

Degrees & Awards

2006 B.A. in Religious Studies: The College of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio ♦ Magna Cum Laude ♦ Phi Beta Kappa

2008 CPE Level 1: St. Matthews Pastoral Counseling Hospice Chaplaincy at two in-patient units

2009 Master of Divinity: Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky

♦ The George and Jean Edwards Award in the Interpretation of Scripture to Christian Life

♦ The Andrew Patterson Memorial Fellowship in Biblical Theology

♦ The Burton Z. Cooper Prize in Theology: for demonstration of excellence in constructive theological scholarship

2011 “Unsung Heroes” Award Recipient, Presented by the Franklin-Simpson Human Rights Commission

2021 Louisville Seminary Distinguished Alum Award Recipient, “given to graduates who have made a lasting impact on the Church and society”

INTRODUCING

The Rev. Katie Strednak Singer



**Candidate for Pastor at
Leesburg Presbyterian Church**

**Leading worship
September 10th at 10:00 a.m.
followed by
Congregational Meeting**

Message from Pastor Katie

I am so excited to meet each of you in the coming weeks, to hear your stories, and to get to know one another. I am eager to learn more about your particular passions and ministries, and to discern together how we can best team up to serve our magnificent God! It has been a privilege to spend time with your PNC over these months of discernment and waiting, and I am so grateful for the opportunity to meet each of you in the days ahead.

About Pastor Katie & Scott

Pastor Katie has served in two congregations since her ordination in 2009, first for seven years as a solo pastor at Franklin Presbyterian Church in Kentucky, followed by seven years as Associate Pastor at Immanuel Presbyterian Church in McLean, Va. Pastor Katie leads with joy, bringing her love of bridge building and social entrepreneurship into community conversations.

She and her partner, Scott, enjoy frequenting the tree lined trails of northern Virginia with their (new!) pup, Lemonade. They love traveling and exploring new places, spending time with friends and family, and adventuring into culinary triumphs and disasters. Even as a lifelong vegetarian,

Pastor Katie avoids onions like the plague, but makes up for this clear lack of good taste with her deep love of coffee.

During vacations, you'll typically find Pastor Katie and Scott camping in their rooftop tent as they continue their lifelong adventure of visiting as many National Parks as possible. This summer, they co-led a group of church hikers on 75 miles of the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage in Spain.

Dr. Scott Strednak Singer received his doctorate in Religious Studies at Temple University specializing in American religious history. Episcopalian by upbringing, Scott



currently teaches ethics and religion courses at St. Stephens & St. Agnes School in Alexandria, where he also serves as chapel coordinator, an academic dean, and the faculty advisor for the Gender & Sexuality Alliance. He's also an amateur woodworker and basketball fan.

Faith Statement (excerpts)

I believe in the one true God, the magnificent Creator of all. I believe that our Creator is the God of healing, grace, hope, connection, redirection, forgiveness, and renewal. I believe in the triune nature of God—Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer—and am ever thankful for the ways that God has burst forth into history and for the ways that the Holy One continues to enter my life and the lives of others.

I believe that through the incarnation of Jesus Christ, God became flesh to show us how to be the best version of humanity possible, and to help us work toward right relationship with God and with one another...

Living into the image of Christ calls for us to be in conversation with God through prayer, scripture reading, worship, service, and active participation in the community of God's people—the church. I believe that the Bible is a unique and authoritative witness for Christians, a guide which reveals God's activity among us and leads us into closer relationship with the Holy.

The body of Christ, the church, is open to all. Kinship in Christ is defined by faith, not by blood, and Christ's church is made of all who know God or are searching to know God. I

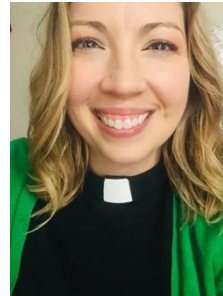
believe that as Christians we are to care for each other through spiritual nurture, helping one another to know God better and to carry God's love and the good news of Jesus Christ through our communities out into the world.

Carrying this love and good news means following Christ, with God's help. Jesus did not adhere to cultural norms simply for the sake of preserving culture or tradition.

Where malice, wrongdoing, and exploitation occurred, Jesus spoke against it and acted in opposition to it. As followers and hopeful imitators of Jesus, we too are called to keep watch for the presence of malice, wrong-doing, and exploitation and speak up and act when our visions are consistent with Christ-truths of love, kinship, justice, and community. God has chosen God's children for this work, and though we often fail, through grace we are given another day to try again.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Sustainer and Sacred Mystery. I am thankful for the presence of the Holy Spirit in my life, and for the amazing ways that she moves in and through us...

I trust that the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer will continue to teach me what it



means to live into the joy of God's love, and to walk with others on their spiritual journeys. I yearn to give myself each day more fully over to God, with the hope of becoming a better disciple today than yesterday, a better disciple tomorrow than today, in order that I might serve God to the best of my ability.

—Rev. Katie Strednak Singer

Highlights at Immanuel Presbyterian (McLean, Va.)

McLean Cares Initiative: Pastor Katie led the creation of McLean Cares interfaith hunger initiative during the pandemic to support locally owned restaurants and neighbors in need by fundraising and distributing over \$150,000 of meals.

Hypothermia Prevention: She shepherded Immanuel's participation as Fairfax County's overflow shelter each year the week before Christmas for 40 unhoused neighbors.

Outreach: Pastor Katie coordinated the welcome of an Afghan family to the USA from arrival through self-sufficiency; shepherded revitalization of international trips including a partnership in Cuba; and organized creation of a community garden to grow fresh produce for the food pantry.

Pilgrimages: She led a 40-person Civil Rights pilgrimage to Montgomery, Ala., and an 18-person hiking pilgrimage in Spain.

Highlights at Franklin (Ky.) Presbyterian

Community Garden: Shortly after Pastor Katie arrived at Franklin her congregation turned the back lawn into a garden, open to all, with seeds and small plants that were made available free of charge for those with limited resources.

Building Project: During Pastor Katie's tenure, Franklin had a capital campaign and designed and built a new multipurpose building on its property that provided a space for the entire congregation to gather. The building included showers and a laundry unit to facilitate greater care for families in need and mission groups.

Room in the Inn (RITI): In 2014 Pastor Katie began community organizing to start a non-profit called Room in the Inn Franklin, modeled after a similar program in Nashville, Tenn., which trains and equips local congregations to open their doors one night at a time to people who are experiencing homelessness. RITI Franklin trained hundreds of volunteers and is still in operation throughout the county today.