

1001 NWC RESIDENTS AND APPRENTICES 2022-2023



Gina Brown. The Faith Studio was born out of a desire to meet the need of people who were good with God but less than happy with the institution of church. *“There is a surprising number of people at the margins of traditional church who are very much a part of the church universal”*, says Gina. She describes The Faith Studio as ‘church adjacent’- a Christian centered fellowship which nuances aspects of the local assembly experience. Aspects such as the development of community in digital dwellings, liberative exploration, and cross sharing of experience for inspiration.

Gina carries a wealth of ecumenical experience, is a senior at Columbia Theological Seminary, and hopes to graduate in the Fall of 2022.



Mary Margaret Cartisano is our newest Resident for The Table, Casper Wyoming. While on her journey of discovering her call in ministry, Mary is growing in her passion for artists and the beauty they bring. Mary will be partnering with our friends in the Casper Mural Project. After 4 years overseas as a missionary and kitchen manager in Northern Ireland, Mary has 10 years of experience in the food industry. Serving the community through the hospitality of a good meal is an overflow of her heart. She will be heading off the future of The Tables meals, and participating cooks. Another facet of her time with us will be spent connecting with the community about racial and refugee justice and reconciliation. Mary’s missional background focused on forgiveness and reconciliation in countries of conflict, and she hopes to bring some of the training to use here with us in Casper.

When not immersed in her work, Mary enjoys chilling out with her husband, painting, exercising, or adventuring throughout Wyoming.



Blake Collins (he/him) serves as Pastoral Intern for Friendship Presbyterian who recently partnered with Full Circle Communities, a nonprofit expanding access to quality affordable housing. The church occupies the commercial space of a 75-unit mixed-income apartment for veterans, persons with disabilities, and working families in Chicago. Blake will collaborate with Friendship to create a community center for sharing resources and assisting in advocacy, development, and care. Blake grew up in Columbia, MD, studied Police & Community Relations at Temple University, and attended McCormick Seminary. Blake worked for PMA as the Associate for Recruitment & Relationships with the Young Adult Volunteer program following his year of service in Peru. Blake, his partner Kelsey, and cat Phoebe live in Chicago, root for the Ravens, and support their local economy often.



Jason Dauer (he/him) is excited about what the church is and what it is called to become. Born and raised in Pittsburgh, Jason has always felt called to grow deep where he is planted. Currently, he is forming the Stonewall Abbey, a New Worshipping Community that seeks to aid spiritual wanderers, outcasts, and orphans on their journeys of faith. The community gathers for a monthly liturgical bonfire to discuss queer saints in Christian history, and the monthly Breakfasts are building a support network for LGBTQ ministry leaders in Pittsburgh.

Jason graduated from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 2021 with his Master of Divinity and Emphasis in New Faith Communities, and he hopes to be ordained in the PC(USA) soon!



Árelis Figueroa is an NYS Certified Substance Abuse Counselor, whose practice is focused on spirituality and recovery. She is the pastor and organizer of Iglesia del Pueblo (the People's Church), which is a community affiliated with the Poor People's Campaign. She holds a Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary, and has served the church in a variety of contexts, including as Associate Pastor at Christ St. John Lutheran Church and as Latino Outreach Minister at Chatterton Hill, UCC in White Plains, NY. She is currently a member of The Riverside Church, where she coordinates the Latino Ministry.

A community activist and organizer, Árelis is a member leader of Community Voices Heard, a member's led Multiracial organization that works to build power in NYS, through grassroots organizing. Árelis is a fellow graduate of the Center of Popular Education in Sao Paulo Brazil (CESEP), with a focus on Latin American Liberation Theology and popular education. She is also a tri-chair of the NYS Poor People's Campaign.

"The gospel of Christ compels us to work for justice and peace in order to build the kin-dom of God in our midst" -Árelis Figueroa



Mark Fraley lives in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. He and his wife, Leigh Anne Fraley have three children, Bayden (21), Isaiah (19), and Benjamin (16). Mark is pursuing a Master of Divinity at McCormick Theological Seminary and is a Candidate for ordination in the Presbytery of Milwaukee. Mark spent the majority of his career in the field of community organizing. Mark began his career as a 3rd grade teacher. He earned his B.A. from Miami University (OH) and his M.P.A. from the University of Delaware. Mark's passions include running, reading, listening to music and soccer. Mark's dream is to work with others to create a faith community committed to intentional discipleship rooted in a commitment to contemplation, hospitality and justice.



Rev Zoë Garry is the Director of the Labyrinth Café, an affirming 1001 New Worshipping Community in New Orleans, LA that serves the students of Loyola and Tulane Universities through a donations-based café.

Rev. Garry received a BA from St Lawrence University in Middle East Studies after spending time studying and working in Jordan. She then went on to be a NYC Teaching Fellow, where she taught high school ESL in Brooklyn while obtaining her MS from LIU Brooklyn in teaching and linguistics and completed a Critical Language Scholarship through the US State Department in Bangladesh. In 2019, Rev Garry received her MDiv from Princeton Theological Seminary with a certificate in Women, Gender, and Theology. She is ordained in the PCUSA.

Rev Garry loves traveling with her spouse Drew, embroidering, and studying languages.



Kevin Long grew up in Northwest Ohio, and received degrees from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, where he met his wife, Jennifer. He has been a teacher, a school psychologist, and retired from a 20-year career in cyber security in 2020. He received his MDiv from Lancaster Theological Seminary in May 2022. He lives in Marysville with Jennifer, their daughter, and an outspoken parrot. His faith has led to a passion for ecological justice, and he works with his church and other organizations in that pursuit. He is in the discernment process to begin a new worshipping community for the unchurched and dechurched who wish to explore the intersection of faith and creation care. He enjoys reading, photography, comic books, and watching Formula E racing.



Ricardo Lira is the second son of a Brazilian pastor. Ricardo is a church planter, music producer and composer, married to Fernanda Lira for 21 years, and has a beautiful 7-year-old son named Ricardo Lira Filho (Ricardinho). In 1974 his father, Ivanildo Nascimento, converted to Christ at the Billy Graham Conference in Rio de Janeiro, 6 months later Ricardo had an encounter with Jesus. At the age of 13 he was baptized and a year later he was already playing guitar at church. At age 19 he began translating American pastors and missionaries sent to Brazil and in 2007, after 12 years as an evangelist, he was ordained to pastoral ministry by the Missionary Baptist Church of Brazil.

Ricardo did missions in over 68 cities in the northeast of Brazil and in 2012 he founded the *Nova Unção International Ministry* (Fresh Anointing Brazil) with 7 Churches in 3 Brazilian states. One of the events that marked Ricardo Lira's call as a church planter happened on one of his missionary trips. In a small town called Bonito, PE, Brazil, a 5-year-old child hugged Ricardo's legs and there, sitting on the dirty clay ground, made a request: "Uncle, when you come again, can you bring me a sandal?" Ricardo not only brought a sandal for her, but also planted a church in that city.

He currently lives in Atlanta, GA, works at *On The Way Presbyterian Church* in Lawrenceville, GA and he is very excited to see young people attracted and transformed by Project 1001 NWC which is a great door to bring lives for Christ Jesus.



Chantilly Mers-Pickett, M.Div. is an ordained minister, justice educator, musician, and indigenous circle-keeper. Born and raised in Maui, Hawaii, she moved to New York City to study Theology and the Arts at Union Theological Seminary. Today she co-leads a beautiful community, The Common Ground in Manhattan. Chantilly is passionate about reclaiming spaces for radical togetherness. In her indigenous approach to faith - abundance, mutuality, and freedom - are already present in Creation. She believes what is dying in the Church can be composted into good soil for God's kin-dom to take root in new ways. She hopes to cultivate more indigenous ways of being and belonging through The Kin-dom Collective. Chantilly lives and tends a garden in Bloomfield, NJ (Lenape Land) alongside her multigenerational 'ohana made up of her parents, spouse, two daughters, and their 7 tropical plants.



Dottie Oleson, M.Div. is a co-pastor of Harbor Online Community. Dottie is also a Pastoral Resident at City Church of Long Beach and a cross-disciplinary researcher and consultant in the intersection of psychology, theology, and social justice. Recent projects have included working with Point Loma Nazarene University psychologists and theologians to train pastors in moral integration as well as working with a research team at Boston University to study the dimensions of spirituality, religion, virtues and flourishing, and intercultural development. Outside of academia, her other recent work has been in university student development, local church ministry, and community organizing. Dottie, her husband, and their baby live in Long Beach, CA where they enjoy spending time outdoors, gathering with friends and family, and swooning over their dog, Sequoia.



Katrina Ross Zezza is a resident with Freedom Church of the Poor, based at the Kairos Center for Religions, Rights, and Social Justice, a national organization committed to building a movement to end poverty, led by the poor. She does religious affairs and cultural arts work with leaders, theologians and artists around the country who are organizing to join the transforming work of the Spirit, so we can all have a more healthy relationship with the divine, with each other and the earth. Katrina has also worked as a graphic designer and illustrator for 12 years. She lives in Beacon, NY with her two awesome kids, musical spouse, a very enthusiastic dog and a rabbit named Squid. She holds an M.Div. from Union Theological Seminary, with an interdisciplinary focus in Psychology & Religion, and Theology in the Arts; and is a candidate for ordination in Hudson River Presbytery.



Jeremy Russo (they/them/their). Jeremy has been a leader at a vibrant community called “Emerge” for just over two years. They are passionate about helping individuals heal from trauma, specifically religious and spiritual. Emerge is an inter-faith and ecumenical space for the “nones and dones,” LGBTQ+ people, women, people of color, individuals with different abilities, exvangelicals, and anyone who feels like their voice and spiritual journey are discouraged by institutional churches. Jeremy has deep compassion for the seekers, mystics, and thinkers who have not been allowed to ask hard questions, explore their faith and spirituality, and express themselves authentically in an unconditionally-loving community. As part of Emerge’s outworking of its vision, they will produce a mini-series on spiritual trauma and religious abuse, interviewing various faith leaders, chaplains, atheists, Christians, and everything in-between. This series wishes to raise awareness of the traumas and toxic faith environments hiding in broad daylight and will call the church universal to confess to its part in pushing people out of the doors of its congregations because they were intimidated by their questions or identities. It will raise the question, “how can we stop focusing on the people leaving the church and instead focus on their healing, *however that outcome may look?*” How would this perspective shift help us to live out the good news more faithfully for all in our world today?

Jeremy is discerning their call regarding Emerge, 1001, and the Presbytery of Tampa Bay. They are excited about this apprenticeship opportunity because it will help connect them with other faith-based organizers and will help guide them on the path toward where God is calling them.



Amy Simes is one of the few people living in Raleigh, NC who was born there. She recently received her M.Div. from Union Presbyterian Seminary in Charlotte. Her first career was as an engineer working in state government for the environmental agency. She is passionate about social justice and is trying to determine which injustice she should focus on next. Amy is a candidate for ordination in New Hope Presbytery. She and her husband Chris have two adult sons, one daughter-in-law, and two granddogs.



Mike Shipley grew up in a military family, eventually settling in Phoenix, AZ where he graduated high school and went on to an illustrious career as a queer bipolar survivor of religious abuse and trauma living through homelessness and addiction.

Turning the page to his new life in recovery 10 years ago, Mike went on to find a sense of purpose as a trusted servant in recovery fellowship and a community organizer on issues of social justice. Somewhere along the way he found healing and freedom in liberation theology and became passionate that the power of love really can overcome the love of power that rules this world. Today Mike attends Harbor Online (a 1001 community) and participates as an apprentice in the 2022-23 cohort.



Jonathan Sparks-Franklin is the founder and director of Third Way Peace Fellowship in Cincinnati, OH. Third Way is an inclusive community of active peacemakers committed to the spirituality and practice of nonviolence. He is also the campus minister at UKirk Cincinnati and an adjunct professor of theology at Xavier University. Jonathan previously worked in academia after completing his PhD in Religious Studies from Indiana University, MDiv from Princeton Theological Seminary, and MA from United Theological Seminary. He is currently an inquirer for ordination in the PC(USA) and a postulant in the Ecumenical Order of Franciscans.



Ike Sturm, bassist and composer, was raised in a musical home in Wisconsin, learning from his father, renowned composer and arranger, Fred Sturm. Ike has performed with Gene Bertoncini, Theo Bleckmann, Ingrid Jensen, Donny McCaslin, Bobby McFerrin, Ben Monder, Maria Schneider and Kenny Wheeler. He has played on four Downbeat award-winning recordings, as well as several Steve Reich releases on Canteloupe and Nonesuch Records. He has performed with Alarm Will Sound and the International Contemporary Ensemble, along with numerous creative ensembles in New York.

Ike studied jazz and classical bass and composition while earning undergraduate and graduate degrees at the Eastman School of Music. In addition, he drew inspiration from studies with legendary bassist Dave Holland.

Saint Peter's Church in Manhattan, where Sturm served as Music Director for the Jazz Ministry from 2004-2021, commissioned him to compose *Jazz Mass*, a work for voices, strings and soloists that merges diverse musical languages into a powerfully unified aesthetic. The piece was released to critical international acclaim, named one of Downbeat's "Best Albums of the Year" and has been performed across the U.S., Scandinavia and Europe.

ENDLESS FIELD, Ike's ambient acoustic duo with guitarist Jesse Lewis has been featured live on WBGO New York's "The Checkout" and on NPR. Their eponymous 2017 album was released on Biophilia Records and includes GRAMMY-winning soloist Donny McCaslin. The project aims to engage others in environmental awareness and activism through music and volunteer activities. In 2019 Ike and Jesse trekked to Utah to record a live wilderness album using a solar-powered battery, collaborating with National Geographic videographers and L.A. sound engineers. *Alive in the Wilderness* was released to critical acclaim in 2020. Endless Field has been featured live on NYC's "The Checkout" on WBGO and National Public Radio (NPR). Ike is currently touring, finishing a new album for Ike Sturm + HEART and composing several new 2022 large-scale commissions for choir and string orchestra to be premiered and recorded in New York and Israel.



Kelly Wiant (she/her) is a pastor living in Harrisburg, PA with her wife, Kristen, their five-year-old daughter, Cora, and eight pets (three dogs and five cats). Kelly served as the associate pastor at Market Square Presbyterian Church for over 20 years. While tending to the whole congregation, her primary focus was leading and coordinating youth ministry as well as AWE, the Alternative Worship Experience, a new worshipping community housed within Market Square which she and a small planning team created twelve years ago. She is currently serving as a virtual consultant for worship and Christian education at First Presbyterian Church in Palo Alto, CA. Kelly hopes to use and learn from her experience with AWE to help facilitate a new worshipping community to address the needs and desires of the LGBTQ+ community in the Harrisburg area. Outside of her love for faith conversations and the ancient mystics, Kelly is passionate about the monarch butterfly, gardening, raising a strong and courageous daughter, and tending to her personal animal kingdom.