



June 2018

- 1 — No Kids Club
No Youth Group
- 3 — Adult Christian Ed, 10 a.m.
Worship, 11 a.m. w/communion
Wholeness Center, 1 p.m.
- 5 — Church, 4 p.m.
A Taste of Heaven, 4:30 p.m.
AA, 6:30 & 7:30 p.m.
Yoga, 6:30 p.m.
- 6 — Taizé, 7 p.m.
AA, 7 & 8:15 p.m.
- 8 — Kids Club, 5 p.m.
Youth Group, 7 p.m.
- 10 — Adult Christian Ed, 10 a.m.
Worship, 11 a.m.
Wholeness Center, 1 p.m.
- 12 — Church, 4 p.m.
A Taste of Heaven, 4:30 p.m.
AA, 6:30 & 7:30 p.m.
Yoga, 6:30 p.m.
- 13 — AA, 7 & 8:15 p.m.
Taizé, 7 p.m.
- 15 — Kids Club, 5 p.m. (last)
Youth Group, 7 p.m. (last)
Book Club, 7 p.m.
- 17 — Adult Christian Ed, 10 a.m.
Worship, 11 a.m.
Wholeness Center, 1 p.m.
- 19 — Church, 4 p.m.
A Taste of Heaven, 4:30 p.m.
AA, 6:30 & 7:30 p.m.
Yoga, 6:30 p.m.
- 20 — AA, 7 & 8:15 p.m.
Taizé, 7 p.m.
- 22 — No Kids Club
No Youth Group
- 24 — Adult Christian Ed, 10 a.m.
Worship, 11 a.m.
Wholeness Center, 1 p.m.
- 26 — Church, 4 p.m.
A Taste of Heaven, 4:30 p.m.
AA, 6:30 & 7:30 p.m.
Yoga, 6:30 p.m.
- 27 — AA, 7 & 8:15 p.m.
Taizé, 7 p.m.
- 29 — No Kids Club
No Youth Group

Financial Faithfulness by Reverend Jes Kast



When I was a young child my parents gave me a weekly allowance for household chores. When I received my allowance one of my parents would sit down with me to help me place my money in three different envelopes. One envelope said spending, the other said savings, and the final envelope said giving. Before anything was done with my hard earned money, I heard from my parents that all money is a gift from God and all money goes back to God. It is our responsibility to be faithful with our finances. The source of money has always been God the giver of gifts. What we have is God's already which helps us live a little more generously with what we claim is ours. We are to use what we have for the good of ourselves and the good of others.

Each week at West End we say a prayer that has a similar sentiment to it, All things come of Thee Oh Lord and of Thine own have we given Thee. We acknowledge that it is God who gives and through our gratitude we give back to God.

We are nearing the end of our fiscal year and our pledges are well below the amount we need to operate in the new year. We are in need of you. In order to continue the programs we have grown to love, we need greater financial faithfulness to our ministry. Financial commitments allow the consistory and staff to plan the budget; without them, spending must adjust to the committed revenue. Part of what it means to be a church is to pledge our financial faithfulness to our collective work and witness together.

I have two requests for your prayerful consideration this month:

- 1) If you have not pledged, please do so before June 30th. We are short \$107,000. We are in need of everyone to commit to financial faithfulness in the new fiscal year.
- 2) If you have already pledged, consider a one-time increase in your giving by 10% in the month of June.

We believe that all financial energy does indeed come from God, and we commit to a faithful expression by offering our gifts back to God. Our gifts strengthen our ministry to ensure that each person who calls West End Collegiate Church their home experiences the love of Jesus Christ. I join you in an increase to financial faithfulness as we trust that together our needs will be met through God's grace.

In Faithfulness-
Pastor Jes Kast

SERMONS

June 3 — Speaking Truth — Rev Doug Leonard

June 10 — Grounded

June 17 — The Seeds of Faith

June 24 — Why God Loves Music



Pub Theology
The Dublin House

June 20
8 PM

*You get the drink of
your choice and
pizza is provided !*



Rise Against Hunger Postscript by Pastor Howard

When Susan Cramer and I introduced **Rise Against Hunger** to West End Church three years ago, I was nervous. How would the program be received? Could we raise the \$1,600 to underwrite the 5,000 meals for packing? Would we have enough volunteers? But my worries were groundless. With the help of the Marymount School Girl Scouts and their cookie sales (those girls know how to SELL!) our first **Rise Against Hunger** event was a great success.

The next year, I was again nervous. That year we were going it alone without the Scouts' help or their treasury. And we had doubled our goal to 10,000 meals at \$3,200. Would we have enough funding and volunteers? But my worries were for naught. Our second year was a success too.

And this, year, our third, I was STILL worried because we had upped our meal goal to 13,400 at the cost of \$4,100! (Pastor Michael's idea: he being the epitome of positive thinking). Contributions this year were slow in coming. My agita increased. But me of little faith, at the last minute, an anonymous benefactor approached Pastor Jes offering to make up the shortfall. As well as, this year we had more volunteers than needed—a nice problem for a church to have. Not to mention the fun factor of 100% involvement -including dancing in the aisles.

Thanks to everyone who helped: our donors, our six dozen volunteers, our anonymous benefactor, Susan Cramer, Andrea Steinkamp, Tito, Miguel and Pastor Jes.

— Pastor Howard

Please join us after church during lunch on Sunday June 17th to celebrate Pastor Jes and her wife Jessy's new marriage! While gifts are not necessary some have asked if they could purchase a gift for the newly married couple. Pastor Jes and Jessy are registered on Amazon and Bed Bath and Beyond. Donations to charity can be made in their name to the Ali Forney Center which houses LGBTQ homeless youth in NYC <https://www.aliforneycenter.org/>.

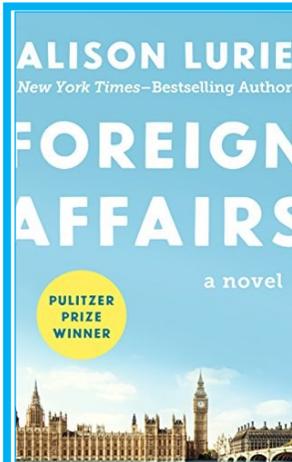


Want to keep up with what's happening with your WECC family?

Go to Facebook :
WestEndChurchNYC

and Twitter:
@WestEndChurchNY

It's a great way to stay connected to our community.



On June 15 at 7 p.m.
THE BOOK CLUB
will discuss

Foreign Affairs by Alison Lurie



Musical Notes by Cynthia Powell



It's been a wonderful season at West End. It's been a year of changes, and change is always a challenge, but our church is a church of dedicated people who are working to ensure that West End continues to be a beacon of light and fount of blessing for so many.

On Sunday, June 24th at 11 a.m. we'll acknowledge the West End Choir for all the spiritual and musical nourishment they give us each week. I'll have the honor to address the congregation with a sermon - *Why God Loves Music*.

The Taizé Candlelight services continue through the end of June. People are touched by the simplicity and beauty of these evenings of chant, poetry, scripture readings and prayer. With Faye Timmer and Chris Lyons leading the chants, Hassan Anderson on oboe, Kobi Malkin on violin and numerous superb instrumentalists and vocalists, these services have become weekly rituals for many folks in the neighborhood.

Thank you for all your positive feedback and support for our ministry of music. I'm looking forward to the coming summer months for some rest and renewal when our soloists and pianists Eric Sedgwick and Taisya Pushkar will provide the music on some of the Sundays in July and August.

Love to all and see you in church,

Cynthia Powell
Director of Music Ministries



Portable Praise and Thanksgiving by Rebecca Stevens-Walter

There are many ways to pray. Some folks pray with their hands folded. Some folks pray with their eyes closed. Some folks pray with their hands in the air. Folks pray while standing, sitting, kneeling, walking, and dancing. Over the summer, as we travel and spend time away from the city, we can use the power of prayer to connect us with God's presence. It is true that praising God can happen anywhere and anytime. Prayer is portable praise, portable worship, and portable sacred time. Children can be reminded of this by making prayer a part of daily routine. Prayers can be said at bedtime or before eating a meal or even while walking to the park. Prayer is a very powerful and effective way of reminding children that God is with us all the time. Tough day at camp? Let's pray about it. Long boring car ride? Let's pray about it. Trouble with siblings? Let's pray about it. Prayer is a moment to stop, breathe, and redirect our attention to God. Below is a fill-in-the-blank prayer to get you started with prayer at home. Children will have this memorized in no time so you'll be able to pray whenever and wherever the Holy Spirit calls. I'm praying for you all as your children embark on their summer adventures. May God bless your vacations, camps, summer studies, days at the park, nights spent away from home, family time, and respite.

Let us pray,

Dear God,

Thank you for _____.

Forgive me for _____.

Help me to _____.

Please be with my _____ **since they are** _____.

I pray all this in Jesus' name.

Amen

CONSISTORY CORNER *by Andrea Steinkamp*

I sometimes catch myself wondering what my days would look like if I hadn't raised my hand and said yes to God's stirring in my heart that September evening when I was named chair of consistory. As many of you know, I raised my hand thinking I was stepping into one thing, and then five minutes later learned I had actually had accepted something quite different; leadership in a time of uncertainty, a journey on a wilderness road. (If you weren't in church for Pastor Jes' sermon on May 6th, [Water in the Desert](#), it's worth a listen.)

I came home that night and I cried and prayed, and I continued to cry and pray in the ensuing days. There was a lot of "why God?" and "are you sure God?" in those prayers. "Why are you challenging me? Why are you calling me out of my comfort zone...again? Are you sure you have the right person? Did I misunderstand the stirring in my heart?"

As I prayed and cried those fears, my questions began to change. "Will you walk with me through this? Will you guide my words and my deeds and my thoughts and my actions? Will you lead me, so I can lead our congregation where it needs to go? Will you carry me when I've given all I have to give and it feels like too much to bear further?"

God laid trust on my heart as I prayed, and then he answered my prayers through this beautiful congregation. Whether by words of encouragement or willingness to join me in saying yes to service, whether by educating me on our history or providing constructive suggestions as to how best to approach a challenge, YOU, West End community, have been the hands and feet of God.

While we are nearing the end of one wilderness road with Senior Minister finalist interviews and candidate selection this month, we are approaching what is sure to be a new wilderness road as we introduce new leadership and also turn our focus to addressing our financial health and long-term sustainability. Given all we have accomplished together on this first wilderness road, I am filled with great hope for what we will do together on the next wilderness road and where that road will eventually lead us.

Grace and Peace,

Andrea Steinkamp, On Behalf of the Deacons and Elders of West End Collegiate Church

The Pledge Gratitude Campaign 2018

We are in the midst of our pledge campaign, which is focusing on the theme of gratitude. It is a time when we pause to count our blessings and also to prayerfully consider how we can make our blessings count through our giving to West End. At the time of this printing we have 71 people who have pledged \$138,320. It is through your generosity that we are able to touch and transform lives through the ministry God has entrusted to us all. In doing this we experience the reality of Jesus's words: "You're far happier giving than getting" (Acts 20:35, The Message). Therefore we ask that you prayerfully consider your commitment to West End in the coming year. You can fill out a pledge form, located in the back of the sanctuary, and place it in the pledge box. Or you can mail in your form or pledge online at westendchurch.org.

Another Way to Give to West End

We are pleased to announce that you can now make donations to West End via your mobile phone. It's very simple to do. Just text "Give" to 917-259-3001 and then follow the instructions for the one time registration process. After you've registered your account and card, you can then make donations at anytime by texting the amount, with the dollar sign, and what it's for. For example, you can text "\$100 offering" or "\$50 talent show." You will receive immediate verification and a receipt will be emailed to you. That's all there is to it! Thank you for your continued support of our ministries.



West End Collegiate Church

245 West 77th St. | New York, NY 10024

a neighborhood church for all people