. I am highly engaged in issues of ethics and injustice, and am passionate about the role religious communities and leaders can play in facilitating reconciliation across lines that typically divide.

At Pres House I not only gained significant self-awareness and confidence in my leadership and skills for ministry, but also met some of my closest friends, developed relationships with incredible mentors, and experienced the richness of Christian community—all of which I am deeply grateful for and will miss incredibly. Pres House is a dynamic place in which I am privileged to have worked, led, and served.

## Tracy Nolan



*Tracy* Nolan is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and works as a Pediatric Staff Chaplain at Advocate Children’s Hospital in Park Ridge, Illinois. Tracy was the first College Chaplain Intern at Pres House, carries the memory of being the first person to move into the Pres House Apartments, and served for two years at Pres House in ministry in both the apartments and church community. After Pres House, Tracy went to seminary at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago and graduated with her Masters of Divinity degree in 2012. From there, she completed Clinical Pastoral Education and was called into hospital chaplaincy. While in Chicago, Tracy also served a faith-based program called Youth Lounge that provided care to street-based LGBTQ youth of color. Her current work as a pediatric chaplain focuses in child and adolescent psychiatry, pediatric intensive care, and general pediatrics. Tracy was ordained in November 2015 in Madison, Wisconsin, where Pres House’s Rev. Erica Liu preached the sermon at her ordination. She now lives with her partner, dog, and two cats in Chicago.

## Natalie Strait



*I graduated* from UW– Madison last year in 2016 and was part of the Pres House family for most of the four years that I was at UW. I chose to spend my first year after graduation in a service year program called Episcopal Service Corps in Baltimore, Maryland. Through this program I am living in an intentional community with three other amazing people who share an interest in pursuing justice and service-oriented career paths. The members of our community in Baltimore are specifically focused on the connection between our faith and the environment; we are

each interning at nonprofits in the city that are oriented toward environmental stewardship.

My internship for this year is at Great Kids Farm. Great Kids Farm is a part of the Baltimore City Public School district but it is also funded in part by a nonprofit organization called Friends of Great Kids Farm. Their role is to educate Baltimore school kids about where their food comes from, nutrition, environmental sustainability, and to provide a space for kids to do scientific exploration. Students come out to the farm on field trips to experience things at the farm first hand. In addition, the farm grows fresh fruits and vegetables that are used in a farm-to-school lunch program. My role there has been a little bit of everything depending on the season and the weather. I coordinate volunteers and service days, farm, teach classes, and cook and preserve food we grow. I have really appreciated the range of ways I've been able to be involved at Great Kids Farm; it has allowed me to learn about and develop skills in so many different areas. This diversity of experiences has also allowed me to further cement my passion for food justice and led me to search for jobs for the coming year that will allow me to stay involved with and continue to learn about how more equitable food systems might be established.

## Helen Chao



*My name* is Helen Chao and I graduated from UW–Madison in May 2015 with a degree in psychology and a certificate in Asian American Studies. I am

currently serving with Young Adult Volunteers (YAV) in Denver, Colorado. YAV is a year-long service opportunity for young adults 19–30 years old through PC (USA). For the last seven months, I have worked at the African Community Center, a refugee resettlement agency in the Denver metro area. ACC strives to help

refugees build safe, sustainable lives in Denver. I worked as the Reception and Placement assistant. I helped pick up refugees from the airport when they first arrived, found housing, facilitated lease signings, and conducted home visits and housing orientations.

I switched agencies in April and I am now working at Senior Support Services. SSS is a day center for homeless and low-income seniors in Denver. We provide meals, a food and clothing bank, computer and Internet access, help to obtain housing, benefits, rent and utility payments, financial counseling, health screenings, and mental health care. I work as the Day Center Services Navigator. I help our clients access resources and direct

## Hannah Weinberg-Kinsey



*After leaving* Madison, I served in Lusaka, Zambia, as a Young Adult Volunteer. I taught English, Zambian history, and computers at a community

school while living with a local pastor's family. Back in Milwaukee since August 2015, I'm am currently serving a north side Milwaukee Public School as part of Wisconsin Reading Corps, an Americorps program, in its inaugural year. I work with kindergarten through third grade, giving one-on-one literacy interventions. I'm also attending Alverno College's weekend college, working toward my teacher's certificate and master's degree. I'm interested in urban education leadership in the future.

them to different services we provide. I also help in the day-to-day tasks of running the Center.

Following my service year, I will be going back to school and attending the University of Denver for a Master's degree in Counseling Psychology. I will be able to start seeing clients this winter for my practicum. After graduation, I plan to work as a Licensed Professional Counselor for a few years before obtaining my PhD. Ultimately, I would like to work with individuals with eating disorders as well as immigrants. ✿

# LET THE BEST DISH WIN

February saw a lively competition between residents participating in the PH Apartment Scholars Program. Twelve students, divided into four teams, had their pick of ingredients after drawing straws and then selecting their “flavor profile” (savory, sweet, sour or spicy), one assigned to each team. Teams were given an hour to prep their dish or dishes in one of the apartment kitchens. Teams huddled briefly to choose their menu, their ingredients, and scattered to their assigned apartment kitchen to get preparations underway.

The PH Apartment Residential Fellow Fiona Guo rotated between apartments to monitor their progress and capture their efforts on camera. Ginger Morgan (Director

of Residential Community) was joined by guest judges, Sammie and Finn Frakes (die-hard Chopped fans) to give the teams feedback on presentation, creativity, integration of ingredients, and overall flavor. Best Presentation was awarded to the sour flavor profile team who also showed creativity in use of lemon juice in a tomato-based beef sauce over pasta complemented by julienned potato and carrot side dish. The spicy flavor profile team created complementary Chinese dishes including a MaPo Tofu, a spicy celery dish and perfectly prepared steamed rice to bring home the Crowd Favorite award. The sweet profile team made a sugar cookie sprinkled with cocoa powder, which garnered



a creativity award for surprisingly successful combination of bitter cocoa over a sweet cookie. The Grand Prize was awarded to the savory profile team, whose chicken and vegetable fried rice was perfectly prepared with finely chopped ingredients, and a perfect flavor profile without using too much oil.

Scholars all enjoyed the dinner they prepared during their friendly competition. The judges were impressed by the quality of the dishes prepared by the students and happily enjoyed the spoils of the competition. ✿

# PH APARTMENT: RECOVERY

Students in recovery from Addictions to alcohol and other drugs have an ally in Pres House. The Next Step sober living community is in its second year at PH Apartments. Next Step participants agree to maintain a sober living environment, while providing support and accountability for each person’s recovery. Next Step residents talk together about educational goals, life aspirations, daily stress, and all the other things that occupy the lives of students. Next Step residents can also talk freely with one another about the challenges that can arise living clean and sober, what helps, what works,

and how to get back on track when recovery lapses.

Pres House partnered with students in recovery, folks from UW–Madison and local organizations starting in 2013 to help strengthen a growing Collegiate Recovery Community at UW–Madison. Students and community partners worked with officials from UW to create the first student organization for students in recovery in 2014 called Live Free. Live Free has been meeting in the PH Apartment Main Lounge throughout this year and part of last year. Starting in 2016–17 academic year Live Free will move to a dedicated space in UW Student Activity Center through support of Associated Students of Madison.

Pres House also responded when students in recovery voiced another need: a place on campus for an AA meeting to be held during a weekday. A Way of Life (AWOL) began meeting on Mondays at noon in Alison Lounge at Pres House. This past year they expanded to two meetings a week

(Monday and Fridays at noon) due to the growth and ongoing interest in maintaining a weekday 12-step meeting easily accessible to campus.

Pres House has recently partnered with Connections Counseling to provide an on-campus satellite site for a weekly collegiate recovery therapeutic group. Staff from Connections Counseling also provided Life Skills workshops to Live Free and Next Step students this past fall on yoga, conflict resolution, creativity and self-care, and stress management.

The Pres House mission “to support the spiritual, emotional and intellectual health of students at UW–Madison” can be seen clearly in its support of students in recovery. Whether looking for sober living with students who understand, a 12-step group within easy access of classes and residence halls, a way to connect with other students in recovery, or a place to get additional therapeutic support, students in recovery find an open door at Pres House. ✿



# THANK YOU CHURCH VOLUNTEERS

Every year church volunteers from all over lower Wisconsin take time out of their weekends to purchase, prepare, and serve our Sunday meal. They do this out of kindness and desire to serve, and are a living testament of God's grace.

All of us at Pres House would like to thank our volunteers. Your willing spirit of giving your time, talents, and love have touched our hearts and fed our souls each week. We are grateful for all you do to help make Pres House a home. Thank you for making a difference in our lives by blessing us with the opportunity to break bread together over a delicious meal every Sunday. ✝



## Volunteer Churches

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church,  
Cottage Grove

Christ Presbyterian Church, Madison

Covenant Presbyterian Church, Madison

Dale Heights Presbyterian Church, Madison

First Presbyterian Church, Cambria

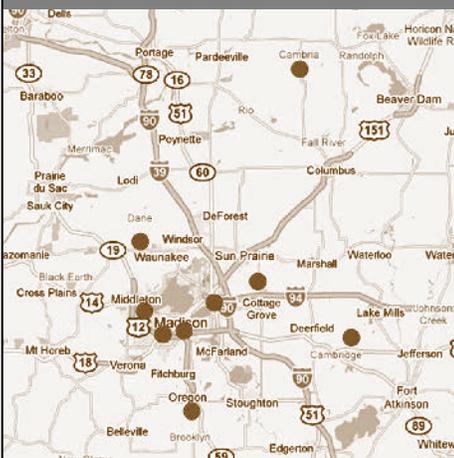
First Presbyterian Church, Oregon

First Presbyterian Church, Waunakee

Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church,  
Cambridge

Union Presbyterian Church, Monroe

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Madison





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## THE SIDE NEVER SEEN



Over the past few months, our church neighbor, St. Paul's University Catholic Center, has been demolished in order to build a new facility. For a brief time this allows us to see a side of Pres House that was never before seen in full view, and will not be again once the new St. Paul's is erected. For those of you that may not make it to Madison to see this, we wanted to share this historic event with you. ✝