
THE PATHFINDER

A Publication of West Haven Presbyterian Church for our Members and Friends in Christ

Issue 44

June 2024

We are growing in grace one neighbor at a time.

Kirk & Ekklesia



Dear Kirk & Ecclesia,

You have asked about the “I Am” statements that Jesus makes in the Gospel of John. Well this letter is all about that subject and the importance of declarative statements made by both God and Christ.

Let’s begin in Exodus and the burning bush. In Exodus 3:14 the Lord God unveils the divine name “God said to Moses, “I am who I am” or YAHWEH. This name means “I am who I am” and also “I am who I will be” as well as “I will be who I am” lastly “I will be who I will be.” This is in part because YAHWEH is in both the present and future tense. Thus, there are several translations of the same name. Regardless, the use of the declarative “I am” statement from the Lord God illustrates that God is not us. God is independent, lasting and has a unique identity that is now and will be known to Moses, the Israelite people and us today.

Jesus uses seven “I am” statements through out the Gospel of John. These are unique to John, the other Gospels do not have a series of “I am” statements. Thus, John wants to show how Jesus understands himself and his relationship to us through these statements.

The first “I am” statement comes to us in John 6:35 “Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” This happens after Jesus feeds the 5 thousand. Here Jesus shows in both word and deed that he is the source of divine nourishment and the great provider of our souls.

The second “I am” statement is in John 8:12 “Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” Light is an important motif in the Gospel of John. So when Jesus says he is the light of the world he means just that both literally and spiritually. Jesus offers the light of wisdom, insight, clarity but also being part of the Trinity, Jesus is deeply part of creation thus He is the light of the world.

“So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.” This is Jesus’ third “I am” statement. Here Jesus tells us that he is portal or doorway that the sheep, his people, come to understand God, community and themselves more deeply.

John 10:11 has our fourth “I am” statement from Jesus. “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” Here Jesus tells us that he is a giving a compassionate Messiah. So much so that he is willing to die for us, the metaphorical sheep. This is both a prophecy and a declaration of his nature.

After Jesus calls his friend Lazarus from the dead, he states to Martha that he is the “resurrection and the life.” John 11:25 “Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live” This whole scene proves that Jesus is the master of life and foreshadows his own resurrection. Jesus asserts that he is the source and wellspring of life eternal and that through faith we participate in this resurrection both now and forever.

The sixth “I am” statement comes to us in John 14:6 “Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” Again Jesus is expressing

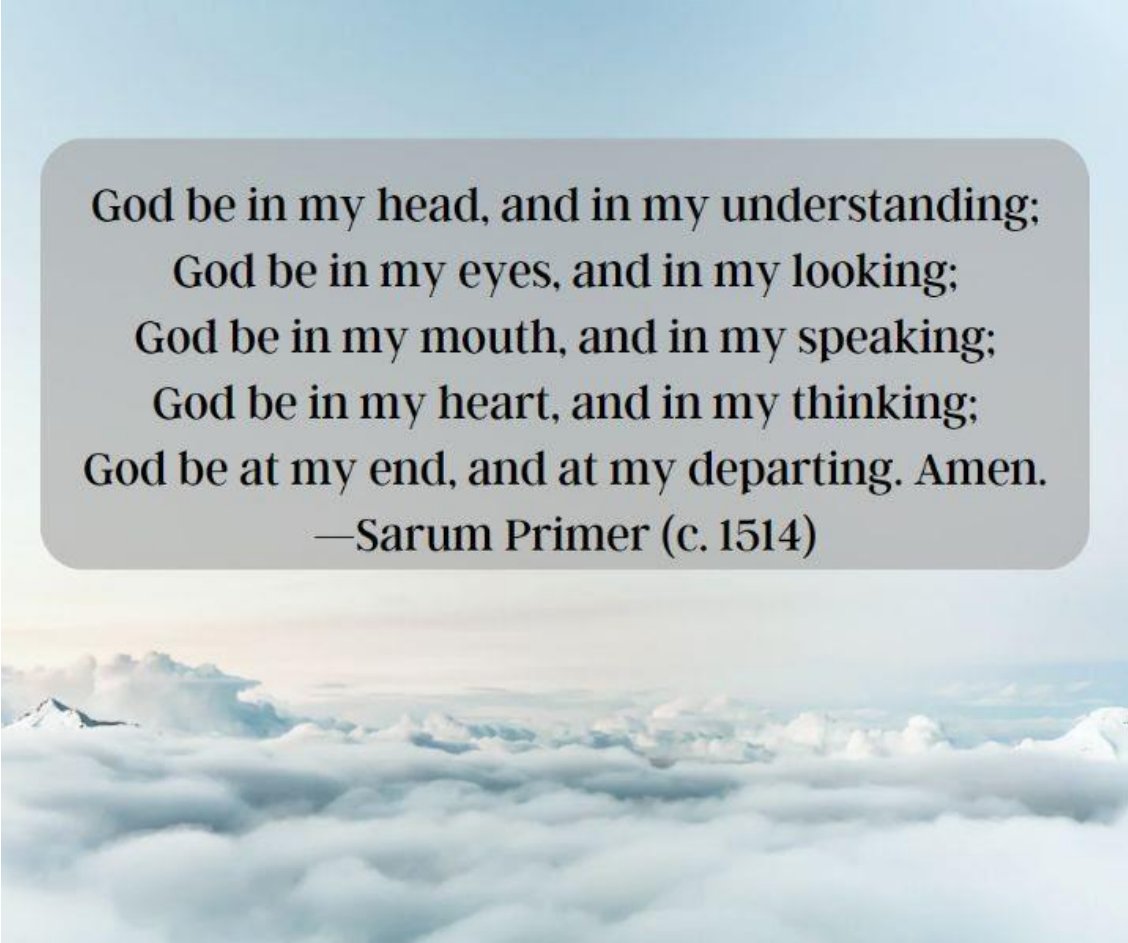
his nature as the model for life (the way), the foundation of reliable wisdom (the truth) and the source of vitality, hope and renewal (the life).

Finally we arrive at the last “I am statement in John 15:5 “ I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” Here Jesus is speaking to his disciples on the night of his arrest. Jesus is affirming that he will be with them after the Passion as well as offering them strength and resilience in the face of danger and uncertainty. This sentiment is timeless and rings true for us even today.

These unique statements of Jesus offers us an insight into how Jesus sees himself, how he expressed his nature in our world as well as the roles he plays in our faith. I hope this is helpful for you my friends.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Tyler Williams





God be in my head, and in my understanding;
God be in my eyes, and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
God be at my end, and at my departing. Amen.

—Sarum Primer (c. 1514)

A graphic with a vertical gradient background transitioning from teal at the top to red at the bottom. A white-bordered square is centered, containing a yellow-to-orange gradient. The text is centered within this square.

Summer Worship!

STARTING JUNE 2
WORSHIP WILL
BEGIN AT 10:00AM

Around the Church

Session News:

According to the Session meeting minutes May 28th, 2024, the following business was conducted.

- Approved moving Jamie Ewing from inactive service to active.
- Approved removal of sexual harassment coverage from insurance policy.

- Approved Peacemakers Freedom School as our summer mission project.
- Approved to keep our 40% Pentecost local offering in our coffers for further research towards what entity to which to donate.
- Reported that the Fire Alarm Test was completed in May.
- Reported that the Fire Extinguisher test will be in July.
- Approved moving \$500 from CD to scholarship fund; that comes due for renewal in June..
- Discussed insurance policy updates.

Announcements

- Flowers in the Sanctuary given by Inez Ezzell, in memory of her husband Tom Ezzell.
- Summer Worship! We will start summer worship at 10am Sun. June 2nd.
- Mens group is on summer break returning August 8th.
- Womens circle is on summer break until Fall.
- Handicraft group is on summer break until Fall.
- Choir and Handbells on summer group until Fall.
- Session Meeting meets Tues. June 25th at 7pm.

Womens Circle Meetings

ATTENTION PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN!

No circle meeting in June or July

We will reconvene in August.



Presbyterian
Women

WED. JUNE 5TH
AT 12:30 IN
FELLOWSHIP HALL



AS THE WIND IS YOUR SYMBOL,
SO FORWARD OUR GOINGS.
AS THE DOVE, SO LAUNCH US HEAVENWARDS.
AS WATER, SO PURIFY OUR SPIRITS.
AS A CLOUD, SO ABATE OUR TEMPTATIONS.
AS DEW, SO REVIVE OUR LANGUOR.
AS FIRE, SO PURGE OUT OUR DROSS. AMEN.

—CHRISTINA ROSSETTI (1830–1894)





Finance and Personnel

Pledges as of date: 4/30/2024

\$30,287.22 (YTD Actual)

\$23,126.67 (YTD Budget)

Happy Father's Day

**Today we are grateful
for all the fathers,
grandfathers and
father figures that
have taught and
provided for us.
Thank you for your
guidance and care.
God Bless!**



**God of summer and the lasting day,
God of zenith light and the strawberry moon,
God of green growth and the shade tree,
Your craftsmanship is unparalleled,
Your attention to detail absolute.
We are in awe of your manifest glory,
We seek to embody your greatness
with our actions, words and choices.
Cool our tempers with your shade,
guide our green growth with your wisdom.
May our souls shine with zenith light
and rest easy under the strawberry moon.
May we enjoy your summer and
revel in your long-lasting day.**

Amen.

- Prayer of the Summer Solstice by Rev. Williams



Prayer Requests



**Session Will Meet
Tues. June 25th at 7pm in
Conference Room**

Recipe!

Moist Angel Flake Coconut Cake

Ingredients:

1 yellow cake mix
1 1/2 c. Milk or Coconut Milk
1/2 c. sugar
2 c Angle Flake Coconut
1 8 oz Cool-whip thawed.

Directions:

Bake cake in 9 x 13 inch pan.

Cool 15 minutes.

Poke holes down in cake with utility fork.

Combine milk, sugar and 1/2 of coconut in sauce pan and bring to boil.

Add 1/2 c of coconut in sauce pan, bring to boil.

Reduce heat and simmer 1 minute.

Spoon over warm cake allowing liquid to soak down through the holes.

Cool completely.

Fold 1/2 c coconut into cool whip and spread over the cake.

Sprinkle with remaining coconut.

Chill overnight.

Store leftover in fridge.

Option: Can sprinkle with fresh frozen coconut.

Recipe from West Haven Recipe Box.

Used by :

Stella Barnes

Inez Allsbrook

Amaryllis Dawes

Recipe provided by Ann Martin

June 2024



*Handcraft Ministries is
on Summer Break and
will return in Aug.*



PRESBYTERIAN MEN

ON SUMMER BREAK
WILL RETURN AUG. 13TH

